
A royal engagement

WORKSHEET A

Britain is going to have a royal wedding in Westminster Abbey on 29th April 2011, after Prince William (a grandson of Britain's monarch, Queen Elizabeth II) and his girlfriend Kate Middleton announced on 16th November that they had got engaged. The announcement was big news not only in Britain — where it immediately became the main story on the TV news, and was on the front pages of all the newspapers the next day — but also abroad. The wedding, which will take place in London in the spring or summer, is sure to be live on TV in many countries.

Prince William is the eldest child of Prince Charles, 62, and Princess Diana, who died in a car accident in Paris in 1997. As the eldest child of the Queen, who is now 84, Charles is first in line to become the British monarch after her, and William, 28, is second. William will therefore probably be king one day — and his fiancée, also 28, will probably be queen.

However, it seems the name Kate (short for Catherine) might be too informal for a future queen: a few hours after the engagement announcement, some journalists were already calling her Catherine.

Kate (or Catherine) is different from almost every other person who has ever married someone from the British royal family, as she is not from the aristocracy herself. Her parents are middle class (although they did become rich after starting a business) and did not have any connections with the royal family until their daughter and William became very close.

Kate and William met in 2001 when they were studying at the same university in Scotland. They recently started living together in a house in Wales, where William is working as a helicopter pilot with the British air force, and will probably continue living there after the wedding.

Millions of royal wedding souvenirs will be sold in Britain in the months before and after the big day, just as in 1981 when William's parents, Charles and Diana, got married. In fact, 'Kate and William' mugs and T-shirts are already on sale.

Also, some British people have already started betting on which country the couple will go to on honeymoon: the favourite so far is Kenya.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Here are some simple definitions for words that appear in the text on Worksheet A. Find the words they refer to and fill in the gaps.

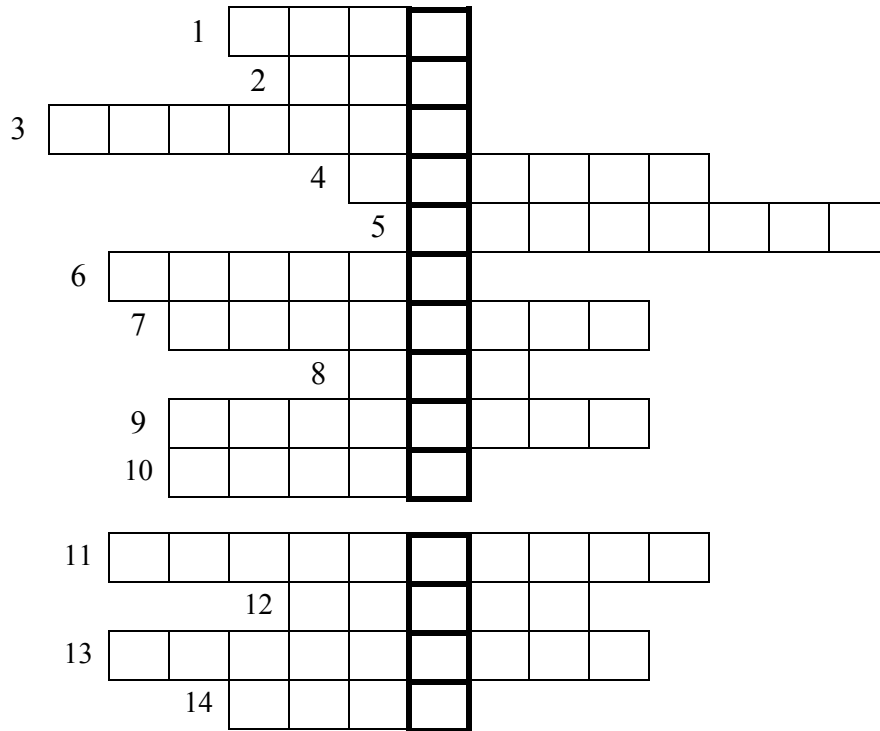
1. When two people **g _ _ e _ g _ _ _ _** (verb), they formally agree to get married.
2. **_ _ l _ t** (noun): someone who flies an aircraft
3. If you are very **cl _ _ _** (adjective) to someone, you have a lot of love or respect for them, or have very similar interests.
4. A man's **_ ia _ _ _ e** (noun) is the woman he is engaged to and is going to get married to. (For a man it is almost the same word, but without the second 'e' at the end.)
5. A **b _ _** day (phrase) is a day when a very important event takes place.
6. If something is **_ _ g** news (phrase), it is news that people are very interested in.
7. **m _ _** (noun): a cup with straight sides and a handle, usually used for hot drinks
8. **an _ _ _ n _ _** (verb): to give information in public, especially about a plan, a decision, or something that has happened
9. **h _ n _ _ _ _ o _** (noun): a holiday that two people take after they get married
10. **_ ou _ _ a _ _ _ t** (noun): someone whose job is to report the news for a newspaper, magazine, radio programme or TV programme
11. **m _ _ _ le** class (phrase): the class of educated people with skilled jobs, who are neither the richest nor the poorest people in society
12. If an event is **l _ v _** (adjective) on TV, radio or the internet, you can watch or listen to it at the same time as it is happening.
13. If you **_ e _** (verb) on something (often a race or a game), you risk money by saying what you think will happen. If you guess correctly, you get more money, but if you guess incorrectly, you lose your money.
14. **a _ is _ _ _ _ _ c _** (noun): the people in the highest class of society, who usually have money, land and power
15. **c _ nn _ _ _ i _ n** (noun, often plural): a relationship between people, or groups of people

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the thing Prince William gave to Kate Middleton when they got engaged will read from top to bottom. (Clue: it has a very expensive jewel and once belonged to William's mother, Princess Diana.)



1. Prince William is second in _____ to become the British monarch after Queen Elizabeth II.
2. William is the _____ of Prince Charles.
3. William and Kate's _____ will be in 2011.
4. Kate's parents did not know anyone in the royal _____ before Kate and William became close.
5. William is the _____ of Queen Elizabeth II.
6. The _____ announced their engagement on 16th November.
7. William and Kate were in all the British newspapers on 17th _____.
8. So far, more people have _____ that William and Kate will go to Kenya on honeymoon than to any other country.
9. Kate's parents have a _____.
10. 'Kate' is _____ for Catherine.
11. Kate and William met at _____.
12. William _____ helicopters for the British air force.
13. Mugs and T-shirts are examples of royal wedding _____.
14. William is probably going to be the British _____ in the future.