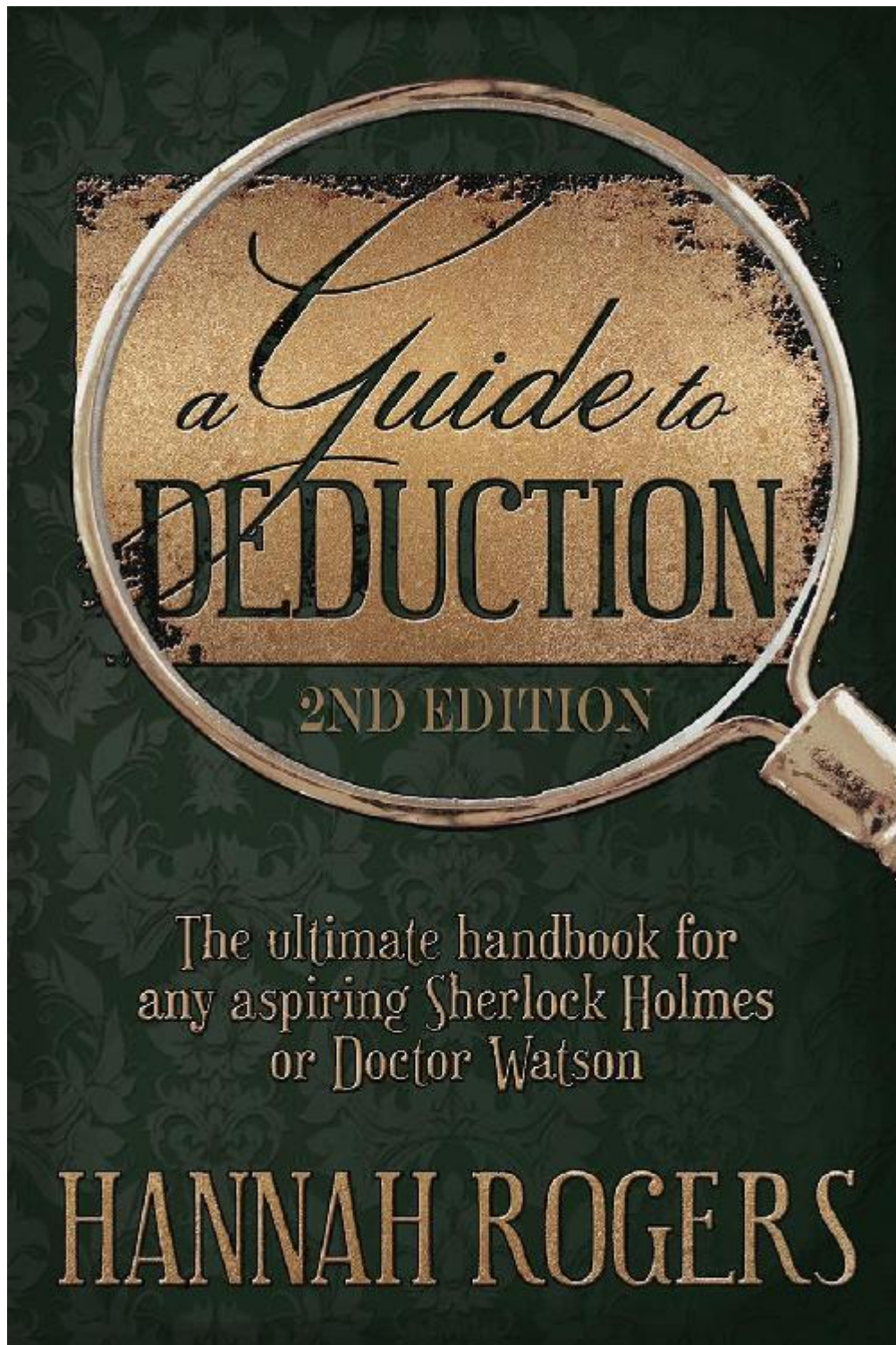


*a Guide to*  
**DEDUCTION**

2ND EDITION

The ultimate handbook for  
any aspiring Sherlock Holmes  
or Doctor Watson

**HANNAH ROGERS**



A Guide to Deduction

2nd Edition

Hannah Rogers

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### Disclaimer

This book and all the information in it is purely for entertainment purposes. It cannot and should be used for diagnosis or as a basis for fact. Each deduction must be used in combination with contextual clues and available data in order to be effective or have a chance of being accurate. These should be used for the purpose of writing fiction of and are never true for 100% of people.

You have been warned.

For more deductions and Sherlock Holmes content daily, visit:

<http://aguidetodeduction.tumblr.com/>

### Dedication

This book is dedicated to:

The Sherlock Holmes in my blood, from my grandfather, Colin.

The love of writing encouraged by my grandfather, John.

The theories and thoughts shared with friends, particularly Ciara, Tilda, Cemre, Camilla, Hazel and Zahrah.

And you, dedicated readers, for forcing me to get my head in gear and finish this thing.

## An Introduction to Deduction

‘You see, but you do not observe. The distinction is clear.’

- Sherlock Holmes, A Scandal in Bohemia

The work of detective is considered glamorous and romantic by many people, my own companion Watson included. However, this façade is little more than smoke and mirrors. Deduction, or induction as some call it, is reliant upon nothing more than observation. Connections which appear to be the product of clairvoyance or magic are made entirely tangible.

This book exists to make those threads of logic between seemingly unconnected details clear. To tell a man’s profession by his thumb, one must first know what to look for the thumb. There are infinite invisible threads of logic around us. All it takes is to know what threads to unpick, and what one’s to tie together.

Best of luck,

Sherlock Holmes

### Tips

1. An in-depth knowledge of human anatomy is vital. This includes the body both before and after death.
2. Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.
3. Gender means very little in the area of deduction: women and men are quite evenly matched in ability despite differing physical builds.

Individuals who defies a stereotype is the fastest way to throw off such assumptions.

4. Observation is the first step to deduction. Focus on the cuffs, sleeve, knees and elbows, as this is the clothing which comes into contact with the most surfaces.
5. It is important to note when inferring from dialect how a person learned the language and whether the teacher was native speaker. People who learn in class have a better grasp of technicalities yet self-taught people often have trouble with grammar.
6. If someone, in sharing a deduction, includes very specific conditions about a person, the more likely it is that the person submitting it demonstrates those aspects themselves.
7. When looking for the perpetrator of a crime, motive is the essential element.
8. Despite what the internet may tell you, there is no reliable way to discern the gender or age of a person online without honest confirmation.
9. Women have 14–16 parts of their brain dedicated to communication which includes body language etc. whereas men only have 4–6. This means that women are often perceived to have better communication ability.

## Work

“Being a consultant has the benefit of freedom from the demon of consistent work. Boredom, though a bitter side effect, proves to exceed the drag of

employment. Skills and ability can often be derived from work, though hard labour tends to scratch the sheen off a skill. Heaven forbid it should ever happen to a mind like mine. Work may be a motivator, but is often a motive to much darker things.”

SH

1. Long clean fingernails are a sign that the person does little manual work. Dirty and short fingernails are a sign of manual labour.
2. If someone has well-tended hands with no callouses and healthy long nails, but dirtied and rough skin, it suggests they have been working in manual labour for a short time.
3. Long or fake nails on both hands can also indicate that the person wearing them is unlikely to currently work in a medical field, such as a veterinarian, doctor or nurse; they are uncomfortable for patients and can be obstructing.
4. Many teachers who work in less technologically advanced school have marks of chalk on their fingernails or clothing.
5. Someone who has worked in theatre tech for a while will often respond “thank you” when given directions or told a “plan of action,” if distracted. (For example, “I’m going out.” “Thank you.”)
6. A singer is more likely to breathe from his or her diaphragm. You can tell because when they take a deep breath, rather than their chest rising or falling, they seem to suck in their gut.
7. Opera singers tend to have broad shoulders as the muscles around their diaphragm build, leading to the cliché of the “fat lady”.

8. If someone is an opera singer, he tends to talk in a higher register so as not to damage the voice.
9. Opera singers tend to have a straight spine as part of their posture and keep their head “loose.”
10. A trained singer’s shoulders will not move up and down when he breathes as it both lets the least amount of air in and looks unprofessional.
11. A trained vocalist will often speak with a more resonant sound, since he has been trained to let sound vibrate through the mask of his face.
12. When someone is singing and he doesn’t open his mouth wide when pronouncing vocals, it is possible that he has experience in a chorus.
13. An experienced actor may breathe from his diaphragm to improve their voice projection.
14. Actors/performers may also be inclined to stand at “neutral”: feet shoulder-width apart, knees very slightly bent, shoulders back, abdominal muscles relaxed.
15. Actors may get into the habit of speaking in a higher volume and level of elocution.
16. Small rectangular patches on the back of the neck may be where microphone tape has ripped off the hairs.
17. Someone who served in the military may show many signs of communal living, as most daily routines are shared, such as meals.



18. Training nurses or medical assistants often walk around in practical, quality shoes.
19. Training nurses or medical assistants are often overly conscious of their health choices.
20. Training nurses or medical assistants rarely wear makeup and tie their hair up frequently.
21. Hairdressers will often have a callus on the outside of their top knuckle on the ring finger of their dominant hand, due to the way they hold their equipment.
22. If a person is a hairdresser, he is likely to get cuts on the middle finger of his non-dominant hand.
23. (See above) Rounded crescent cuts pointing upwards belong to rounded tipped scissors commonly used by barbers.
24. (See above) Sharper straight cuts indicate the use of hairdresser's scissors.
25. An artist who has very short fingernails is more likely to be a sculptor as long nails can break/cause pain to the artist while working on the pottery wheel because of the pressure used against the clay with one's hands to manipulate it into shape.
26. A person working in the architecture industry has a tendency to observe building elements above anything. (For example, windows and structure of walls.)

27. A chef or someone working in food might have irregular cuts and burns on their hands and arms, but otherwise have very clean hands with short nails.
28. If a person has artificial nails or natural nails longer than one-quarter inch, they are not any form of hospital staff: long nails spread infections and are not allowed in clinical settings.
29. Someone who has worked in hospitality will often stay “behind” when walking behind someone or trying to get past a person, rather than “excuse me” etc.
30. People who work in small quarters may use simple one word commands like “behind” when trying to get past a person.
31. People who work using their hands usually sneeze into the crook of their elbow on impulse, even when they have tissues on hand. (Like those who handle food, chemicals, lab equipment.)
32. Someone working in a bakery will have several little cuts all over his hands, due to the crust of hot bread: they will also have flour on their shoes.
33. Someone who needs to present as part of his job will frequently check how he looks, possibly carrying a mirror with him at all times
34. Someone who needs to present as part of his job will also most likely talk “with his hands” to emphasise points.
35. Black, green and red are the most common white board pen colours, and having any combination of these inks smeared on the fingertips or

side of the hand suggests that a person works with a whiteboard, most commonly teachers.

36. The same traces of colour on the lips or tongue suggest they use a projector and water soluble markers.
37. These inks stain very badly on fabric, and are often possible to find even after the material has been washed.
38. Police officers will have an unusual walk. This is due to the massive amount of equipment they typically have to carry on their belts.
39. If a person is unusually quick with knowing the alphabetical order of letters, chances are they work at/frequently use a library.
40. You can tell if someone is a digital artist, or at least not used to working in traditional media, if they have a noticeable callous on the outer palm heel of their dominant hand.
41. If someone works in both traditional and digital mediums, they will lack this callous: due to trying to avoid smudging their work.
42. You can often tell a supermarket cashier from the bruises and scrapes around their hands and wrists often caused by swift, and sometimes clumsy, handling of a range of items and materials.
43. Someone who works in a coffee shop will have outer clothes that smell of coffee while his everyday clothes will not. This is because most coffee shops require a uniform, but people don't get new coats for an indoor job, so the coat will be hung up in the back, absorbing the smell. Soft fabrics are more prone to this.

44. If someone works at a desk often, they are unlikely to wear bracelets or a watch as clattering against the surface of the desk can get annoying.
45. Most militaries don't allow long hair or not being clean shaven, so people who work in the military tend to maintain these appearances even during time off from work.
46. A small but pronounced callous on the large knuckle of the right index finger often indicates someone who works in retail: built in card-swipers are most commonly on the right hand side of the till, and the action of swiping cards repeatedly rubs at the knuckle.
47. If someone wears a lot of jewellery but none on his dominant hand, it may mean he is an artist who wants to make sure his jewellery doesn't get in the way or dirty.
48. If a young civilian often stands with feet shoulder width apart and his hands behind his back, he most likely took part in a military-based class in school such JROTC or spent a lot of time in detention centres as a juvenile.
49. To figure out which one, observe how they walk. A former JROTC cadet will naturally adjust his or her footsteps to be in cadence with your own, while someone who spent time in detention centres will not.
50. Actors and dancers often automatically stand with their hands behind their back since it allows them to maximise their breathing.
51. People who know shorthand typically work in careers which require a quick relaying of information, such as a typist in court or a journalist.

52. People with irregular scratches on their arms and hands may work with animals, due to the conflicting angles, size and depth of scratches.
53. Sometimes car salesman wear their belt buckles to the side so that when they lean up against the cars there is no risk of scratching the paint.
54. Actors are often more likely to be smokers, due to the indefinite periods of waiting between rehearsals/filming/scenes, leaving them few options to fill the time that can end as soon as they are needed.
55. However, dancers and singers are less likely to smoke in these gaps, due to their critical need of high lung capacity. (Note the occasional use as a weight suppressant and addictive nature.)
56. If an artist has stains and holes in his clothes from chemicals it is likely he has been using tougher materials, such as print making which requires chemicals to eat away at steel to create a pattern. The holes will be more severe than basic cleaning supplies, which are far weaker.
57. Surgeons commonly have small indentations on their forefingers from cutting open and sewing up a patient: if these marks are very pronounced they were in surgery very recently.
58. You can tell an artist by the way he holds the utensil, with the last digit of his forefinger completely against it: this gives them more control of the movement of the line.
59. When retrieving something from a lower shelf, a person who will squat on his haunches rather than bending over it is likely either to have worked at or frequently used a library, bookstore or convenience store.

60. If a person walks around all day with his shirt on backwards or similar, it may indicate he is in a position of authority (no one wanted to embarrass them) but not a public figure (no-one needed to tell them about it).

61. If someone has long, thin callouses along the back of their heel, it could be an indication of wearing boots frequently, particularly industrial/work boots.

Questions for Sherlock

Q: What do you do other than detective work?

A: I enjoy the study of bees: they are fascinating to me. Dangerous when threatened, hierarchical, and complex.

Watson once called them “miniature humans”.

He may have been right.

SH

Q: What’s the best way to learn a lot about a new roommate?

A: Drag them to crime scenes against their will, or develop your deductive prowess to the point where one glance tells you all you need.

Do both, if necessary.

SH

Q: How can you fake confidence?

A: Eye contact that cannot be broken with a sledgehammer.

Wit sharp enough to cleave diamonds.

Love yourself enough to make anyone around you a moon orbiting the planet of your ego.

SH

Q: What do you do if someone strangles you?

A: Try not to die.

SH

Q: What's your favourite book?

A: Practical Handbook of Bee Culture, with some Observations upon the Segregation of the Queen.

SH

Q: Are there any tools an aspiring Consulting Detective should own and always carry with them?

A: A John Watson, or equivalent.

SH

Q: What is the correct way to disarm someone?

A: Carefully.

SH

Q: Do you often find yourself analysing others when you'd rather not?

A: It is always good to analyse others.

It is not always good to let them know this.

SH

Q: Any advice for someone hoping to follow in your footsteps?

A: Don't.

SH

Q: How often do you actually use John Watson's medical knowledge? Surely you remember enough about it to work without him.

A: I am not an expert in all things.

John holds knowledge of human biology: something necessary when investigating how it has failed catastrophically.

You cannot investigate a murder without first understanding it.

SH

Q: Have you ever come across a case that you had little or no expertise in?

A: Frequently, so I become an expert.



Research is 90 per cent of my job, however much chronicles of my work would like to persuade you otherwise.

SH

Writing

The written word is still a major form of communication, despite its increasing outdated nature. To analyse someone's writing is to know them better as a person. It is a skill which is invaluable in detective work.

SH

1. People may write in tiny lettering when they want to save on paper or present as much information as possible: this can lead to uncharacteristic handwriting.
2. When writing under observation, such as in exam conditions, handwriting often becomes neater due to a subconscious need to impress.
3. A defined but hard to read signature is a sign that the person has to sign his name frequently, becoming lazy when writing the predetermined name.
4. A person who writes awkwardly or slowly is probably used to communicating through typed messages and storing information digitally rather than on paper.
5. You can tell the keys most used on a personal computer keyboard by looking at which ones are the most smooth; they have been worn down the most.

6. The more handwriting slants to the right, the faster the author was writing.
7. The easiest way to tell if a signature is a forgery is through absolutely precise lines, and darker point of ink; these are frequently signs of hesitation.
8. When writing the date, like 1/2/14, if the slashes are at two different angles it could mean that the person paused when determining the middle number.
9. When observing handwriting, if the person uses all capitals and is printing, he has likely been conditioned to writing in such a way from work that requires clear communication.
10. If someone's handwriting is slanted on a lined piece of paper, he was likely copying from another page, therefore not paying attention to his own paper.

## Mind Palaces

### Basic facts:

While it is now known as a Mind or Memory Palace, this form of thought originated as “the method of loci” in ancient Greece. Its aim was to capitalise on the idea that the mind is better at remembering locations than facts. A mind palace is the memorisation of a layout familiar to you which contains images, objects or concepts which trigger your memory through association. A mind palace is a memory aid, not a memory in and of itself. You have to be aware of storing things in there in order for them to be there when you use it. In other words, if you have not taken time to “store” your memory trigger, it will not be in your mind palace. This method is typically restricted to a small

area to keep it easier to remember, such as a single room. This is where Sherlock's discussion of "limited space" comes from. When using a larger mind palace, it is sometimes useful to "mime" movement through it, though this is rarely necessary.

### First steps

For your first attempt to be as successful as possible, remove all distractions possible: close your eyes and block out sound.

Prepare yourself as you would for meditation: both are disorientating but oddly refreshing.

Decide upon your "palace." Ironically, it's best to avoid large spaces you don't know well since they are difficult to maintain effectively. Instead choose a real place you know intimately, such as your bedroom.

Picture your "palace." At this point, all you require is the size and spacing of the room with bulkier furniture. Smaller details (such as books) will be added later. Familiarise yourself with everything by walking around.

Repeat this until you've a clear image in your mind which you can recall accurately with relative ease. It may take several days, but don't fret. It's a learning process; mastering your first palace is the hardest part.

### Storing Things

You must take the same route through your palace each time; otherwise, you'll likely get a mental block. If you are searching for something in particular, you can abandon the palace as soon as you find what you want, but when you're storing information always travel through the same route. It just helps keep things more ordered.

The best triggers are either absolutely ridiculous or logical leaps.

An example of the logical leap: “I had to remember that ‘Belief In’ is an attitudinal belief, involving personal choices and values, while ‘Belief That’ is a factual belief.”

“Our belief in Sherlock is a feeling and that feeling governs the fact; the fact that Sherlock isn’t a fake informs our feelings of belief in him. So I have a badge on someone’s lapel which has a silhouette of Sherlock with the phrase ‘I Believe in Sherlock Holmes’ across it.

That little badge means I can remember everything I need to about that hypothesis; about four pages of solid text in the book.”

An example of the ridiculous trigger: “I had to remember quotations saying that Charles Dickens promoted left wing politics in a sarcastic way in “Oliver Twist,” so I remember a bird with a corkscrew on its left wing.”

“The bird’s left wing illustrates the political nature, the corkscrew reminds both of the title “Twist” and ‘screwed’ nature of discussion. This unfortunate bird triggers several pages worth of supportive quotations.”

Storing Things: Advanced

Interconnecting comes in when you want to remember more. An earlier example mentioned that the Sherlock badge was on someone’s lapel; not only is that person a trigger himself, but their interactions with other objects set off other triggers.

However, interconnecting like this isn’t for everyone. You may find it easier placing things in succession, like on a shelf. This works just as well with