

A royal wedding

WORKSHEET A

It was just after 11 o'clock in the morning on 29th April and the wedding ceremony for Prince William and Kate (short for Catherine) Middleton was about to begin. Inside Westminster Abbey there were 1,900 people, outside on the streets of central London was a crowd of one million, and watching on TV was an estimated global audience of two billion. Standing at the altar, Prince William turned to his bride's father, Michael Middleton, and joked, 'We're supposed to have just a small family affair.' That, of course, was always going to be impossible, due to the importance of the monarchy in Britain, where Queen Elizabeth II is head of state, and the huge number of people abroad who are interested in the British royal family.

The British fashion media were very excited about many details of the wedding, but most of all Kate's dress: they didn't know what it would be like beforehand, but when they finally saw it most agreed it was very beautiful, and were pleased it had the added bonus of being made by a British designer.

The British media were also proud of the beauty (the decorations in the Abbey and the traditional uniforms of the marching soldiers, for example) and precision (the punctuality with which everyone arrived at the Abbey, the perfect timing of the fly-past by the military aircraft) with which the event took place, and some newspapers even suggested Britain is the best country in the world at organizing such occasions.

The ceremony itself, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury (the head of the Church of England), took place without any hitches. Neither William nor Kate appeared very nervous, and although it seemed for a couple of seconds that he was not going to be able to fit the wedding ring on her finger, he calmly persevered and the ring went on.

When Kate arrived at the altar he told her 'You look beautiful', followed by 'Yes, it looks fantastic, it's beautiful' (referring to the dress, the details of which had been kept secret even from him). The comments were not audible but, like the 'small family affair' joke, they were picked up by lip-readers.

After the service the couple travelled together in a horse-drawn carriage to Buckingham Palace, the London residence of the Queen, where they appeared on the balcony and delighted the cheering, flag-waving crowd by kissing twice.

The couple chose not to have a proper honeymoon immediately (perhaps partly because they knew there would be hundreds of photographers trying to follow them wherever they went) but instead went away together just for two days, by helicopter, to a secret location somewhere in Britain.

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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.

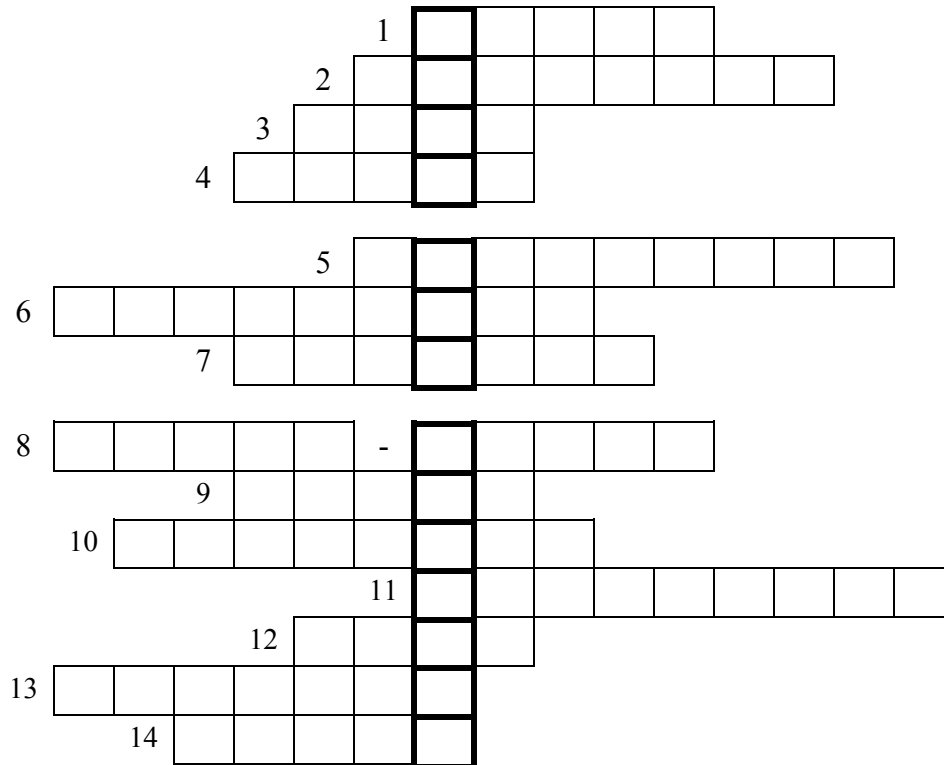
1. ___-re ___ (noun): a person who can tell what another person is saying by the movements of their lips, and can therefore understand them even if they can't hear them
2. _h_e_ (verb): to give a loud shout of happiness or approval
3. ___ ai_ (noun): event or situation
4. h ___ _f ___ t_ (noun): the leader of a country (for example a king, queen, or president)
5. c_r _____ (noun): a formal public event with special traditions, actions, or words
6. c_r _____ (noun): a vehicle with wheels that is pulled by horses, which was very common in the past before cars were invented
7. ___ ch (noun): a problem that is not very serious
8. ___ s_v ___ (verb): to continue trying to do something
9. _____ ion (noun): the quality of being very accurate and exact
10. __ t__ (noun): a special table where religious ceremonies are performed, especially in a Christian church
11. p ___ _ p (phrasal verb): to notice
12. ___ d_ (noun): a woman who is getting married, or who has recently married
13. b_n__ (noun): something good that you get in addition to what you expect
14. p _____ y (noun): the quality of arriving or happening at the time that had been agreed upon; not being late
15. _u__b__ (adjective): loud enough for people to hear

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the first parts of the titles Prince William and Kate Middleton now have, after getting married, will read from top to bottom: they have become the _____ of Cambridge.



1. Before the wedding, neither the fashion journalists nor Prince William himself knew what Kate Middleton's _____ would be like.
2. The estimated TV _____ was two billion.
3. Lip-readers could tell what William was saying when he made a _____ to Kate's father.
4. William and Kate got married in a large _____ in central London.
5. Kate's full name is _____ Middleton.
6. Buckingham Palace is the Queen's London _____.
7. Because of who he is, it would never have been possible for Prince William to have a small family _____.
8. The couple rode in a _____ carriage to Buckingham Palace.
9. The British media were _____ of the way the wedding took place.
10. Britain is a _____, not a republic.
11. William and Kate did not have a _____ immediately after the wedding.
12. British military aircraft _____ past at one point during the event.
13. William and Kate didn't seem very _____ during the ceremony.
14. When William and Kate appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, many people in the crowd were waving _____.