

# How Watson Learned the Trick by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

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Watson had been \_\_\_\_\_ Verb - Present ends in ING his companion \_\_\_\_\_ Adverb ever since he had sat down to the breakfast table. Holmes happened to look up and \_\_\_\_\_ Verb - Base Form his eye.

"Well, Watson, what are you \_\_\_\_\_ Verb - Present ends in ING about?" he asked.

"About you."

"Me?"

"Yes, Holmes. I was \_\_\_\_\_ Verb - Present ends in ING how superficial are these tricks of yours, and how \_\_\_\_\_ Adjective it is that the public should continue to show interest in them."

"I quite agree," said Holmes. "In fact, I have a recollection that I have myself made a similar \_\_\_\_\_ Noun."

"Your methods," said Watson severely, "are really easily \_\_\_\_\_ Verb - Past Tense."

"No doubt," Holmes answered with a \_\_\_\_\_ Noun. "Perhaps you will yourself give an example of this method of reasoning."

"With \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>," said Watson. "I am able to say that you were greatly preoccupied when you got up this morning."

"\_\_\_\_\_<sup>Exclamation</sup>!" said Holmes. "How could you possibly know that?"

"Because you are \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Adverb</sup> a very tidy man and yet you have forgotten to \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Verb - Base Form</sup>."

"\_\_\_\_\_<sup>Exclamation</sup> me! How very clever!" said Holmes. "I had no idea, Watson, that you were so apt a \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>. Has your eagle \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Part of Body</sup> detected anything more?"

"Yes, Holmes. You have a client named Barlow, and you have not been \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Adjective</sup> with his case."

"Dear me, how could you know that?"

"I saw the name outside his \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Noun</sup>. When you opened it you gave a groan and thrust it into your \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Location</sup> with a frown on your \_\_\_\_\_<sup>Part of Body</sup>."

"Admirable! You are indeed observant. Any other points?"

"I fear, Holmes, that you have taken to \_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_ speculation."

"How could you tell that, Watson?"

"You \_\_\_\_\_ Verb - Past Tense \_\_\_\_\_ the paper, turned to the financial page, and gave a loud exclamation of interest."

"Well, that is very \_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_ of you, Watson. Any more?"

"Yes, Holmes, you have put on your \_\_\_\_\_ color \_\_\_\_\_ coat, instead of your dressing gown, which proves that your  
are expecting some important visitor at once."

"Anything more?"

"I have no doubt that I could find other points, Holmes, but I only give you these few, in order to show you that  
there are other \_\_\_\_\_ Noun \_\_\_\_\_ in the world who can be as clever as \_\_\_\_\_ Pronoun \_\_\_\_\_."

"And some not so clever," said Holmes. "I admit that they are few, but I am afraid, my dear Watson, that I must  
count you among them."

"What do you mean, Holmes?"

"Well, my dear fellow, I fear your deductions have not been so \_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_ as I should have wished."

"You mean that I was mistaken."

"Just a little that way, I fear. Let us take the \_\_\_\_\_ Noun - Plural \_\_\_\_\_ in their order: I did not \_\_\_\_\_ Verb - Base Form \_\_\_\_\_

because I have sent my razor to be sharpened. I put on my \_\_\_\_\_ article of clothing \_\_\_\_\_ because I have, worse luck, an early meeting with my \_\_\_\_\_ occupation \_\_\_\_\_. His name is Barlow, and the letter was to confirm the appointment.

The cricket page is beside the financial one, and I turned to it to find if Surrey was holding its own against Kent.

But go on, Watson, go on! It 's a very \_\_\_\_\_ Adjective \_\_\_\_\_ trick, and no doubt you will soon acquire it."