

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 6

#126 Kings and Queens in the Present World—Queen Elizabeth II

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: Can you tell the difference between Queen Elizabeth and Queen Elizabeth the *Second*?

Qt 2: How many names come to your mind when you think of the British royal family?

Qt 3: Some people see a queen or a king as an anachronism. What does “anachronism” mean?

The answers to Qts 1 and 3 will be provided in the next set of exercises.

The answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises (Influential Presidents in the World— Aung San Suu Kyi) are as follows:

Answer to Qt 1: a glass ceiling is a limit, unofficial but understood, which prevents someone, especially a woman, from advancing to a top position in a company or organization.

Answer to Qt 3: perhaps because there is still a glass ceiling hanging over women’s heads, or perhaps because women are not as ambitious as men by nature? Or perhaps because women are wise enough not to mess in with politicians.

Vocabulary

- momentous (adjective): very important because of effects on future events.
- caliber (noun): the degree of excellence of something or someone.
- credit (verb): to “credit” (used as a verb) somebody is to praise them and to recognize their achievement.
- champion (verb): to “champion” (used as a verb) something is to publicly support or defend a set of beliefs.

PART 2: Article for Reading

She may be 93 years’ old but she can get hip whenever she wants to. The following article posted by *Time* magazine in March 2019 tells us what the Queen has been up to lately:

The accounts that Queen Elizabeth follows on Instagram reflect her high quality of life.

<https://time.com/5547470/queen-elizabeth-instagram-follows/>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Listen to the following short video clips to learn more about this topic while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

Queen Elizabeth speaks candidly about her coronation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WX8S_Y3ZiZM

The jubilee Queen: A tour of Buckingham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g7ZCHjQdnQ>

Not surprisingly, a figure as ironic as Queen Elizabeth has made it to the big screen—a movie called *The Queen* (2006) starring Helen Mirren:

The Queen (2006) official trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqL42sjb96I>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice how the word “champion” was used in the main text?

...the Science Museum which has long championed technology, innovation and inspired the next generation of inventors

It is used as a verb, as opposed to “champion” meaning winner, or “championship,” meaning a high-level competition to decide who the best is. Used as a verb, “champion” means to support, defend, or fight for a person, belief, or principle enthusiastically. Another example of its use is as follows:

Jeffrey has championed educational reform for many years, but has seen little success.

Can you write a sentence of your own using “champion” as a verb? Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.