

► Reading & Listening

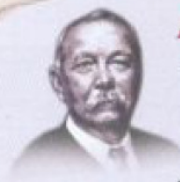
- Who was Arthur Conan Doyle? Which famous detective did he create? Read the first text and check.
- Read the first paragraph of the main text. Who do you think the person outside the door is?
🔊 Listen and read to find out.
- Read the rest of the text and mark statements 1-6 *T* (True) or *F* (False). Then, explain the words in bold.

- The visitor is wearing expensive clothes.
- The visitor's mouth and chin are hidden by a mask.
- The visitor says he is Count von Kramm.
- The visitor is unsure whether to trust Watson.
- Holmes does not know why the visitor has come.
- Holmes realises the visitor is the King when he takes off the mask.

► Speaking

- Read lines 5-15 again and, in pairs, group all the words used to describe the king under the headings:
 - physical appearance • clothes
 - facial features • character

Use the prompts to describe the King of Bohemia to your partner.



Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930)

This well known Scottish author was the **creator** of the famous **fictional** detective, Sherlock Holmes, and his loyal friend, Dr Watson. Although Doyle wrote many other pieces, including historical novels, political essays and plays, we will always remember him for his Sherlock Holmes' **mysteries**.

In *Scandal in Bohemia*, the King of Bohemia hires Sherlock Holmes to help find some letters and a photograph that might be used by a woman, Irene Adler, to **blackmail** the King and **ruin** his **reputation**.

Scandal in Bohemia

A slow and heavy step, which had been heard upon the stairs and in the corridor, **paused** immediately outside the door. Then there was a loud knock on the door.

"Come in!" said Holmes.

A very tall man entered, with the **chest** and **limbs** of a Hercules. His dress was rich with a richness which would, in England, be considered **bad taste**. He was wearing a **double-breasted coat** with **fur-trimmed collar** and **cuffs**, over which he wore a deep blue **cloak lined** with **flame-coloured silk**. His boots, which went **halfway** up his legs, were also **trimmed** with fur, completing his appearance of **barbaric** richness. He had a thick moustache and a straight **chin** suggesting strong **determination**, but a black mask hid the **upper** part of his face. He was carrying a hat in one hand, while his other hand was **raised**, as if he had just finished **straightening** his mask. 15

"Please take a seat," said Holmes. "This is my friend and colleague, Dr Watson. Whom have I the honour to address?"

"You may address me as Count von Kramm, a Bohemian **aristocrat**. I hope your friend is a man I can trust. If not, I prefer to speak to you alone," said our strange visitor. 20

"You can say anything in front of this man that you can say to me," Holmes replied. The Count **nodded** and continued. "You will excuse the mask; my employer wishes my true **identity** to **remain** a secret."

"If your **majesty** would like to tell us your problem," Holmes **remarked**, "I will be happy to **advise** you." 25

The Count **sprang** from his chair, **paced** nervously up and down the room, then **took off** the mask and threw it on the floor.

"You are right!" he cried. "I am the King. Why should I try to hide it?"

"Why, indeed?" said Holmes. "I knew, even before you spoke, that you were the Grand Duke of Cassel-Felstein and the King of Bohemia." 30