

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

**Level:** Intermediate

### 1 Warmer

**jubilee**

countable noun /'dʒuːbɪliː/

a big celebration for a special occasion, especially an anniversary

a. Match the words for the types of jubilees with the number of years each one describes.

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

b. Complete this sentence with information from the beginning of the article.

In 2022, Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her \_\_\_\_\_ Jubilee.

### 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.

abdicate

affection

bunting

constitutional duties

controversial

frail

monarch

regent

straightforward

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  
\_\_\_\_\_
- a king or queen \_\_\_\_\_
- not complicated \_\_\_\_\_
- the tasks someone formally does for their country \_\_\_\_\_
- the verb for when a king or queen formally gives up power and passes it on to someone else  
\_\_\_\_\_

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8. someone who takes the place of a king or queen who is ill, young, or not available  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. a feeling of liking and caring about someone or something \_\_\_\_\_
10. A \_\_\_\_\_ subject, opinion, or decision is one that people disagree with or do not approve of.

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

1. Over the years, he has earned our \_\_\_\_\_ and respect.
2. He's become quite \_\_\_\_\_, but he still manages to walk with a stick.
3. During the jubilee weekend, my mother hung Union Jack \_\_\_\_\_ around the front of her house.
4. We try not to talk about \_\_\_\_\_ topics at the dinner table.
5. It's a \_\_\_\_\_ operation, so it shouldn't take long.

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**Mark Brown and Helen Pidd**

**5 June, 2022**

- 1 As the bunting came down after the long weekend of Platinum Jubilee celebrations, many people breathed a sigh of relief that the increasingly frail 96-year-old Queen lived to see the celebrations in her honour.
- 2 But behind the scenes, planning for the succession has always been under way. Since she gave birth to Prince Charles in 1948, the Queen has known that he would one day take over her job. Charles has known from birth that he will be the monarch.
- 3 His mother's age has meant her royal duties and appearances have been reduced over the past year. Reducing her ceremonial duties is relatively straightforward because there are enough other royals to go on state visits, give out the honours, and open libraries.
- 4 Reducing her constitutional duties is less straightforward. Only the Queen can, for example, give her official agreement to parliamentary bills or meet the Prime Minister every week.
- 5 One option for what might happen next is that the Queen abdicates and her son becomes King Charles III.
- 6 No royal expert thinks that will happen. In 1936, her uncle gave up the throne to marry Wallis Simpson. She saw her unprepared father become King George VI and it was "very traumatic" for the whole family.
- 7 The Queen made a promise 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."
- 8 One expert said: "She has very strong Christian beliefs and she does not break a promise she has made."
- 9 One of the reasons it has been difficult for the Queen to see Prince Harry stand down as a working royal is because she does not see it as a role you can simply stop doing.
- 10 Another alternative would be a regency, but this is unlikely, too. 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 state in writing that they believe the monarch is mentally unable to perform her royal duties.
- 11 A regent, presumably Charles, could then perform those duties.
- 12 The Queen, 96, has episodic mobility problems but she is not losing her mental capacity.
- 13 The most likely scenario, is that members of the council of state – the four adults closest in line to the throne, so Charles, William, Harry and Andrew – will carry out the Queen's royal duties.
- 14 And then, Charles will succeed to the throne after the death of his mother. Unlike the Queen, he has known from birth that he would be king and is extremely well prepared for it.
- 15 As one royal expert says, "I think the affection and the respect people have for the Queen will transfer to the Prince of Wales when he becomes king. His speeches and actions will all be on advice.
- 16 "He won't be able to make controversial comments. 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. People in the United Kingdom got an extra day's holiday to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.
2. The Queen had all of her four children after she became monarch.
3. Royal experts believe Charles will become king before his mother dies.
4. Prince Charles, his brother, and his two sons could carry out the 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. In general, the Queen is well-liked by the British people, and experts expect that this affection will be passed to Charles when he becomes king.

### 4 Key language

a. Find phrases that fit with the meanings.

1. stopped worrying because something bad is no longer going to happen (5 words, paragraph 1)
2. to show her respect and admiration (3 words, paragraph 1)
3. secretly rather than publicly (3 words, paragraph 2)
4. leave a job or position, especially an important one (2 words, paragraph 9)
5. the thing that most people expect will happen (3 words, paragraph 13)
6. become king or queen of a country after the king or queen dies (4 words, paragraph 14)

b. Use the phrases to complete these sentences.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is that petrol prices will increase again by the end of the month.
2. In which year did Henry VIII \_\_\_\_\_?
3. After she died, the school was renamed \_\_\_\_\_.
4. She plans to \_\_\_\_\_ from her job at the end of the year.
5. His book explained what really went on \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ when the plane landed safely.

c. Then use them to talk about the article.

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### 5 Discussion

a. Discuss these questions.

- Is there now, or has there ever been, a royal family in your country? If so, how are they similar to or different from the British royal family?
- How do you think a monarch should act? What duties do you think they should perform?
- 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 ten questions. You can use different question types, e.g., multiple choice, true or false, open questions with no hints, etc. You can use multimedia such as sound and images if you want to. Don't forget to write the answers or create a key.
- b. Share and exchange quizzes with other students.