Sherlock Holmes: A Warning

Comprehension & Vocabulary Worksheet — Student Copy

1. Vocabulary — Match the Words to Their Definitions

The following words all appear in the story you are about to read. Match each word (A–H) to its correct definition (1–8). Write the letter in the space provided.

A clue	**B** witness	**C** weapon	**D** prevent
E warning	**F** victim	**G** mastermind	**H** footprint

1. _____information that helps you find the answer to a problem or mystery

2. _____somebody who makes perfect plans for a very difficult activity, often a crime

3. _____an object used to hurt or kill someone

4. _____something that tells you about possible danger in the near future

5. _____to stop something from happening

6. _____someone who has been hurt or killed

7. _____the mark left by a shoe

8. _____a person who sees an event happening (often a crime)

2. Comprehension Check (FCE style)

For questions 1–7, choose the correct answer — A, B, C or D.

____**1.** Who is telling this story?

A) Dr Watson
B) Sherlock Holmes
C) John Douglas
D) Inspector MacDonald

____**2.** Who wrote the letter to Sherlock Holmes?

A) a man who worked for Professor Moriarty
B) England's greatest criminal mind
C) a man who knew a lot about Mr Douglas
D) a famous criminal called Porlock

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____**3.** Why is Inspector MacDonald surprised about the names 'Douglas' and 'Birlstone'?

A) Mr Douglas of Birlstone Manor House was the murderer.
B) They were the name and address of the victim.
C) Only Scotland Yard had those names.
D) No one could know those names except Moriarty.

____**4.** Why did Holmes disagree with the inspector about going to London?

A) It would be impossible to find Professor Moriarty.
B) They could not be sure of finding the writer of the letter.
C) He wanted to go to Birlstone immediately.
D) The crime had happened in Birlstone, not in London.

____**5.** Which of these sentences best describes the position of the house?

A) It was in the centre of a small village.
B) It was on a small island near a castle.
C) It was next to a castle in the countryside.
D) It was about half a mile from a small village.

____**6.** What do we learn about Cecil Barker?

A) He was Mr and Mrs Douglas's closest friend.
B) He had a strange friendship with Mrs Douglas.
C) He was the only person that knew about John Douglas's past.
D) He was unknown to John Douglas.

____**7.** According to Barker, how did the man get into the house if the drawbridge was up?

A) He waded through the moat.
B) He climbed through the window.
C) Barker did not know.
D) He hid behind a curtain.

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3. Word Formation — A Great Criminal Mind: Jonathan Wild

Read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of each line to form a word that fits in the space in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

One of the (0) _____ criminal minds in England's history was a man named Jonathan Wild. **[GREAT]**

Jonathan Wild (1) _____ in the early 18th century. Many people wrote about him during his time and after it. **[LIVE]**

He was one of the first men to use other (2)_____ to commit crimes for him while keeping his position as a respected member of society. **[CRIME]**

...while keeping his position as a (3) _____ member of society. **[RESPECT]**

Jonathan Wild came to know many criminals during the time he spent in prison for a minor (4) _____ **[OFFEND]**

Wild (5) _____a gang of thieves. They stole things and Wild paid them. **[CONTROL]**

He waited until the newspapers reported the theft and then contacted the (6)_____ of the objects. **[OWN]**

He also told them that they had an (7)_____ to pay some money for the cost of finding the objects. **[OBLIGE]**

...to pay some money for the cost of finding the (8) _____ objects. **[STEAL]**

He became rich and (9)_____ and the public thought he worked with the police. **[SUCCESS]**

Eventually he was caught, but only when the (10)_____ decided it was time to put an end to his criminal genius. **[GOVERN]**

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