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# Chapter 1

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## READING NOTES

1. **deductions** – Sherlock Holmes is famous for his brilliant deductions. Most of his deductions, however, are not made using deductive reasoning. In deductive reasoning, general principles or rules are used to reach a specific, logically certain conclusion. Holmes, although he occasionally employs deductive reasoning, most often uses abductive reasoning. In abductive reasoning, specific observations lead to the formulation of a general theory based on likelihood and probability. Doyle's use of the term may have influenced the current popular use of the word deductions to mean more generally "conclusions made through reasoning."
2. **ferrule** (p. 6) – typically a metal ring or cap at the end of a stick or handle, used to strengthen it
3. **convex** (p. 6) – curved outward like the outside of a sphere
4. **dolichocephalic** (p. 10) – having a relatively long head
5. **supra-orbital** (p. 10) – situated above the orbit of the eye
6. **anthropometry** – As explained by the reference notes, at the turn of the nineteenth century, Alphonse Bertillon, whom Dr. Mortimer references (p. 11), developed the science of anthropometry. This science uses the physical measurements of people, such as height and armspan, for various purposes. Anthropometry was especially useful in establishing a system to catalog criminals for identification purposes. It is still employed in criminology and in other fields such as design, architecture, and ergonomics.

## WORDS TO BE DEFINED

## Definitions Bank

conclusions based on reasoning	in a manner feeling or
false or mistaken reasoning	showing disbelief
or ideas	shrewdly; cunningly
friendly; pleasant in manner	small, indented space
harshness of manner	unraveled at the edge
shining or reflecting light	untidy; worn-out

1. It may be that you yourself are not yourself **luminous**, but you are a conductor of light. (p. 6)
2. When I said that you stimulated me I meant, to be frank, that in noting your **fallacies** I was occasionally guided towards the truth. (p. 6)
3. Well, then, supposing that "CCH" does stand for "Charing Cross Hospital", what further **inferences** may we draw? (p. 7)
4. So your grave, middle-aged family practitioner vanishes into thin air, my dear Watson, and there emerges a young fellow under thirty, **amiable**, unambitious, absent-minded, and the possessor of a favourite dog (p. 8)
5. I laughed **incredulously** as Sherlock Holmes leaned back in his settee and blew little wavering rings of smoke up to the ceiling. (p. 8)
6. "No mention of that local hunt, Watson," said Holmes, with a mischievous smile, "but a country doctor, as you very astutely observed." (p. 8)
7. Now he halted in the **recess** of the window. (p. 9)
8. He was clad in a professional but rather **slovenly** fashion, for his frock-coat was dingy and his trousers **frayed**. (p. 9)
9. "Indeed, sir! May I inquire who has the honour to be the first?" asked Holmes, with some **asperity**. (p. 10)



*Read Chapter 1: "Mr. Sherlock Holmes" (pp. 5-11), marking the text according to the method taught in "How to Mark a Book."*

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Who is the narrator of the novel?
2. Watson is very pleased when Holmes compliments him. He notes that Holmes has never given him such a compliment before. What does this scene say about their relationship?
3. What inferences does Watson make about Dr. Mortimer from his cane? How does Holmes correct them?
4. Which detail of Holmes' deductions does Dr. Mortimer disprove?

## SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (LOGIC | Dialectic)

May be verbally discussed or answered in written form in your Literature Notebook.

1. Through Holmes' deductions in the first chapter, his great genius is already revealed. How does Holmes carry himself and his intellect? Does he appear humble, condescending, prideful? Provide specific examples.
2. "*What does Dr. James Mortimer, the man of science, ask of Sherlock Holmes, the specialist in crime?*" Sherlock Holmes asks. Chapter 1 does not answer this question, but what might a man of science have to ask of a specialist in crime?
3. At the end of this chapter, Dr. Mortimer calls Holmes the second highest expert in Europe, second only to Bertillon. What **distinction** does Dr. Mortimer draw between the two?