

Elizabeth II celebrates 65 years as British queen

Elementary

1 Warmer

Three of these statements are true and two are false. Find the true statements.

1. Queen Elizabeth was born in 1926.
2. The UK is the only country in Europe with a king or a queen.
3. Elizabeth is the first queen of England.
4. The British king or queen is politically neutral.
5. Queen Elizabeth's official London residence is Buckingham Palace.

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

reign

monarch

coronation

ceremony

head of state

1. A _____ is a king or a queen. (para 1)
2. A _____ is the leader of a country such as a king, queen or president. (para 1)
3. A _____ is when someone officially becomes king or queen. (para 2)
4. A _____ is a formal public event with special traditions, actions or words. (para 2)
5. A _____ is the period of time that a king or queen rules a country. (para 4)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. Who was Elizabeth II's great-great grandmother?
2. Where was Elizabeth when she heard the news that her father had died?
3. When did she officially become queen and head of state?
4. How many countries are in the Commonwealth?
5. How many countries has Queen Elizabeth II visited?
6. How many grandchildren does she have?

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9 March, 2017

- 1 On 6 February, 2017, Elizabeth II celebrated 65 years as queen. She is the oldest monarch in the world and has been head of state for longer than any woman in the history of the world. Her great-great grandmother, Victoria, was queen for more than 63 years but Elizabeth broke that record in 2015.
- 2 Elizabeth was born on 21 April, 1926. She was on a visit to Kenya in February, 1952 with her husband Philip when news came that her father, King George VI, had died suddenly at the age of 56. She returned to London and officially became queen and head of state on 6 February, 1952. The official coronation ceremony took place more than a year later in Westminster Abbey in London.
- 3 Elizabeth II is queen of the United Kingdom. She is also the head of the Commonwealth, a group of 52 countries, most of which used to be under the political control of the UK as they were part of the British Empire. These include countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Nigeria and India. The queen is also the official head of state of many of these countries.
- 4 During her long reign, Elizabeth II has known 13 British prime ministers and 13 American presidents. She has made 271 official visits to 116 different countries and has travelled more than any other monarch in British history.
- 5 Philip and Elizabeth have four children – Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward. They also have eight grandchildren, including Prince William and Prince Harry, and five great-grandchildren.
- 6 Elizabeth II is well-known for her love of animals. She has three dogs and a number of horses. She is also a big fan of horse racing and her horses have won many of the UK's most famous races.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Queen Elizabeth II has been ... | a. ... used to be part of the British Empire. |
| 2. She was on a visit to Kenya ... | b. ... has travelled more than any other British monarch. |
| 3. The official coronation took ... | c. ... head of state longer than any woman in history. |
| 4. Most of the 52 countries in the Commonwealth ... | d. ... known 13 British prime ministers and 13 American presidents. |
| 5. During her long reign, Queen Elizabeth II has ... | e. ... when news came that her father was dead. |
| 6. Queen Elizabeth II ... | f. ... place at Westminster Abbey in London. |

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5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. year more a later than
2. countries of a 52 group
3. of the state official head
4. of a racing fan horse big
5. the the monarch oldest world in
6. these of countries many

6 Verb + noun collocations

Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the nouns or noun phrases in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 1. take | a. a record |
| 2. make | b. a race |
| 3. win | c. place |
| 4. break | d. a visit |

7 Word stress

Put these words from the text into two groups according to their stress.

control

famous

return

record (n)

visit

well-known

A o o	B o o

8 Discussion

- Is it better to have a monarch or a president? Why?

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KEY

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True: 1, 4, 5

2 Key words

1. monarch
2. head of state
3. coronation
4. ceremony
5. reign

3 Find the information

1. Queen Victoria
2. Kenya
3. 6 February, 1952
4. 52
5. 116
6. eight

4 Comprehension check

1. c
2. e
3. f
4. a
5. d
6. b

5 Chunks

1. more than a year later
2. a group of 52 countries
3. the official head of state
4. a big fan of horse racing
5. the oldest monarch in the world
6. many of these countries

6 Verb + noun collocations

1. c
2. d
3. b
4. a

7 Word stress

A 0 o	B o 0
famous record visit	control return well-known