8 The Hound of the Baskervilles Past perfect

Level ★



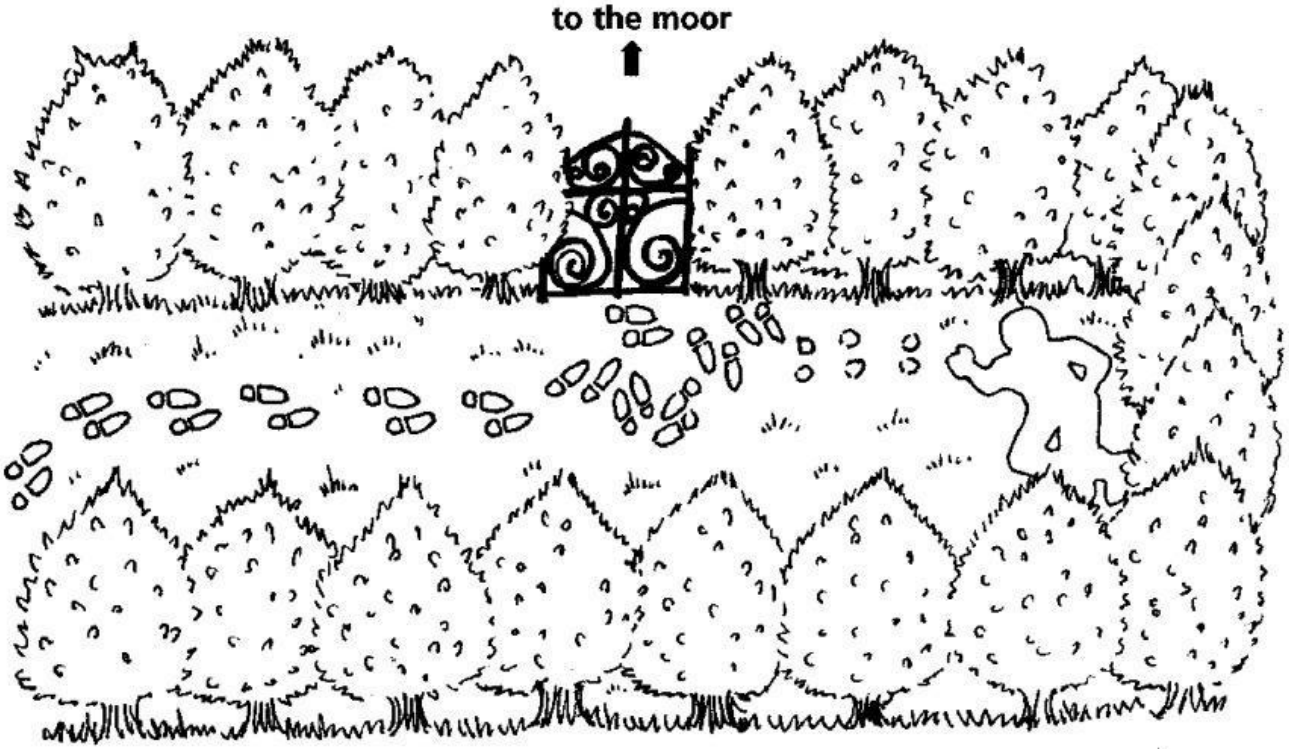
1 **Read about these events from *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. They happen at the beginning of the story. Circle each use of the past perfect simple. The first one is done for you.**

The Baskerville family had lived in Baskerville Hall on Dartmoor for hundreds of years. Sir Charles Baskerville was the most recent owner. He was popular among the local people because he was very generous and kind. He had made a lot of money in South Africa. He had only been at Baskerville Hall for two years before the terrible night of 4 June. Mr and Mrs Barrymore also lived at Baskerville Hall. They had looked after Sir Charles all the time he was at Baskerville Hall.

Dr James Mortimer of Grimpen, Dartmoor, came to see Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson at 221b Baker Street, in London. He wanted their help. He was a friend of Sir Charles Baskerville. Sir Charles was dead. He had died of a heart attack a few weeks earlier.

Dr Mortimer told Holmes about the curse of the Baskervilles. People thought that a big black dog – the hound – lived on the moor and killed members of the Baskerville family. They thought it had killed Sir Charles.

Every night before he went to bed, Sir Charles took a walk in the garden at Baskerville Hall. He always walked down Yew Tree Alley (look at the diagram).



LIVEWORKSHEETS

These are the facts about the death of Sir Charles but they are jumbled. Number the facts 1-9 in the correct order.

a) A local farmer was on the moor near Baskerville House at about 11 pm. He had been to the pub earlier. He heard loud cries.

b) After dinner, Sir Charles went for his usual walk. He never returned to the house.

c) At midnight, Barrymore found the house door open. He was worried. He went outside and looked for his master.

d) Barrymore found the body. Sir Charles had fallen at the end of the walk. There were no marks on his body. His eyes were wide. His mouth was open.

e) From this point to the end of Yew Tree Alley, Sir Charles had walked on his toes.

f) Halfway down the alley, there is a gate onto the moor. Sir Charles had stopped at this gate. There were lots of footprints there.

g) He had seen something terrible. And he had had a heart attack, said the doctor.

h) It had rained during the day. There were footprints in the wet grass. Barrymore followed the footprints down Yew Tree Alley.

i) It was the evening of 4 June. Sir Charles planned to go to London the next morning. Mr Barrymore had already packed his suitcase.

a) ☐ **b)** ☐ **c)** ☐ **d)** ☐ **e)** ☐ **f)** ☐ **g)** ☐ **h)** ☐ **i)** 1

Work in pairs. Take turns to read the facts of the case, a-i, aloud in the correct order to tell the story. Check your order with another pair. Is it the same?

What do you think happened to Sir Charles? Talk to a partner. Work in pairs and write down some ideas.

What other verb tenses does the writer use? Find examples.

Step up ★★

Read about the Hound of the Baskervilles in Enter 1 and 2. Complete the questions with the past perfect form of these verbs and then answer them.

be die live make rain see walk

a) Where ..... Sir Charles ..... a lot of money?

b) How long ..... Sir Charles ..... at Baskerville Hall before he died?

c) Where ..... the farmer ..... earlier that evening?

d) How ..... Sir Charles ..... between the gate and the end of Yew Tree Alley?

e) ..... it ..... before Sir Charles went for his walk?

f) How ..... he ..... ?

g) What ..... he ..... ?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 **Look at this description of the Curse of the Baskervilles.**

Sir Hugo Baskerville lived in the 18th century. He was a wild man. He was rich and he wanted to marry a local farmer's daughter. She was poor, but she didn't want to marry him. So he kidnapped her. Three of his friends came for a party. He shut her in a tower. They drank all night. In the early morning at about 5.30 she climbed out of the tower and ran away across the moor towards her home. At about 6 am Sir Hugo went to the tower – she had gone. He chased her across the moor on his horse. His friends chased him. They rode for miles. And then they found them. The woman had died from exhaustion and lay on the ground. And then they saw a terrible sight – a huge black dog, more like a monster than a dog. It had great big teeth. It had ripped the throat out of Sir Hugo Baskerville. One of Hugo's friends died of terror that night. The other two went mad. This dog is the Hound of the Baskervilles. Sir Hugo brought the curse on the family.

Use these conjunctions to join the facts. Put one of the facts in the past perfect.

when after before once by the time

a) Sir Hugo kidnapped the woman; his friends came for a party
b) He shut her in a tower; he and his friends drank all night
c) She escaped; Sir Hugo went to the tower at 6am
d) His friends found the woman; the woman already died
e) They found Sir Hugo; the dog ripped out his throat

★★★

1 **Read these sentences. Did the dog bite the postman BEFORE or AFTER he put the letters through the door?**

a) The postman put the letters through the door and then the dog bit him.
b) The dog bit the postman because he'd put the letters through the door.
c) When the postman had put the letters through the door, the dog bit him.
d) When the postman put the letters through the door, the dog bit him.
e) The postman had already put the letters through the door when the dog bit him.
f) The dog had just bitten the postman when he put the letters through the door.

2 **Read about Sir Charles in Enter 1 and 2. He had wanted to go to London on 5 June. Why didn't he go?**

3 **Think of something you had wanted to do at a particular time in the past. Why didn't you do it?**

Example:
I had wanted to take my English exam last May, but I wasn't ready.

4 **Choose one of the following to research.**

a) What happens in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Read the story or use the Internet.
b) What Sherlock Holmes was like.
c) Information about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Tell the class.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

9 Fighters for rights Past continuous

Enter ★

1 **Work in pairs. Answer these questions.**

a) Was it raining yesterday morning?
b) Were you reading a magazine at midday yesterday?
c) Were you chatting online at 7 pm?

2 **Work in pairs. Choose three times, eg 9 am, 1 pm and 6 pm. Guess what your partner was doing at each of these times. Have three guesses for each time and keep the score like this:**

At 9 am	...were you having breakfast?	(correct – 3 points; wrong – no points)
	...were you travelling to school/college?	(correct – 2 points; wrong – no points)
	...were you talking on your mobile?	(correct – 1 point; wrong – no points)

3 **Read these facts about Mahatma Gandhi. Complete the gaps with the correct verbs in the past continuous form.**



break cry fast read stand ~~study~~ visit walk work

When Gandhi was born in 1869, the British ruled India. When he went to London to study law at the age of 18, they still ruled India. When Gandhi **(a)** *was studying* in London, he lived very cheaply. He walked everywhere and ate no meat.

Gandhi **(b)** ..... in South Africa as a lawyer when the First World War started in 1914. He and his family returned to India in 1915. Gandhi became a political leader. He taught people about non-violent protest. Violence in 1924 between Hindus and Muslims stopped because Gandhi **(c)** ..... . 'I will not eat until there is peace between you,' he said. Then the British rulers put a tax on salt. Gandhi marched to the sea and took a handful of salt. He **(d)** ..... the law but he was not being violent.

Gandhi came to Britain for three months in 1931. While he **(e)** ..... , he stayed in ordinary British homes. He didn't want to stay in expensive hotels.

One day, 16 years later, Gandhi **(f)** ..... to a prayer meeting. A man pulled a gun from his shirt and shot him three times. All night, people **(g)** ..... outside his house. Some people **(h)** ..... . Some people **(i)** ..... holy books.

It was only two years after India had finally won independence from Britain. It was 30 January 1948. Gandhi was 79.

4 **Work in pairs. Each of you writes three questions about Gandhi using the past continuous. Cover the information about Gandhi. Ask each other your questions.**
Examples:
Where was Gandhi living in 1888?
Was he breaking the law when took a handful of salt?

LIVEWORKSHEETS