

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

Week 6

**#127 Kings and Queens in the Present World— King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

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

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

**Preparatory questions**

Qt 1: Have you heard of a modern-day king as good-looking as a Korean pop star?

Qt 2: What does it take for a king to become a “people’s king”?

Qt 3: Can you read aloud the name “Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck” when you see it? Or just “Khesar” (to be read with a silent “h”)?

*The answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises (Kings and Queens in the Present World—Queen Elizabeth II) are as follows:*

*Answer to Qt. 1. Queen Elizabeth was Queen of England and Ireland from 1558 until her death in 1603. Queen Elizabeth the Second, or Queen Elizabeth II (pronounced the same), at the age of 93, is Queen of the United Kingdom today. She could have been Queen Victoria II if so Queen Victoria had been sufficiently admired.*

*Answer to Qt. 3. “Anachronism” is someone or something placed in the wrong period in history, or something that belongs to the past rather than the present.*

**Vocabulary**

- down-to-earth (adjective): practical and direct in dealing with people.
- monarch (noun): a nation’s king or queen.
- Majesty (noun): the title used to speak to or about a king or queen.
- console (verb): to give comfort and sympathy to someone who is sad.
- ostracize (verb): to prevent someone from taking part in the activities of a group.
- underprivileged (adjective): lacking the money and the basic social advantages that most people have.

## **PART 2: Article for Reading**

Khesar, or Dragon King, is King of Bhutan, and above all, he is warmly known as a “people’s king.” The Bhutanese are apparently happy with their king. Read the following blog entry posted by a Bhutanese:

***8 humble personalities of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck***

<https://www.bhutanforyou.com/humble-personalities-of-king-jigme/>

## **PART 3: Listening Comprehension**

Watch the following video showing images of a celestial kingdom:

*Bhutan: Journey into spirituality*

<https://www.drukasia.com/bhutan/>

Now, have the names of the 20 districts of Bhutan sung to you in English!

*Bhutan Geography/Bhutan Country Districts*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\\_8-5AXZ5as](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_8-5AXZ5as)

*Dragon King of Bhutan*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hH5GodC8m78>

## **PART 4: Writing Practice**

Did you notice how it was written into the main text in Part 1 the Dragon King cleared the name of a poor woman?

*A 48-year-old woman in Lhunsi has been labeled a poison giver. Drinking or eating anything from her hands was believed to result in sickness or death. She was ostracized. His Majesty drank a local brew from her hand and declared that she was not a poison giver. Poison giving became a mere myth after that incident.*

To “ostracize” somebody is to prevent them from taking part in the activities of a group. To do so will often result in social isolation. If it is believed that drinking or eating anything handed to you by this 48-year-old woman will result in sickness or even death, you will not want anything to do with her. If enough people are scared, this woman will be increasingly isolated. She gets “ostracized” when society abandons her. Another example of the use of “ostracize” is as follows:

*It is sad to see that society tends to ostracize AIDS patients and other terminally ill people.*

Can you write a sentence of your own using the word “ostracize”? Send your writing to: [see.u@cccu.edu.hk](mailto:see.u@cccu.edu.hk). Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.