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***“Something as curious as the monarchy won't survive unless you take account of people's attitudes. After all, if people don't want it, they won't have it.”***

Charles, Prince of Wales

## 1. Royalty & Monarchy Discussion

1. What is a monarchy? What do you think about this way of ruling a country?
2. What are the origins of royal families? Who decided that the various royal families would be the rulers of their respective countries?
3. Which famous kings, queens or other royals do you know about from history? Do you have a favourite (or most respected)? Which don't you like?
4. Does your country have a monarch? If so, are they popular? Which other countries around the world still have a monarch as their head of state? Why do they still have a monarch?
5. What do members of royal families do for their countries? Are they beneficial in any way? What do you think kings, queens and other royals do in their day-to-day lives?
6. Is it better to have a monarch or a president as head of state? Would you prefer your country to be a monarchy or a republic? Can a country that has a monarch still be considered democratic?
7. Which TV shows or movies have you seen that depict the lives of royal families? Do you think they are accurate?
8. Would you like to be married to a member of a royal family? Why or why not?

## 2. Royalty & Monarchy Vocabulary

- **royal family** (noun) – *the various members of a monarchy.*
- **republic, republican** (noun) – *a country which votes for its head of state, usually a president; someone who supports replacing the monarchy with an elected head of state.*
- **constitutional monarchy** (noun) – *a country in which the monarch exercises their powers with the agreement (or direction) of the elected government.*
- **absolute monarchy** (noun) – *a country in which the monarch has no limits on exercising their powers.*
- **birthright** (noun) – *a right granted to someone from birth because of their family or social class (especially the eldest son), or a natural right believed to be possessed by everyone.*
- **(to) reign** (verb, noun) – *to rule (by a monarch); the period of time a monarch (has) ruled.*

**Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):**

1. In a \_\_\_\_\_, the king or queen signs international agreements and declares war on other countries, but this must be done on the say-so of the government.
2. Most members of the British \_\_\_\_\_ are the patron of a number of charities.
3. On July 4th, 1776, the Founding Fathers declared the thirteen colonies to be a united \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Only one monarch in history \_\_\_\_\_ for longer than Queen Elizabeth II has up until now: King Louis XIV, who \_\_\_\_\_ for 72 years and 110 days (although he had quite a head start, being crowned at the age of 4).
5. Prince William's \_\_\_\_\_ means that one day, he will be crowned the British King.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ declined in Europe following the French Revolution in 1789, which popularised the notion of government by the people.

### **Royalty & Monarchy vocabulary comprehension questions**

1. Should members of a royal family be able to give their opinion on the politics of their country? Should they be able to work for a company or start their own business?
2. What would royal families do for money if their country decided to become a republic?
3. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Norway are all constitutional monarchies. Considering these countries have some of the highest standards of living in the world, doesn't this suggest that having a constitutional monarchy might be a good thing? Why or why not?
4. Which countries, past or present, are/were an absolute monarchy? How do you think it would be to live in one of these countries?
5. What do you think about the concept of birthright for the next in line to the throne? What birthrights do you have?
6. What would you do if you reigned over your country?

### 3. Video: The British Royal Family

You are going to watch a video by Sky News called "Why does Britain still have a Royal family?"

Watch the video here: <https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-royalty-monarchy/>

While you watch the video, answer the following questions:

#### Multiple choice

1. Why are some people questioning why Britain still has a royal family?  
*a) The royals are wealthy      b) The royals are controversial      c) Inequality is rising*
2. When was the English Civil War that saw King Charles I executed?  
*a) 1639                                  b) 1649                                  c) 1659*
3. What role does the British Monarch have?  
*a) a political role                      b) a symbolic role                      c) no role effectively*
4. Who caused embarrassment to the Royal Family because of his costume choice?  
*a) Prince Harry                      b) Prince Philip                      c) Prince Andrew*

#### Sentence completion

5. The Royal Family is very \_\_\_\_\_ amongst the British people.
6. In 2019, Queen Elizabeth II was voted the fourth most \_\_\_\_\_ woman in the world.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ people watched Prince William and Kate Middleton get married.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the most watched TV shows in the world.

#### Short answer

9. How much money do the Royal Family generate for the UK economy through tourism?
10. When did Prince Philip crash his car and Prince Andrew give a dodgy interview responding to allegations of sexual abuse?
11. When did Harry and Megan announce they were stepping back as senior royals?
12. Who is the seventh most popular member of the British Royal Family?

## 4. Royalty & Monarchy Conversation Questions

1. How would you feel if you had to pay taxes to fund a monarchy? (Or how do you feel?)
2. What is the difference between a monarchy and an autocracy?
3. Do you think members of royal families consider themselves to be the same as the common people? Or do you think they consider the common people to be almost like another species?
4. Why did countries in the Americas fight wars of independence against the monarchs of Europe? In hindsight, was this a good idea?
5. During the various revolutions against monarchies throughout history, why did some people support the side of the monarchies?
6. Why do you think a majority of British people support having a monarch? Why do you think this support has fallen in recent years?
7. Technically, the kings and queens of Europe still have the same (or similar) powers as the presidents of other countries. Should they ever use this power if the government acts against the people? What would the consequence of this be?
8. Will all countries be republics in the future? Could it be possible that some republics revert back to monarchies?

## 5. Royalty & Monarchy Writing Task

Write about your opinion of royalty and monarchy. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- The origin of monarchies and their powers.
- Why some countries still have monarchies.
- The future of the world's monarchies.

### **Alternative exam practice question:**

All monarchies are naturally undemocratic and should therefore be abolished. Do you agree or disagree with this?