

A royal celebration

WORKSHEET A

In the UK this year, there have already been lots of events to celebrate the “Diamond Jubilee” – the fact that the country’s monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, has been on the throne for 60 years.

But the (1)_____ celebrations are going to take place in early June. On Sunday, June 3, for example, there will be a parade of hundreds of (2)_____ along the Thames River in London; while all around the country, there will be street parties, when people living in the same neighborhood or (3)_____ will get together to eat and drink together outside. On Monday, June 4, there will be a big concert outside Buckingham Palace, the Queen’s London residence, with lots of famous singers and bands; and Tuesday, June 5, will be an extra public (4)_____ to celebrate the Jubilee.

Elizabeth, who is now 86, became queen on February 6, 1952, at the age of 26. The British prime minister, David Cameron, was not even (5)_____ then (he is 45). She has been on the throne for (6)_____ than any other monarch in British history apart from Queen Victoria, who reigned for 64 years (1837–1901).

For almost all of the Queen’s life, there has been a waxwork model of her at Madame Tussauds in London, and obviously it is necessary to (7)_____ the models as she gets older; the latest model is the twenty-third.

When the Queen dies, the (8)_____ monarch could be her oldest son, Prince Charles, who is 63; or it could be his oldest son, Prince William, 29, who got married to Kate Middleton in 2011. (William’s mother was the famous Princess Diana, who died in 1998.)

Not everyone in the (9)_____ is a strong supporter of the monarchy, but only a minority of people want to replace the Queen, or whoever comes after her, with an elected president. In a recent opinion poll, 69% of the people said the UK would be worse without the monarchy; only 22% said it would be (10)_____.

A royal celebration

WORKSHEET B

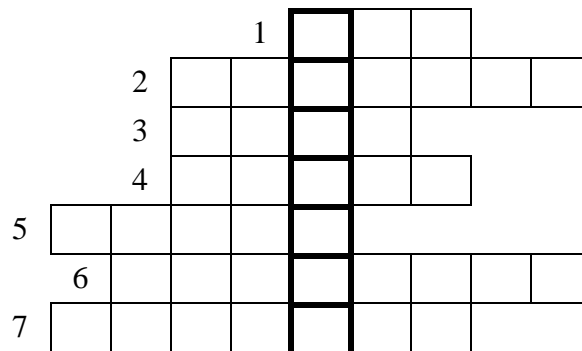
Exercise 1

Try to fill in the ten blanks in the text on Worksheet A with the correct words from the box below. There are two words that you will not need to use.

longer	next	better	cars
town	clean	biggest	holiday
born	boats	UK	change

Exercise 2

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the family name of Queen Elizabeth II (and, therefore, Prince Charles and Prince William, too) will read from top to bottom. It is also the name of a castle, close to London, where the Queen spends many days every year.



1. The model of Queen Elizabeth II at Madame Tussauds is made of _____.
2. Queen Elizabeth has _____ for 60 years.
3. Either Prince Charles or Prince William could become _____ when Queen Elizabeth dies.
4. Queen Elizabeth is 41 years _____ than the British prime minister.
5. Buckingham Palace is where the Queen _____ when she is in London.
6. In a recent opinion poll, only a _____ of British people said the country would be better without the monarchy.
7. Only one other British _____ was on the throne for longer than Queen Elizabeth II has been.