

# 1. Doctor Watson

## Sherlock Holmes Reading Worksheet (B1)



I was standing at the bar of the Criterion, when someone tapped me on the shoulder. Turning around, I saw a young man smiling at me.

I recognised him as fellow student from medical school. "Stamford" I said offering my hand. "How good to see you!"

In the old days Stamford and I had never been close friend. Now we greeted each other with great **enthusiasm**. The sight of a friendly face is always very welcome in London.

"What have you been doing with yourself, Watson?" he asked. "You've been somewhere in the sun, I see. "How long have you been back in London?"

"Only a few days," I said. "I went out to India as an army doctor," I said. "And then I was called to serve in the Second Afghan War."

"You poor fellow!" he said. "What are you **up to** now?"

"Looking for **accommodation**," I answered. "Trying to find comfortable rooms at a reasonable price."

"That's a strange thing," remarked my companion. "You are the second man today that has used that expression to me."

"And who was the first?" I asked.

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Stamford told me about a young man doing experiments in the chemical **laboratory** at St Bartholomew's Hospital, where he worked. "He has found some nice rooms and needs someone to share the **cost**."

"I am the very man for him," I cried; I would prefer to share than live alone."

Young Stamford looked strangely at me over his wineglass. "You don't know Sherlock Holmes yet," he said.

"Why, what is there against him?"

"Oh, I didn't say there was anything against him. He has some strange ideas but I think he is a decent fellow."

"A medical student, I suppose?" said I.

"I don't know what Holmes does - the man does not communicate much. He seems to know a lot about anatomy and he is a first-class **chemist**."



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"I want to share with someone quiet and studious," I said. "I am not strong enough yet to stand much noise or excitement. I had enough of both in Afghanistan! How can I meet this friend of yours?"

"He is always at the laboratory," said my companion. "I can take you there now."

*Adapted from [The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter](#) by Arthur Conan Doyle (1893)*

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### Quick Check: True or false?

1. Doctor Watson arranges to meet an old friend from medical school.
2. Watson and Stamford meet by chance in London.
3. Watson has recently returned from abroad.
4. Watson is looking for accommodation.
5. Stamford suggests sharing his rooms with Watson.

### Vocabulary: Find the word in bold to match these definitions

1. Price or amount of money required
2. Of good character, trustworthy
3. Room for scientific work
4. A place to live
5. Type of scientist

### Comprehension

1. Why do Watson and Stamford greet each other with 'great enthusiasm'?
2. Stamford asks Watson "What have you been **up to**?" What does this mean?
3. Why do you think Stamford says 'Poor fellow!' to Watson.
4. What information does Stamford provide about Sherlock Holmes?
5. What do you think Watson wants to learn about Sherlock Holmes?

**Summary:** Write a short description of Doctor Watson. *25-50 words*

What do we learn about his:

- Training and profession
- Work in other countries.
- Accommodation requirements

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