

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**“The Red-Headed League” Vocabulary Exercises**

**Part I. Match the word with the correct meaning.**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. league (n)       | _____ a story; a piece of literature with a plot         |
| 2. cordially (adv)  | _____ open, honest, sincere                              |
| 3. narrative (n)    | _____ unlikely, not probable                             |
| 4. pompous (adj)    | _____ a detective  |
| 5. snuff (n)        | _____ of the night; active at night                      |
| 6. candid (adj)     | _____ think deeply, ponder, meditate, consider carefully |
| 7. contemplate (v)  | _____ someone who helps another, often giving money      |
| 8. improbable (adj) | _____ proud, haughty, arrogant, snobby                   |
| 9. curt (adj)       | _____ business, trade between countries                  |
| 10. commerce (n)    | _____ short; brief to the point of rudeness              |
| 11. pedestrian (n)  | _____ in a friendly manner, warmly                       |
| 12. vex (v)         | _____ a group of people with a common interest; alliance |
| 13. sleuth (n)      | _____ powdered tobacco, often inhaled in the nose        |
| 14. nocturnal (adj) | _____ trouble, worry, annoy, torment                     |
| 15. benefactor (n)  | _____ a person who travel on foot; a walker              |

**Part II. Use the words listed in Part I to fill in the following blanks. Choose the best word for each blank.**

1. The famous \_\_\_\_\_ Sherlock Holmes has solved many difficult cases.
2. Owls are \_\_\_\_\_ animals, coming out to hunt at night.
3. If you \_\_\_\_\_ the dog by pulling on its tail and teasing it, it is much more likely to bite you.
4. Gentlemen used to carry their \_\_\_\_\_ in little boxes, and it was quite fashionable for them to put a pinch in their nostrils in public.
5. Holmes seems instantly to doubt the existence of a \_\_\_\_\_ made up of only red-headed men.
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ poem tells a story, while a lyric poem expresses emotion.
7. Sometimes Holmes' \_\_\_\_\_ answers to Watson hurt his friend's feelings, but Watson always forgives the detective for his rudeness.
8. Holmes refuses to give his \_\_\_\_\_ opinion about a case until he has all the facts.
9. Sherlock Holmes prefers to be by himself when he needs to \_\_\_\_\_; he often asks Watson to leave him alone in their Baker Street flat so he can have time to think.
10. Any good detective would know not to dismiss a possibility just because it seems \_\_\_\_\_; according to Holmes, one must eliminate only those answers that are absolutely impossible.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ are asked to cross only in the crosswalks and only when the light is green.
12. The owner of the restaurant \_\_\_\_\_ welcomed the customers, and he himself showed them to their seats.
13. In *Great Expectations* a boy named Pip receives a gift from a mysterious \_\_\_\_\_ which forever changes his life.
14. That sailor has never served on a warship; all of his assignments have been on ships engaged in \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ surgeon treated his nurses so badly that most of them quit, refusing to be constantly treated as slaves by the arrogant man.

**Part III. Write a synonym for each of the following. Use the words from Part I.**

1. a story -
2. a detective -
3. short -
4. walker -
5. proud -
6. honest and open -
7. ponder -
8. unlikely -
9. annoy -
10. alliance -

**Part IV. Answer each of the following questions.**

1. Do you know of any *leagues* in your community?
2. If someone were not behaving *cordially*, how might he be behaving?
3. What is the meaning of *snuff* when it is used as a verb?
4. Where do you go when you have a problem to *contemplate*?
5. If your best friend showed up with a terrible haircut and asked for your *candid* opinion about it, would you give it?