

Alternate answers accepted

4. Sherlock Holmes

«“Precisely so, on December 22d, just five days ago. John Horner, a plumber, was accused of having abstracted it from the lady’s jewel-case. The evidence against him was so strong that the case has been referred to the Assizes. I have some account of the matter here, I believe.” He rummaged amid his newspapers, glancing over the dates, until at last he smoothed one out, doubled it over, and read the following paragraph...» (BLUE)

Five days ago can be defined as “recently”

6. Scotland Yard

«“Come along,” cried Sherlock Holmes abruptly. “This grows serious”, he observed as we drove to Scotland Yard.» (GREE)

«It was twenty past three when we reached our terminus, and after a hasty luncheon at the buffet we pushed on at once to Scotland Yard.» (NAVA)

«Thence he drove to Scotland Yard but, instead of entering, he sat in his cab with brows drawn down... “No, I couldn’t do it, Watson”, said he, as we reentered our room.» (ABBE)

Scotland Yard... a terrorist bombing on the night of 30 May 1884 nearly destroyed the CID offices and demolished a nearby pub, many persons being hurt. (Tracy, p. 320) [Levelled]

Photo of Great Scotland Yard indicates building of two floors; Photo of New Scotland Yard indicates a minimum of four floors. (Tracy, pp. 321, 323) [Doubled]

The force moved from Great Scotland Yard in 1890, to a newly completed building on the Victoria Embankment, and the name "New Scotland Yard" was adopted for the new headquarters. An adjacent building was completed in 1906. (Wikipedia) [Doubled]

After this eloquent explanation, I can only accept!

7. Southampton

«...the Adelaide-Southampton line, ... the *Rock of Gibraltar*, their largest and best boat. The boat was now on her way to Australia, somewhere to the south of the Suez Canal.» (ABBE)

«I got one letter from the hospital at Cape Town and one from Southampton.» (BLAN)

The Suez Canal is certainly in North Africa and though the connection is thin, it is valid. The connection with South Africa is of course evident.

8. Portsmouth

«Von Bork pushed over a telegram.

Will come without fail to-night and bring new sparking plugs.

— — *Altamont.*

(...) “From Portsmouth at midday,” said the secretary, examining the superscription.» (LAST)

«I was dispatched, accordingly, in the troopship *Orontes*, and landed a month later on Portsmouth jetty, with my health irretrievably ruined, but with permission from a paternal government to spend the next nine months in attempting to improve it.» (STUD)

Though it is not described as such in the text, Altamont’s telegram is certainly a “last correspondence” and Portsmouth is definitely connected with Watson’s health.

12. Ferguson

«Ferguson appeared to be a morose and silent man, but I could see from the little that he said that he was at least a fellow-countryman.» (ENGR)

15. Trelawney Hope

«The other, dark, clear-cut, and elegant, hardly yet of middle age, and endowed with every beauty of body and of mind, was the Right Honourable Trelawney Hope.» (SECO)

I gathered that the expression “hardly yet of middle age” can mean both “not yet of middle age” and “barely of middle age”. In doubt, taking into account the second meaning, the answer must be considered acceptable.

15. Colonel Valentine Walter

«We were ushered into a dim-lit drawing-room, where an instant later we were joined by a very tall, handsome, light-bearded man of fifty, the younger brother of the dead scientist.» (BRUC)

A man of fifty can certainly be considered “of middle age”.

15. Mrs. Cecil Forrester

«She opened the door herself, a **middle-aged, graceful woman**, and it gave me joy to see how tenderly her arm stole round the other's waist and how motherly was the voice in which she greeted her.» (SIGN)

Synonyms & Antonyms for handsome

*Synonyms: classy, courtly, elegant, fine, **graceful**, majestic, refined, stately, tasteful*

(Merriam-Webster)

15. Nancy Barclay

« But they were regarded in the regiment as the very model of a **middle-aged** couple.» (CROO)

«I may add that she was a woman of great beauty, and that even now, when she has been married for upwards of thirty years, she is still of a striking and queenly appearance.» (CROO)

16. Dr. Leslie Armstrong

«“...you incidentally waste the time of men who are more busy than yourself.”» (MISS)

17. Thaddeus Sholto - Sherlock Holmes

«The vast size of the building, with its gloom and its deathly silence, struck a chill to the heart. Even Thaddeus Sholto seemed ill at ease, and the lantern quivered and rattled in his hand.» (SIGN, 107)

Although it is Watson who speaks, he uses the impersonal form, so it is equally admissible that the deathly silence struck a chill into his companion's hearts, too.

19. Sherlock Holmes and Thorneycroft Huxtable (both are described as exhausted from “hunger and fatigue”)

«“Absolute exhaustion—possibly mere hunger and fatigue,” said I, with my finger on the thready pulse, where the stream of life trickled thin and small.» (PRIO)

«He was pale and dejected, stained with dust, and exhausted with hunger and fatigue.» (MISS)

19. Dr Watson and Godfrey Emsworth (both were “tired out” as a result of a wound in the shoulder)

«We were clearing brother Boer, but he lay low and got the three of us. The other two were killed. I got an elephant bullet through my shoulder. I stuck on to my horse, however, and he galloped several miles before I fainted and rolled off the saddle... I see that **you are tired out** and that wounded shoulder of yours wants looking after.» (BLAN)

«I was removed from my brigade and attached to the Berkshires, with whom I served at the fatal battle of Maiwand. There I was struck on the shoulder by a Jezail bullet, which shattered the bone and grazed the subclavian artery... Our morning's exertions had been too much for my weak health, and **I was tired out** in the afternoon.» (STUD)

19. Sherlock Holmes and Percy Phelps (both are described as “worn and haggard”)

«At breakfast-time he looked worn and haggard, with a little fleck of feverish color upon either cheek.» (SIGN)

«Her rich tints made the white face of her companion the more worn and haggard by the contrast..» (NAVA)

19. Dr Watson and Alexander Holder

«I was limp and weary, befogged in mind and fatigued in body.» (SIGN)

«“You are fatigued with your haste. Pray wait until you have recovered yourself, and then I shall be most happy to look into any little problem which you may submit to me.”» (BERY)

Both are described as “fatigued”, and furthermore, the term “fatigued” is not used anywhere else in the Canon.

20. Dr. Leslie Armstrong

«Now I am aware that he is not only one of the heads of the medical school of the University, but a thinker of European reputation in more than one branch of science.» (MISS)

It is true that he does not match the requirement of question 21 about being 61 years of age, but considering the question per se, it must be accepted.

22. Josiah Amberley.

This is a tricky one. It is true that this is one of the cases that I had in mind where the amount of seven thousand was connected with a crime. But it is also true that the money was not actually stolen and that it remained in the possession of the legitimate owner, i.e. Amberley.

27. Various versions of “Lestrade and others at the Yard” “Inspector Gregory, Lestrade and other policemen lacking imagination”

30. Orbit - Mycroft Holmes

«*Sherlock Holmes—his limits* (...)»

Astronomy.—Nil.» (STUD)

«“But that Mycroft should break out in this erratic fashion! A planet might as well leave its orbit.”» (BRUC)

30. Philosopher - Professor Moriarty

«*Sherlock Holmes—his limits* (...)»

Philosophy.—Nil.» (STUD)

«“He is a genius, a philosopher, an abstract thinker.”» (FINA)

31. 500 pounds

«We can only offer you a beggarly five hundred to start with- "five hundred a year!" I shouted.» (STOC)

«“I would willingly give five hundred,” said the J.P.» (REIG)

«This has involved me in extra trouble, however, and I must ask you for a further advance of five hundred pounds.» (BRUC)

«I therefore named a price which was five hundred pounds more than I gave. ...It is everything or nothing with him." "Then it must be nothing," said I.» (3GAB) [Refusal page 1026]

Strictly speaking, Holmes, dictating his message to Colonel Valentine Walter, did not want to actually earn 500 pounds, since it was only a trap meant for Oberstein. But it is close enough to be considered acceptable.

49. Monomania

At first I had thought to reject this answer alone (most participants answered both “monomania” and “idée fixe”) on the grounds that it is an English word and not a strictly foreign one, its use being attested since 1815. But the same can be said of “idée fixe” (1836). So this must be considered valid.

51. Sherlock Holmes

«Since the tragic upshot of our visit to Devonshire he had been engaged in **two** affairs of the utmost importance (...) My friend was in excellent spirits over the success which had attended a succession of difficult and important cases (...) “I have a box for ‘Les Huguenots.’ Have you heard the De Reszkes? Might I trouble you then to be ready in half an hour, and we can stop at Marcini’s for a **little dinner** on the way?”» (HOUN)

54. Various references to the documents brought by Altamont

“Apparently a copy of British naval signals and codes (Actually the book *Practical Handbook of Bee Culture*)”

“Parcel containing the signals”

56. Milverton’s safe (dragon)

«I knew that the opening of safes was a particular hobby with him, and I understood the joy which it gave him to be confronted with this green and gold monster, the **dragon** which held in its **maw** the reputations of many fair ladies.» (CHAS)

It’s a beast and there’s the reference to its maw, so it is to be considered acceptable.

Definition of *maw*

2 : the throat, gullet, or **jaws** especially of a voracious animal: the gaping maw of the tiger (Merriam-Webster)

60. In consideration of the ambiguous wording of the question and of what can be considered as a factual mistake on my part, both “221b Baker Street” and “Switzerland” have been accepted.

Not accepted

6. Sussex

“About half a mile from the town, standing in an old park famous for its huge beech trees, is the ancient Manor House of Birlstone. Part of this venerable building dates back to the time of the first crusade, when Hugo de Capus built a fortalice in the centre of the estate, which had been granted to him by the Red King. This was **destroyed by fire** in 1543, and some of its smoke-blackened corner stones were used when, in Jacobean times, a brick country house rose upon the ruins of the feudal castle.

The Manor House, with its many gables and its small diamond-paned windows, was still much as the builder had left it in the early seventeenth century. Of the **double moats** which had guarded its more warlike predecessor, the outer had been allowed to dry up, and served the humble function of a kitchen garden.”

Birlstone Manor, then, had been “levelled” by fire and “doubled” by moats. A very ingenious and admirable explanation, but it is only valid for Birlstone, not for the whole of the Sussex. Holmes and Watson did not visit Birlstone three times.

15. Brunton

«...he cannot be more than forty now...» (MUSG)

Not yet of middle age, though handsome.

17. Dr Watson, John Openshaw

«My heart had turned to lead. ‘It is K. K. K.,’» (FIVE)

«A look of surprise passed over his face, and at the first quiver of his eyebrows my heart turned to lead in my breast.» (FINA)

Nice try, but lead isn't a synonym for "cold".

19. Percy Phelps and Dr. Watson

Percy Phelps [“limp and exhausted” – NAVA]

Dr Watson [“limp and weary” – SIGN]

The two expressions are not similar enough and the word “limp” is found in other places in the Canon (Holmes is described as “limp as a rag” and “limp and helpless”).

20. Baron Gruner

He had a reputation for beauty, not an academic one.

26. Lion's Mane

It could be argued that its existence was “presupposed” by Holmes, but Ronder's brain was not splattered on a representation of a lion, though his skull was crushed by a weapon in a lion's paw form.

28. A glass/barometer.

«“It was very nice and complimentary of you,” Holmes answered. “It is entirely a question of barometric pressure.”

Lestrade looked startled. “I do not quite follow,” he said.

“How is the glass? Twenty-nine, I see. No wind, and not a cloud in the sky.» (BOSC)

Ingenious, but there is no reference to the identification and there is no number 30.

56. Gruner's book

« I tell you, Mr Holmes, this man collects women, and takes a pride in his collection, as some men collect moths or butterflies. He had it all in that book. Snapshot photographs, names, details, everything about them. It was a **beastly** book - a book no man, even if he had come from the gutter, could have put together. But it was Adelbert Gruner's book all the same.» (ILLU)

It's a beast alright, but there is no reference to its bite, jaws, fangs, or absence thereof.

57. Goose

« It was one bird, I imagine in which you were interested—white, with a black bar across the tail.» (BLUE)

« There was a little shed in the yard, and behind this I drove one of the birds—a fine big one, white, with a barred tail.» (BLUE)

A good solution, but the trail wasn't lost “past” the white goose.