

As the jubilee bunting comes down, what next for the Queen's reign?

Level: Advanced

1 Warmer

jubilee

countable noun /'dʒuːbliː/

a big celebration for a special occasion, especially an anniversary

a. Match the words used to describe types of jubilees with the number of years each one celebrates.

- | | |
|-------|-------------|
| 1. 25 | a. golden |
| 2. 40 | b. platinum |
| 3. 50 | c. ruby |
| 4. 60 | d. silver |
| 5. 70 | e. diamond |

b. Which jubilee did Queen Elizabeth II celebrate in 2022?

2 Key words

a. Write the correct words from the wordpool next to the definitions below. Then find and highlight them in the article to read them in context.

abdication	affection	assent	bill	bunting
constitutional	frail	incapacity	incumbent	infirmity
monarch	oath	regent	rota	succession

- a line of small flags on a string, used for decorating buildings and streets for special occasions

- physically weak and not very healthy _____
- the process by which one person comes after another as a king, queen or leader

- someone who has an official position _____
- a king or queen _____
- a list of people's names that shows when each of them has to do a particular job

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7. relating to the set of basic laws or principles for a country that describe the rights and duties of its citizens and the way in which it is governed _____
8. agreement with or approval of a plan or suggestion _____
9. a written document containing a proposal for a new law _____
10. when a king or queen formerly gives up power and passes it on to someone else _____
11. a formal promise _____
12. someone who governs a country in the place of a king or queen who is ill, young, or not available to govern _____
13. bad health caused by old age or illness _____
14. the condition of being unable to live normally because you are ill or weak _____
15. a feeling of liking and caring about someone or something _____

b. Use some of the key words above to complete these sentences.

1. According to the _____, it's Jack's turn to clean the kitchen this week.
2. Over the years, he has earned our _____ and respect.
3. Recently, he's become quite _____, but he still manages to walk with a stick.
4. All new American citizens must officially take an _____ of allegiance.
5. During the jubilee weekend, my mother hung Union Jack _____ around the front of her house.
6. She returned to work after a long period of _____.
7. The government have submitted a _____ to increase the minimum wage.
8. Everyone was relieved when she finally gave her _____ for the project to move ahead.

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Analysis: the Queen's age means a reduction in duties, and succession planning is well under way

Mark Brown and Helen Pidd

5 June, 2022

- 1 As the bunting came down after the long weekend of Platinum Jubilee celebrations, many in Buckingham Palace breathed a sigh of relief that the increasingly frail 96-year-old Queen made it to the extra bank holiday declared in her honour.
- 2 But behind the scenes, succession planning is well under way, as it always has been. There are few other jobs in public life where the incumbent knows who will replace them before they even start, but that has been the Queen's reality since she gave birth to Prince Charles in 1948.
- 3 Unlike the Queen, Charles has known from birth that he will be the monarch, with the late Spike Milligan (a famous comedian) jokily referring to him as the "trainee king".
- 4 His mother's age has meant a significant reduction in her royal duties and appearances over the past year. Scaling back the ceremonial duties is relatively straightforward with a large enough rota of royals to go on state visits, give out the honours, and open the libraries.
- 5 Winding down the constitutional duties is less straightforward. Only the Queen can, for example, give assent to parliamentary bills or meet the Prime Minister every week. They are purely formal duties, in that the Queen would never not sign a parliamentary bill, but they are hugely important.
- 6 "It would be a revolutionary act to refuse assent," said Vernon Bogdanor, Professor of Government at King's College, London and author of *The Monarchy and the Constitution*. "But nevertheless no bill passed by parliament becomes law until the Queen gives assent. Only she can do it."
- 7 Among the options for how things might play out is that the Queen abdicates to see her son become King Charles III.
- 8 Not one royal expert thinks that is on the cards. She lived through the abdication of 1936 when her uncle gave up the throne in order to marry Wallis Simpson. She saw her adored, reluctant, unprepared father become King George VI and it was "very traumatic" for the whole family, said Bogdanor.
- 9 No one can see the Queen doing what her uncle did, even if the circumstances are vastly different. Not to mention that, once you say being monarch is a matter of choice, then the whole thing loses its reason for being.
- 10 She also made an often repeated oath on her 21st birthday, in 1947: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."
- 11 Bogdanor said: "She has a very strong Christian faith and she does not break an oath she has made."
- 12 One of the reasons it has been difficult for the Queen to come to terms with Prince Harry standing down as a working royal is, experts say, because she does not see it as a role you can simply stop doing.
- 13 Another alternative would be a regency, again unlikely. For that to happen, three of four people – the Lord Chancellor (Dominic Raab), the Speaker of the House of Commons (Lindsay Hoyle), the Lord Chief Justice (Lord Burnett of Maldon) and the Master of the Rolls (Sir Geoffrey Vos) – would have to declare in writing that they are satisfied the monarch is "by reason of infirmity of mind or body incapable for the time being of performing the royal functions".
- 14 A regent, presumably Charles, could then perform those duties.
- 15 The Queen, 96, is experiencing episodic mobility problems but no one is saying she is losing her mental capacity.
- 16 The most likely scenario, said Bogdanor, is the use of mechanisms that exist in the case of temporary incapacity of the monarch. These allow members of the Council of State – the four adults closest in line to the throne, so Charles, William, Harry and Andrew – to carry out duties including giving assent to bills and appointing ambassadors.

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- 17 By far the most likely and obvious scenario in the game of "What next?" is that Charles succeeds to the throne after the death of his mother.
- 18 "Unlike the Queen, he has known from birth that he would be king and is, therefore, in my view, extremely well prepared for it," said Bogdanor.
- 19 "I think the affection for the Queen and the respect for her will transfer to the Prince of Wales when he becomes king. His speeches and actions will all be on advice.
- 20 "He won't be able to make controversial comments about architecture, shall we say. He will say what ministers advise him to say. The role of the monarchy will change a bit because he is a different person."

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3 Understanding the article

a. Are these statements True or False according to the article? Correct any that are false.

1. Most people in the United Kingdom received an extra day off work to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.
2. The Queen had all of her four children after she became monarch.
3. Royal experts believe it's likely that Charles will become king before his mother dies.
4. Prince Charles and his brothers are the only people who are allowed to carry out royal duties in place of the Queen.
5. One of the Queen's duties is to meet the British Prime Minister at the end of every day.
6. No bill can pass through parliament without the Queen giving her consent.
7. In the past few years, she has often refused to give her consent, which resulted in great difficulties for the British government.
8. In general, the Queen is well liked by the British people and it is expected that this affection will be passed on to Charles when he becomes king.

4 Key language

a. Find phrases that fit the meanings.

1. stopped worrying because something bad is no longer likely to happen (5 words, paragraph 1)
2. secretly rather than publicly (3 words, paragraph 2)
3. already started a while ago and is happening now (3 words, paragraph 2)
4. what might happen as events unfold (5 words, paragraph 7)
5. very likely to happen (3 words, paragraph 8)
6. the point why something exists (3 words, paragraph 9)
7. learn to accept and deal with an unpleasant situation or event, especially after being upset or angry about it for a long time (4 words, paragraph 12)
8. irregular phases when someone struggles more than normal to move around (3 words, paragraph 15)

b. Use the phrases to talk about the article.

c. Then use each one in sentences or short anecdotes of your own that are not related to the article.

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5 Discussion

a. Discuss these questions. Expand your answers with details and your opinions.

- Is there now, or has there ever been, a monarchy in your country? If so, how does it compare to the British monarchy?
- How do you think a monarch should act? What duties do you think they should perform? How should they present themselves in public?
- You have been invited to Buckingham Palace in London to meet the Queen: How do you feel? What will you say when you meet her?

6 In your own words

- a. Create a quiz about the British royal family. Write a minimum of ten questions in a variety of formats, e.g., multiple choice, true or false, open questions with no hints, etc. If you can, include multimedia such as sound and images. Don't forget to write the answers.
- b. Exchange quizzes with other students.