

# THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE

(Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)

- These sentences describe what Sherlock Holmes and his friends Watson usually do. There are some sentences about other characters in this story, too. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. **Use Simple Present.**

1. Sherlock Holmes (BE) a famous detective.
2. He (NOT BE) married. He (NOT HAVE) a wife or children.
3. He (LIVE) at 221B Baker Street, in London.
4. He (ENJOY) playing the violin in his free time, or when he (NEED) to think deeply about a case.
5. Sherlock Holmes and Watson (BE) friends. They (NOT LIVE) in the same place but they (SPEND) a lot of time together. Watson always (HELP) Holmes to solve the cases, but he (NOT BE) as intelligent as Holmes.
6. Holmes usually (WEAR) a coat and a hat, and he always (SMOKE) his pipe.








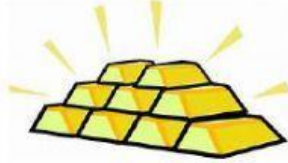
- These sentences refer to events that took place in the story. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. **Use Simple Past.**

1. Jabez Wilson (VISIT) Sherlock Holmes and (TELL) him about the Red-Headed League.
2. Mr Wilson (BE) a bit fat and he (HAVE) bright red hair.
3. Holmes (BE) very interested in the mysterious case of the League and he (PROMISE) to help Mr Wilson.

4. Jabez Wilson **(TAKE)** a newspaper from one of his pockets and  
**(READ)** an unusual advertisement to Holmes and Watson.
5. When Duncan Ross **(SEE)** Jabez Wilson, he **(PULL)** his hair  
until Mr Wilson **(CRY)** in pain. He wanted to check if his hair was real.
6. Jabez Wilson **(GET)** the job at the Red-Headed League. He  
**(GO)** to an office every day for four hours and he  
**(COPY)** the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. He **(GET)**  
four pounds a week for his work.
7. One day, the Red-Headed League **(COME)** to an end. Mr Wilson  
**(NOT UNDERSTAND)** why, so he **(GO)** to Holmes' office for help.
8. Holmes and Watson **(INVESTIGATE)** the case and **(FIND)**  
that Vincent Spaulding, Mr Wilson's assistant, **(BE)** a criminal. His real name  
**(BE)** John Clay. He and Duncan Ross **(INVENT)** the Red-  
Headed League to take Mr Wilson out of his work place for several hours every day. Spaulding  
**(SPEND)** many hours in Mr Wilson's cellar. He was digging a tunnel to one  
of the local banks. He **(WANT)** to steal a lot of gold. But Holmes and Watson  
**(BE)** more intelligent than John Clay and the police  
**(ARREST)** him.



- Complete the following sentences about the story with the words in the boxes. Use the pictures to help you decide which word best fits each blank.

<b>HAIR</b> 	<b>ADVERTISEMENT</b> 	<b>POUNDS</b> 	<b>TUNNEL</b> 
<b>VACANCY</b> 	<b>CELLAR</b> 	<b>PAVEMENT</b> 	<b>GOLD</b> 

- Jabez Wilson got four \_\_\_\_\_ for copying the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* every day.
- Vincent Spaulding spent a long time in the \_\_\_\_\_ under Mr Wilson's shop because he was digging a \_\_\_\_\_ to rob the \_\_\_\_\_ in the City Bank.
- Jabez Wilson had bright red \_\_\_\_\_.
- Mr Wilson showed Holmes an unusual \_\_\_\_\_ in the newspaper. Another \_\_\_\_\_ was open to become a member of the Red-Headed League.
- Holmes hit the \_\_\_\_\_ outside Mr Wilson's shop with his walking stick because he wanted to check what was under it.