

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

Level: Elementary

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.

- | | |
|-------|-------------|
| 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 paragraph 1.

In 2022, Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her _____ Jubilee.

2 Key words

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

appearances

bank holiday

bunting

frail

royal duties

- a line of small flags on a string to decorate buildings and streets for special occasions

- physically weak and not very healthy _____
- a public holiday when shops, businesses, and banks are closed _____
- things Elizabeth II has to do as part of her job as Queen _____
- times when the Queen goes out and meets people _____

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abdicate

parliamentary bill

regent

scenario

throne

6. a government document with the suggestion for a new law _____
7. the verb for when a king or queen formerly gives up power and passes it on to someone else

8. someone who takes the place of a king or queen who is ill, young, or not able to do their duties

9. a situation that could possibly happen _____
10. a special chair that a king or queen sits on _____

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

1. Imagine a _____ where only 20% of people have a job.
2. He's now very _____, but he still manages to walk with a stick.
3. My mother hung Union Jack _____ around her house for the Queen's Jubilee.
4. Queen Victoria was still on the _____ in 1900.
5. There's a _____ next Monday, so it'll be a short working week.

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Mark Brown and Helen Pidd

5 June, 2022

- 1 The bunting came down after the long weekend of Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and people were happy that the frail 96-year-old Queen lived to see the extra bank holiday.
- 2 The Queen's oldest son, Prince Charles, was born in 1948. The Queen has always known that one day he would do her job. Charles has known from birth that he will be king one day.
- 3 His 96-year-old mother has reduced her royal duties and appearances in the past year. This is not difficult. There are other royals who can go on state visits, give out the honours, and open libraries.
- 4 Reducing other official duties is less easy. For example, only the Queen can give her official agreement to parliamentary bills or meet the Prime Minister every week.
- 5 So what might happen next? The Queen could abdicate and her son become King Charles III. But no royal expert thinks that will happen.
- 6 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."
- 7 One royal expert said: "She is a Christian and she does not break a promise."
- 8 Another alternative would be a regency. A regent, most likely Charles, could then do the official royal duties. But this is unlikely, too.
- 9 The most likely scenario is that the four adults closest in line to the throne – Charles, William, Harry, and Andrew – will do the Queen's royal duties.
- 10 And then, Charles will become king after the death of his mother.

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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 Queen.
3. Royal experts believe Charles will become king before his mother dies.
4. Prince Charles, his brother, and his two sons could do the Queen's royal duties.
5. One of the Queen's official duties is to meet the British Prime Minister at the end of every day.
6. The Queen was 96 years old in her Platinum Jubilee year.

4 Key language

a. Cross out the word you do not need to make the sentences true.

1. It is likely / unlikely that Prince Charles will be king one day.
2. It is likely / unlikely that the Queen will abdicate in 2023.
3. It is likely / unlikely that there will be a regency in Britain.
4. It is likely / unlikely that the four men closest to the throne will do extra royal duties instead of the Queen.

b. Do the same with these statements to make them true for you.

It is likely/unlikely that I will go on holiday this year.

It is likely/unlikely that I will buy a new car soon.

It is likely/unlikely that I will live in another country one day.

c. Now complete these sentences with information about yourself.

It is likely that ...

It is unlikely that ...

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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, what do you know about them?
- You are going 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. In groups or with a partner, make a quiz about the British Royal Family. Write ten questions with a mix of multiple choice and true-or-false questions. Use sound and photos if you want to. Don't forget to write the answers.**
- b. Share and exchange quizzes with other students.**