

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

Week 6

**#129 Kings and Queens in the Present World— King Vajiralongkorn**

**Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills**

**PART 1: Before you read...**

**Preparatory questions**

Qt 1: What comes to mind when you think of Thailand?

Qt 2: Did you notice just how often you can see a photograph of King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, exquisitely framed and revered in almost any Thai restaurant in Hong Kong?

Qt 3: How much do you know about King Bhumibol, and his successor and only son, King Vajiralongkorn?

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 (Kings and Queens in the Present World— Emperor Naruhito) are as follows:*

*Answer to Qt. 1. “Emperors” are often associated with aggression, expansion, ambition, war, bloodshed, and so on—acts helping with empire building.*

*Answer to Qt. 2. Emperor Naruhito’s father, Emperor Akihito, for example, can be said to have spent his entire life on the throne trying to make peace with people who have suffered during WWII, including the Chinese.*

**Vocabulary**

- eccentric (adjective): strange or unusual.
- Don Juan (noun): a man who has romantic relationships with a lot of women.
- crown (verb): to make someone officially a king or queen of a country.
- affluent (adjective): having a lot of money and possessions.
- charisma (noun): the ability to attract the admiration of others, and to be seen as a leader.
- Mafia (noun): a criminal organization that began in Sicily and is active in Italy and the US.
- acrimonious (adjective): full of anger, arguments, and hard feeling.

**PART 2: Article for Reading**

Typically, in politics as much as it is in royal families, the story begins with the father. While King Bhumibol has proved himself a stable personality and a unifying force in Thailand’s

divided politics, his son, now King Vajiralongkorn, has a “colourful personal life” not always welcomed by the public:

***King Vajiralongkorn: who is Thailand's new monarch?***

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/04/king-vajiralongkorn-who-is-thailand-new-monarch>

**PART 3: Listening Comprehension**

Listen to the following short video clips to learn more about King Vajiralongkorn, his family and his country, while practicing your listening skills at the same time:

*Thailand's King Vajiralongkorn crowned as divine monarch*

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/05/thailand-king-vajiralongkorn-crowned-divine-monarch-190504051742059.html>

*Inside the lives of Thailand's royal family*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6Vn3bx1rwA>

*The history of Thailand explained in 5 minutes*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfOMEP\\_7AJM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfOMEP_7AJM)

**PART 4: Writing Practice**

Did you notice in the main text where it says this about King Vajiralongkorn?

*Yet despite his being officially named heir apparent in 1972, some in Thailand have raised questions about his suitability for the throne.*

To raise questions about something means to disagree with it. Whether or not you ask questions, or what actual questions are asked, is beyond the point. Another example of its use is as follows:

*Recent medical incidents are bound to raise questions about the level of safety in the use of this new drug.*

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