

READING IN ENGLISH

Some tips:

- Reading in English helps you to learn and remember vocabulary and grammar.
- When you read, be careful with different kinds of pronouns and possessive adjectives: he, his, him, etc. Make sure you know who (or what) they refer to.
- Pay attention to titles, images and colors. They help you to understand stories.
- It's not necessary to understand all the words you find in the text. Use a dictionary to help you, but concentrate on key words (words that are important, they are repeated so you need to understand them).
- Before looking at a word, read the whole paragraph and try to guess its meaning.

Let's start!

A) Read the first part of the story "The Speckled Band". The narrator of the story is Dr. Watson – Sherlock Holmes's friend.

The Speckled Band

I

Helen's Story

At the time of this story, I was still living at my friend Sherlock Holmes's flat in Baker Street in London. Very early one morning, a young woman, dressed in black, came to see us. She looked tired and unhappy, and her face was very white. 'I'm afraid! Afraid of death, Mr Holmes!' she cried. 'Please help me! I'm not thirty yet and look at my grey hair! I'm so afraid!'



Very early one morning, a young woman, dressed in black, came to see us.

B) Classify the following words to their category:

Baker Street	Came	Looked
London	Face	Thirty
Young	Hair	Black
Tired	Cried	Afraid
Unhappy	Gray	White

Nam of place	Verb in past form	Part of body	Adjective	Number	Color

C) Do you know the meaning of these words? Are they important in the text?

Use a dictionary to help you.

- Speckled: _____
- Flat: _____
- Death: _____
- Yet: _____
- Dressed: _____

D) Read the extract again and answer the following questions:

1. Where were Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson?

2. Who went to see them?

3. How did she look?

4. What was she afraid of? Why?

What do you imagine this story is about?

