

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

Week 6

**#130 Kings and Queens in the Present World— Margrethe II of Denmark**

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

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

**Preparatory questions**

Qt 1: Do you know where Lego, arguably the world's favourite toy, is made?

Qt 2: How many Northern European countries can you name off the top of your head?

Qt 3: Did you know that Denmark has a royal family that has a history of a thousand years?

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

*Answer to Qt. 1. Probably the very appetizing Thai food and Bangkok as a popular tourist destination.*

*Answer to Qt. 3. The highly respected King Bhumibol passed away only recently—at age 88, back in 2016, leaving his son (a divorcee from three marriages) a public image that is hard to live up to.*

**Vocabulary**

- Heritage (noun): the history, traditions, practices, etc. of a particular country, society, or company that exist from the past.
- Pomp (noun): impressive and colorful ceremonies, especially traditional ceremonies on public occasions.
- Symbolic (adjective): a sign, shape, or object that is used to represent something else.
- Glittering (adjective): shining with a lot of small bright flashes of light.
- Dane (noun): a person from Denmark.

**PART 2: Article for Reading**

Read the following article about a living monument today:

***The world's oldest monarchy***

<https://denmark.dk/people-and-culture/monarchy>

### **PART 3: Listening Comprehension**

Watch the following video and hear from the Queen about her 40 years on the throne:

*Interview with Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wmkd\\_q6FwtA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wmkd_q6FwtA)

### **PART 4: Writing Practice**

You might already know the adjective “pompous,” which is used rather negatively to mean “too serious and almost arrogant.” An example of its use is this:

*The professor sounded a little pompous today when he talked about his publications.*

In the main text posted in Part 2, there is this statement:

*Today's Danish monarchy doesn't spend a lot of time on pomp or circumstance.*

Here the word “pomp” is used as a noun, meaning “impressive and colorful ceremonies, especially traditional ceremonies on public occasions.” This in relation to royal families will be a fitting expression. However, Queen Margrethe II and the royal family she is part of are not like that, so today’s Danish monarchy does not spend a lot of time on elaborate ceremonies or other expensive tastes. The Danish public must be pleased.

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