

Queen Elizabeth

In this lesson, you will read about Britain's longest serving monarch. You will learn new vocabulary and discuss whether or not you would want to be part of a royal family.



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you know the meaning of the British Commonwealth?
2. Queen Elizabeth II is the queen of many different countries. Try to name a few of these and then find them on a map.
3. What are some of the duties of a king or queen?
4. What is a Diamond Jubilee?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

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|---------------------|---|
| _____ 1. prepare | a) a citizen of a country ruled by a king or queen |
| _____ 2. duties | b) to do, to perform a duty |
| _____ 3. public | c) to get ready |
| _____ 4. huge | d) something that takes place, such as a celebration |
| _____ 5. coronation | e) responsibilities |
| _____ 6. rule | f) the opposite of casual |
| _____ 7. ceremony | g) to govern, to control |
| _____ 8. step down | h) very big |
| _____ 9. carry out | i) a ceremony that makes someone a king or queen |
| _____ 10. event | j) in front of people, the opposite of private |
| _____ 11. subject | k) to leave a position, to resign |
| _____ 12. formal | l) an event to mark a special occasion, such as a wedding |

Reading

1. Elizabeth II has been the Queen of the United Kingdom and the head of the Commonwealth for more than 60 years.
2. She was born on April 21, 1926, in London, England. Her parents were the duke and duchess of York. In 1936, her father became king, and she became Princess Elizabeth. When her father died, she would become queen.
3. To **prepare** to be queen, Princess Elizabeth studied history and law. She also learned about the **duties** of a queen and how she must act in **public**.
4. In 1947, she married Philip Mountbatten. He then became Prince Philip, duke of Edinburgh. They had a son, Charles, in 1948, and a daughter, Anne, in 1950.
5. Her father, King George VI, died suddenly in 1952, and she became the Queen. But she was not **formally** crowned as Queen until June 2, 1953. People all over the world listened to her **coronation ceremony** on radio or watched it on TV.
6. The Queen and her husband had two more children, Andrew and Edward. They now have several grandchildren.
7. One of the Queen's duties is to visit her **subjects** in other countries and to visit countries that belong to the Commonwealth. These are countries that used to be **ruled** by Britain. She and Prince Philip have traveled to many countries over the years. Canada, New Zealand, and Nigeria are just a few of them.
8. When she is at home, the Queen meets every week with the British prime minister to learn what is happening in Britain. She also makes sure she knows about important **events** in other parts of the world.
9. When she is not **carrying out** her royal duties, Queen Elizabeth is often seen with her dogs or her horses. She has several of them.
10. In 2012, there were **huge** celebrations in Britain because she had been Queen for 60 years. This is called the Diamond Jubilee. When Queen Elizabeth dies or decides to **step down**, her oldest son, Prince Charles, will become king. But many people think she will be Queen for many more years.

*"Good memories are
our second chance
at happiness."*

—Queen Elizabeth II

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information.

- _____ 1. Elizabeth became Queen in 1936.
- _____ 2. Her husband's title is king.
- _____ 3. Queen Elizabeth has four children.
- _____ 4. Canada is a member of the British Commonwealth.
- _____ 5. Prince Charles is next in line to become king of England.

B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- 1. Who was Queen Elizabeth's father?
- 2. When was Queen Elizabeth formally crowned as queen?
- 3. What did Elizabeth do to prepare to become Queen?
- 4. Who did Elizabeth marry?
- 5. Name two of Queen Elizabeth's official duties.
- 6. What is the meaning of the British Commonwealth?
- 7. Why did Britain hold huge celebrations in 2012?
- 8. How old was Elizabeth when she became Queen?

Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.

You may need to change the word forms.

1. She bought a new dress for her graduation _____ .
2. Many people are very nervous when they have to speak in _____ .
3. You should wear _____ clothes when you go to a wedding.
4. Queen Elizabeth has _____ England for over 60 years.
5. She has a lot of food to _____ for the party.
6. The 1953 _____ of Queen Elizabeth was televised around the world.
7. A secretary has many _____ , such as typing, filing, and answering phones.
8. A soldier must _____ his officer's instructions.

Discussion

1. What countries still have a king or queen?
2. Do you think that life in a royal family is easy or difficult? Give your reasons.
3. Would you want to be part of a royal family? Why or why not?
4. Some people believe that in democratic societies there is no reason to keep a king or queen. What is your opinion?
5. Do you think Queen Elizabeth will step down soon?