

**Eje:** Instancias de reflexión. Ámbitos de uso de la lengua adicional.

**Capacidades:** • Aprendizaje autónomo. • Comunicación. Análisis y comprensión de la información. • Trabajo colaborativo.

**Objetivos:** • Comprender textos escritos. • Realizar funciones comunicativas.

**Contenido curricular:** Lectura de textos descriptivos. Describir objetos.

## Why are some friends unconventional?

Before you start, answer the following questions.

Do you have any friends who have unusual habits, hobbies or even a peculiar sense of humour like detective Sherlock Holmes? Do they have any objects you can associate them with? Which ones?



1. The following pictures are related to detective Sherlock Holmes. Complete the gaps with these words: **cap - glass - fingerprints - address**.



- a. Holmes's \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ magnifying and pipe \_\_\_\_\_



**Pista:** Recordá que podemos usar **was/were** en pasado simple para preguntar y contestar acerca de situaciones que empezaron y terminaron en el pasado como en los siguientes ejemplos: 1) **Was** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle British? Yes, he **was**. 2) **Were** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's parents from Belgium? No, they **weren't**.

2. Dr. John Watson was Sherlock's best friend and assistant. Read their first conversation when Holmes was looking for a flatmate to share the rent of his London flat. Complete the gaps with the correct present or past form of the **verb to be**. Look at the examples.

**Sherlock:** Hello. My name *is* (a) Sherlock Holmes. Nice to meet you. \_\_\_\_\_ (b) John your first name?

**Watson:** That's right. Nice to meet you too.

**Sherlock:** **Were** (c) you at war? In Afghanistan, I perceive.

**Watson:** Yes, I was. I still have a war injury in my arm.

**Sherlock:** I can tell! \_\_\_\_\_ (d) you a good rugby player?

**Watson:** WOW. How do you know that? Yes, I was a good one for Blackheath Club.

**Sherlock:** \_\_\_\_\_ (e) that your dad's watch?

**Watson:** Yes, it was. And also my brother's after my dad's death.

**Sherlock:** \_\_\_\_\_ (f) both your dad's and brother's initials HW?

**Watson:** Well, yes! Amazing!

**Sherlock:** Elementary! The initials in your watch!

**Watson:** \_\_\_\_\_ (g) you a magician?

**Sherlock:** Not at all! I'm just a consulting detective with an observant eye. Welcome to my flat!

3. Read the conversation again and underline the words connected with the following definitions. Also write the words next to the definitions.

- a. an ordinal number: ...**first**...
- b. a violent event with soldiers .....
- c. a place to live .....
- d. a sport with an oval ball .....
- e. an object to tell the time .....
- f. a person who performs magic tricks .....

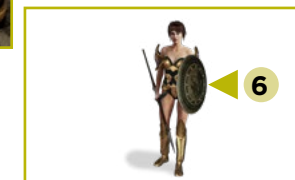
4. The magnifying glass is an important object for detective Sherlock Holmes. Here are some objects that you can associate with famous characters from books or films: **cape - mask - magic wand - ring - sword - shield**. Complete the definitions below with the previous words. (Adapted from Macmillan Dictionary)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ : an offensive weapon with a short handle and a long sharp blade.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ : an item you wear to cover your face in order to hide your identity or for decoration.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ : a piece of jewellery in the form of a circle that some people wear on a finger.
- d. **magic wand**: a short thin stick magicians use for performing magic tricks.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ : a loose clothing item without sleeves that hangs from your shoulders.
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ : an object that soldiers carried in the past for protection.

5. Now match the previous definitions with the right pictures below.



a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_



d. \_\_\_\_\_ e. \_\_\_\_\_ f. \_\_\_\_\_



**Pista:** Recordá que, antes de realizar actividades de **comprensión lectora** como las actividades que siguen, es útil que leas el texto completo para tener una **idea general**. También recordá subrayar en el texto la información que te permite darte cuenta cuáles son las respuestas correctas en las actividades 6 y 7.

6. Read the following text about another iconic detective and answer these questions.

- a. Where was Hercule Poirot born?
- b. What nationality was Agatha Christie?
- c. Was Agatha Christie a journalist?
- d. How many novels are mentioned in the text?

### Hercule Poirot

Hercule Poirot is a fictional Belgian detective created by the famous British detective writer Agatha Christie. Poirot is intelligent and a bit arrogant. He has brilliant dark hair and a peculiar moustache. He uses his “little grey cells” (logical deduction, investigation, and intuition) to crack\* criminal crimes. Poirot is notably meticulous in his personal habits and his professional methodology. He appears in Christie’s first novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles (1920)* and in dozens of subsequent books, including some of Christie’s best-loved works, such as *Murder on the Orient Express (1933)*. Poirot’s final appearance and death occur in the novel *Curtain (1975)*.

\* crack: to solve a complicated problem, or to find the answer to a mystery. (Source: Macmillan Dictionary).

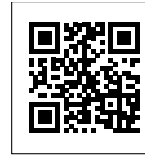
Adapted version from “[Agatha Christie](#)”.

7. Read the previous text again and decide if the sentences below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Hercule Poirot was a famous detective in real life.
- b. Hercule Poirot has many skills to solve crimes.
- c. Hercule appears in only one novel by Agatha Christie.
- d. Agatha Christie wasn’t a poet.
- e. Hercule’s moustache is a bit strange.
- f. Hercule is untidy and disorganized.

### Murder on the Orient Express

20th Century Fox are bringing Agatha Christie’s *Murder on the Orient Express* to life in a new feature film adaptation. The film is directed by BAFTA Award winning director Kenneth Branagh. The impressive cast includes Kenneth Branagh, who plays the role of detective Hercule Poirot, Lucy Boynton, Olivia Colman, Penelope Cruz, Willem Dafoe, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp and Michelle Pfeiffer to name a few. (Adapted version from “[The Home of Agatha Christie](#)”). Watch the official trailer of the movie.



*Murder on the Orient Express* | Official Trailer  
20th Century Studios  
<https://bit.ly/3KKqLms>

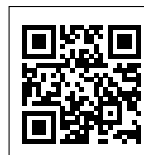
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### Before you finish

Go back to activities 4 and 5 and answer this question: What famous characters from books or films can you associate with the objects from the definitions/pictures? Get into groups and make a list of the famous characters and the objects related to them, for example, *Harry Potter: magic wand*. You can add other characters and objects to the list. Then write sentences to describe the objects and explain why these characters use/wear them, for example, *Harry Potter’s magic wand is dark brown and is made of wood. The young wizard uses his wand to perform magic tricks.*

### Further practice

Listen to a conversation about Hercule Poirot to learn more information about this famous detective and one of his most iconic cases.



*The world of Agatha Christie - 6 Minute English*  
BBC Learning English  
<https://bit.ly/3P4ROMP>

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**Keys for correction 1)** a. address; b. glass; c. cap; d. fingerprints **2)** a. is; b. Is; c. Were; d. Were; e. Was; f. Were; g. Are. **3)** a. first; b. war c. flat; d. rugby e. watch e. magician **4)** a. sword; b. mask; c. ring; d. magic wand; e. cape; f. shield **5)** 1. d (magic wand); 2. e (cape) ; 3. b (mask); 4. a (sword); 5. c (ring); 6. f (shield) **6)** a. He was born in Belgium b. She was British c. No, she wasn’t d. Three. **7)** a.F; b.T; c.F; d.T; e.T; f.F