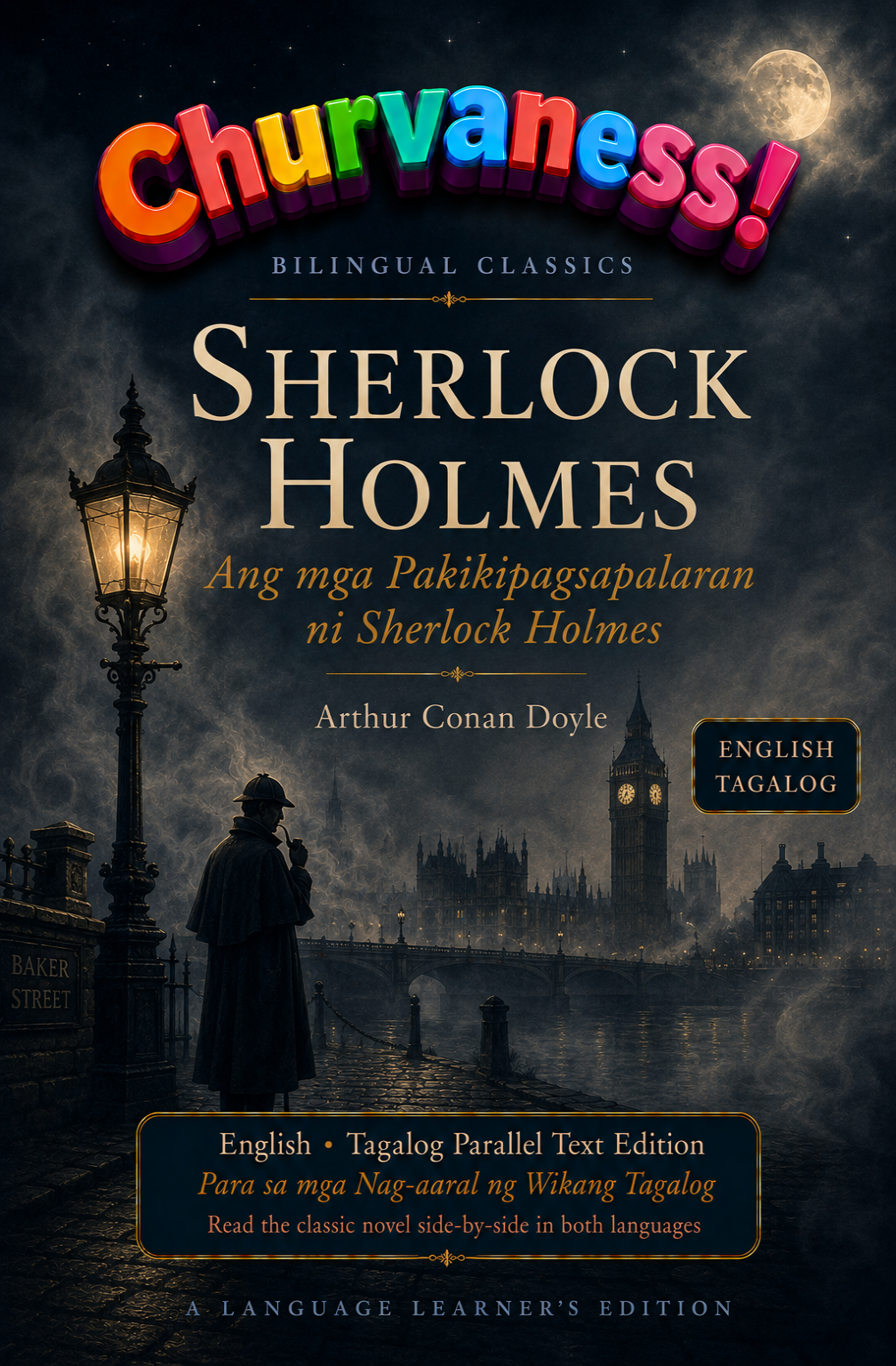


The background of the cover is a dark, atmospheric illustration of a London street at night. In the foreground, a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes wearing his iconic deerstalker hat and smoking a pipe stands on a cobblestone path. To his left is a glowing, ornate street lamp. In the background, the River Thames flows under a bridge, with the illuminated Big Ben clock tower and the Houses of Parliament visible against a dark sky with a full moon. The overall mood is mysterious and classic.

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Tagalog Cheat Sheet

Pronunciation

Tagalog spelling is largely phonetic — words are pronounced as they are written, with a few rules to learn.

Letter(s)	Sound	Example
a	<i>a</i> as in father	a so (dog)
e	<i>e</i> as in bet	e king
i	<i>ee</i>	i bon (bird)
o	<i>o</i> as in go	o ras (time)
u	<i>oo</i>	u lan (rain)
ng	One sound, like <i>ng</i> in singer	ng ayon (now)
ny	<i>ny</i> as in canyon	kanya (his/her)
' (glottal stop)	Brief catch in the throat	ba**'t** (why)
c, f, j, q, v, x, z	Rare, mostly loanwords	

Stress usually falls on the second-to-last syllable; a final glottal stop or shifted stress can change a word's meaning entirely, but this is learned by ear over time rather than from spelling alone.

Basic Grammar

Tagalog often puts the **predicate (verb or adjective) first**, with the subject following — though subject-first order is also understood and easier for learners starting out.

Case markers instead of articles: *ang* marks the subject/focus of the sentence, *ng* (pronounced “nang”) marks the object or a possessor, *sa* marks location or direction. These three markers are the backbone of Tagalog sentence structure.

Nouns: No grammatical gender. Plural is formed by adding *mga* before the noun: *ang mga balyena* (the whales).

Adjectives: Usually come before the noun, linked by *-ng* (after a vowel) or *na* (after a consonant): *malaking balyena* (a big whale).

Verbs: Conjugate for aspect — completed, incomplete, or contemplated — not tense, using prefixes and infixes: *kumain* (ate), *kumakain* (eating/eats), *kakain* (will eat). Which noun gets marked by *ang* (the actor, the object, the location...) determines which verb affix is used — this “focus” system is the single biggest grammar difference from English.

Negation: *hindi* negates verbs and adjectives; *wala* negates existence or possession (“there is/are not,” “doesn’t have”).

Questions: Add the particle *ba* after the first word or phrase, or start with a question word: *Malaki ba ang balyena?* (Is the whale big?)

Function Words

Markers: *ang*, *ng*, *sa*, *si* (personal *ang*), *ni* (personal *ng*), *kay* (personal *sa*) **Pronouns:** *ako*, *ikaw/ka*, *siya*, *kami*, *tayo*, *kayo*, *silá* (and their *ng*-forms: *ko*, *mo*, *niya*, *namin*, *natin*, *ninyo*, *nila*) **Location/direction:** *sa*, *mula sa*, *papunta sa*, *tungkol sa*, *para sa* **Conjunctions:** *at* (and), *o* (or), *pero/ngunit* (but), *dahil* (because), *kung* (if), *kaya* (so), *habang* (while) **Particles/adverbs:** *hindi* (not), *oo* (yes), *na* (already/now), *pa* (still/yet), *rin/din* (also), *lang* (only/just), *naman* (contrast/softening) **Question words:** *ano* (what), *sino* (who), *saan* (where), *kailan* (when), *bakit* (why), *paano* (how), *ilan* (how many) **Numbers:** *isa*, *dalawa*, *tatlo*, *apat*, *lima*, *anim*, *pito*, *walo*, *siyam*, *sampu*

Common Phrases

Kumusta (hello), Magandang umaga (good morning), Magandang hapon (good afternoon), Magandang gabi (good evening), Paalam (goodbye), Oo/Hindi (yes/no), Pakisuyo (please), Salamat (thank you), Walang anuman (you're welcome), Pasensya na (sorry), Kumusta ka? (how are you?), Mabuti naman (I'm well), Diyos ko! (my God!)

Language-Specific Notes

- **Verb focus system:** the verb's affix changes depending on whether *ang* marks the actor, the object, the location, or the instrument of the action — the same root can surface in several different forms across a passage depending on what's being emphasized.
- **No “to be” for simple statements:** *Balyena ito* (This is a whale) needs no linking verb at all.
- **Reduplication** intensifies, pluralizes, or softens meaning, and also marks incomplete/future verb aspect: *malaki* (big) → *malaki-laki* (rather big).
- Nautical vocabulary: *balyena* (whale), *barko* (ship), *layag* (sail), *palo* (mast), *angkla* (anchor), *kubyerta* (deck), *kapitan* (captain), *tripulante* (crew member), *daungan* (harbor)
- **Spanish-derived loanwords** (*mesa*, *silya*, *kutsara*) sit naturally alongside native Tagalog roots throughout the language — both are normal, not “incorrect” Tagalog.

* * *

Now turn to Chapter 1 and begin reading.

CHAPTER 1. A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA

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