

Sherlock Holmes

LEARNING FROM THE GREAT DEDUCTIONIST

The secrets to unlocking our powers of perception and developing deductive reasoning skills to find solutions quickly can be learned by studying Sherlock Holmes.

1 DEDUCE DAILY It seems so simple, just pay attention to the details. However, perception and deduction are skills that require practice. Dr. Watson would learn to see things others missed by studying and applying Sherlock's methods on a regular basis. Make it a daily habit to see how much you can notice about a person, place, or thing by using your astute observational skills while driving, waiting in line, or watching television—then test yourself.

2 COME TO YOUR SENSES Sherlock Holmes used a magnifying glass to spot hidden clues. He also used his other senses to “see” what wasn't obvious to the naked eye. We can all improve our observational skills by being more active listeners, trusting our instincts, using our sense of smell (and touch), and by looking at our problems from more than one perspective.

3 THE MIND PALACE Holmes was famous for his memory technique called the “Mind Palace.” It simply means when we see something interesting and useful we label and internalize it in a way we'll recall quickly.

** Did you notice that one eye in the illustration to the left is orange? Did you see the pipe in the bottom right corner? The scissors near the ear? The phrase “pay attention” written next to the coat collar?*

Lee Silber gives a powerful presentation on this topic.

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