

Comprehension check

1 Watch the video. Circle the correct option.

- 1 Why is Holmes in *The Guinness Book of World Records*?
 - a Because he's a real character.
 - b Because there are a lot of films about him.
 - c Because he's 200 years old.
- 2 Where is Holmes's bedroom?
 - a Above the study.
 - b Next to the living room.
 - c Next to the study.
- 3 Dr Watson's notes are ...
 - a on his shelf.
 - b in his study.
 - c on his desk.
- 4 The inspiration for Sherlock Holmes is ...
 - a a scientist.
 - b elementary.
 - c a writer.

2 Watch again. Complete the sentences.

- 1 Jack and Ruby are talking about Holmes, but he _____ a real person.
- 2 It's Holmes's business to know what other people don't _____.
- 3 The Sherlock Holmes Museum is in _____.
- 4 There are _____ steps up to the first floor.
- 5 Holmes is _____ about his next case.
- 6 Holmes thinks that little things are very _____.
- 7 Mrs Hudson's room is on the _____ floor.
- 8 There are _____ short stories about Holmes.

Vocabulary check

3 Watch again. Underline the correct option.

- 1 Holmes is a fictional character with his own *window* / *museum*.
- 2 The official *address* / *novel* is 221B Baker Street.
- 3 The museum is in a typical Victorian *house* / *flat*.
- 4 Holmes's *book* / *notebook* is on the table.
- 5 Holmes's *sofa* / *armchair* is by the fireplace.
- 6 The study is *next to* / *above* a bedroom.
- 7 Watson's *living room* / *bedroom* is on the second floor.
- 8 Holmes is real to a lot of *children* / *people*.

Grammar check

4 Complete the sentences with these words.

haven't | her | what | 's
are | is | it | 've | has | has
him | aren't | them

- 1 ' Are there five novels about Holmes?' 'No, there _____.'
- 2 '_____ there a Holmes museum?' 'Yes. There _____ a museum in London.'
- 3 I _____ got the four novels, but I _____ got the short stories.
- 4 _____ the museum got a shop? Yes, _____ has.
- 5 _____ things has the shop got? It _____ got a lot of books.
- 6 I'm a big fan of Holmes. I love _____!
- 7 My sister prefers Dr Watson and Mrs Hudson. She really likes _____.
- 8 Mrs Hudson is a mystery. We don't know a lot about _____.

Teaching notes

Summary

The presenters discuss Sherlock Holmes and the issue of how fictional characters can be treated as real people. Jack takes us on a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London and we learn about the impact that Holmes has had around the world.



Basic competence: Students find out about an important literary icon in British culture

Background

Sherlock Holmes is the ingenious 'consulting detective' in Scottish author, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous series of books (published 1887–1927). Dr Watson, who rents rooms with Holmes from Mrs Hudson in Baker Street (central London), is the 'author' of Holmes's adventures. Holmes has fascinated generations of readers and, subsequently, viewers, through countless TV series and films.

The phrase 'Elementary, my dear Watson' does not actually appear in the books, but has entered popular culture.

Warmer

- Ask: *Have you got a favourite detective from a book or film? Do you know any fictional characters with something real dedicated to them?* (Harry Potter's platform 9 ¾ in King's Cross, etc.) *Who is Sherlock Holmes?*
- With the sound off, play the middle section of the video (not the studio footage) and ask students to name the furniture and other objects.
- Write these key words on the board, and explain any students don't know.
 - Sherlock Holmes, Dr Watson, Mrs Hudson, Professor Moriarty, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Baker Street, *A Case of Identity*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.
 - *The Guinness Book of World Records*
 - Elementary!
 - fictional character
 - member
 - chemistry
 - first floor, second floor, third floor
 - steps, armchair, fireplace
 - scenes, wax figures
 - scientist, IQ

Comprehension check

- 1 • Play the complete unit once without the subtitles, and then play the Comprehension check. Elicit answers before playing to check.
 - Hand out the worksheets and ask students to do exercise 1 from memory. Then play the Comprehension check again to check.

Answers

1 b 2 c 3 c 4 a

- 2 • Ask students to do exercise 2 from memory. Then play the complete unit again to check (with subtitles, if necessary, or with a copy of the transcript).

Answers

1 talking; isn't 2 know 3 London 4 seventeen
5 thinking 6 important 7 second 8 56

Vocabulary check

- 3 • Ask students to do exercise 3 from memory. Then play the video a final time to check.

Answers

1 museum 2 address 3 house
4 notebook 5 armchair 6 next to
7 bedroom 8 people

Extra activities

• Consolidation

Write on the board: magnifying glass, glass, violin, guitar, desk, table. Ask students to copy the words and then to tick the ones they hear.

• Extension

As above, but add: cap, cat, knife, pipe, window, windows

Answers

Reinforcement: magnifying glass, violin, desk, table. Extension: cap, pipe, window

Grammar check

- 4 • Play the Grammar check. If you want to use this as a dictation, cover the on-screen sentences with a piece of paper. Play again, with the screen uncovered, for students to check.
 - If you want to practise pronunciation, ask students to repeat these sentences.
 - After watching the Grammar check, ask students to do exercise 4. This reinforces the grammar points and covers points not covered on the video. (Students do not need to watch the video to do this exercise.)

Answers

1 Are; aren't 2 Is; 's 3 've; haven't
4 Has; it 5 What; has 6 him
7 them 8 her

Follow-up

- **Debate:** *Why do people like visiting places associated with fictional characters? Why is the Holmes Museum popular?*
- **Speaking:** Two of Doyle's favourite stories were *The Adventure of the Dancing Men* and *The Adventure of the Empty House*. In groups, ask students to choose one of these and to invent a plot. They can write up their ideas for homework.
- **Presentation:** Ask students to find out about other famous detectives, e.g. Miss Marple (Agatha Christie) or C. Auguste Dupin (Edgar Allan Poe). They then present the detective to the class, and describe what a museum dedicated to this detective would contain.
- **Richmond Readers:** *A Study in Scarlet* – Holmes's first appearance (1887). *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins – one of the first detective novels (1859).

IN THE STUDIO

JACK When I say Sherlock Holmes, what's the first thing you think of?

RUBY 'Elementary, my dear Watson!' I can see him now: he's wearing his cape and cap, and smoking his pipe and holding a magnifying glass.

JACK 'You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear.'

RUBY Listen to us! We're talking about him like he's a real person. But he's just a fictional character.

JACK Yes, but he's a fascinating fictional character. 'My name is Sherlock Holmes. It's my business to know what other people don't know.'

RUBY I can see you really like him!

JACK Sherlock Holmes is the only fictional member of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

RUBY I know he's in *The Guinness Book of World Records*: there are at least two hundred films with Sherlock Holmes as a character.

JACK He's also the first fictional character with his own museum.

RUBY Right: the Sherlock Holmes Museum on Baker Street in London.

JACK The official address is 221B Baker Street, the same as in the novels of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. But in reality, the actual address is 239 Baker Street. Do you want to see it?

AT THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MUSEUM, LONDON

The Sherlock Holmes Museum is in a typical Victorian house. And, true to the books, you can climb seventeen steps up to the first floor to find Sherlock Holmes's study. Look out of the window, and you can see what's happening on Baker Street. Try to imagine that you're in nineteenth-century London. If you look closely, you can almost see Sherlock Holmes himself! There he is! He's thinking about his next case.

'The little things are infinitely the most important,' he says in *A Case of Identity*. Well, the little things are all here! There's Holmes's magnifying glass, his pipe, his violin, his notebook, and his chemistry set. And, look!

There's his armchair by the fireplace. Visitors can sit in it if they want to.

There's a bedroom next to the study, and it belongs to Sherlock Holmes himself. Dr Watson's bedroom is on the second floor. On his desk there are handwritten notes and excerpts from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Mrs Hudson's room is also on the second floor, and she's always available if you need any help.

There are four novels and 56 short stories about Sherlock Holmes. On the third floor, you can see scenes from some of them. There are wax figures of Sherlock Holmes and his terrible enemy, Professor Moriarty. And they're standing in the same room! This place makes you believe that Sherlock Holmes is real.

IN THE STUDIO

RUBY Well, he's obviously real to a lot of people. There are Sherlock Holmes societies all around the world. And there are even scientists who want to know his IQ and examine his methods.

JACK Well, he is real in a way. The inspiration for Sherlock Holmes comes from a real person.

RUBY Let me guess: a scientist.

JACK Yes! But how did you know?

RUBY Elementary! Sherlock Holmes has got a scientific mind, so ...

JACK Very good, Watson! Dr Joseph Bell, a pioneer of forensic medicine and famous for his deductive reasoning and skills of observation, is the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes.

RUBY Now, I wonder what's in *his* house ...

Comprehension check

Question 1

Why is Holmes in *The Guinness Book of World Records*?

- a Because he's a real character.
- b Because there are a lot of films about him. ✓
- c Because he's 200 years old.

RUBY I know he's in *The Guinness Book of World Records*: there are at least two hundred films with Sherlock Holmes as a character.

Question 2

Where is Holmes's bedroom?

- a Above the study.
- b Next to the living room.
- c Next to the study. ✓

JACK There's a bedroom next to the study, and it belongs to Sherlock Holmes himself.

Question 3

Dr Watson's notes are ...

- a on his shelf.
- b in his study.
- c on his desk. ✓

JACK Dr Watson's bedroom is on the second floor. On his desk there are handwritten notes and excerpts from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Question 4

The inspiration for Sherlock Holmes is ...

- a a scientist. ✓
- b elementary.
- c a writer.

JACK The inspiration for Sherlock Holmes comes from a real person.

RUBY Let me guess: a scientist.

JACK Yes!

Grammar check

there is/there are

RUBY There are four novels and 56 short stories about Sherlock Holmes.

JACK There are wax figures of Sherlock Holmes and his terrible enemy, Professor Moriarty.

JACK There are Sherlock Holmes societies all around the world.

have got

RUBY Elementary! Sherlock Holmes has got a scientific mind, so ...