

# ENGLISH LEARNING FOR CURIOUS MINDS





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## Episode #206

### Queen Elizabeth II

### 29th Oct, 2021

[00:00:00] Hello, hello hello, and welcome to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:00:12] The show where you can listen to fascinating stories, and learn weird and wonderful things about the world at the same time as improving your English.

[00:00:22] I'm Alastair Budge, and today we are going to be talking about a lady called Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, a lady you probably know by the name "Queen Elizabeth II".

[00:00:35] We'll talk about the life of Queen Elizabeth, how she was never meant to be queen in the first place, how she, and the country developed over the years. We'll talk about some of the [controversies](#)<sup>1</sup> she has survived, how she changed the monarchy, and we'll also have time to hear about some [unusual](#)<sup>2</sup> experiences she has had.

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<sup>1</sup> situations that cause argument or disagreements

<sup>2</sup> not common or ordinary

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[00:00:56] And of course we will also talk about the particular type of English that she uses, a type of English so famous that it has its own name, “The Queen’s English”.

[00:01:08] OK then, let’s get started.

[00:01:12] Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was never meant to be queen, and in more ways than one her almost 70 years on the [throne](#)<sup>3</sup> have been [unlikely](#)<sup>4</sup>.

[00:01:23] For starters, until 2013, when the law was changed, a son came above a daughter [in the line of succession](#)<sup>5</sup>.

[00:01:33] That is, no matter how many daughters a king or queen had, and how old they were, if a son was born he would automatically go to the front of the line when the king or queen died.

[00:01:48] So, as a woman, the [odds](#)<sup>6</sup> were already against the young Elizabeth. She had a younger sister, Margaret, who was no competition, but if her parents had another child who was male, a son, he would [leapfrog](#)<sup>7</sup> both of them [in the line of succession](#).

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<sup>3</sup> special chair used by a king or queen

<sup>4</sup> not probable to happen

<sup>5</sup> in the order of people who would become kings or queens

<sup>6</sup> the probability that something would happen

<sup>7</sup> jump over

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[00:02:08] What's more, neither Elizabeth's father nor mother were on the [throne](#) when she was born, nor were they directly in line to the [throne](#).

[00:02:18] When she was born, in 1926, her grandfather, King George V, was King of England.

[00:02:27] He had five sons and two daughters. His second son, George, was Elizabeth's father.

[00:02:34] Next in line to the [throne](#) in the event of King George V's death would be his first son, Edward.

[00:02:43] And so it was, when George V died in 1936, when Elizabeth was 10 years old, that the [throne](#) passed to her uncle, who became Edward VIII.

[00:02:55] He wasn't to last for long though. He was in love with an American lady called Wallis Simpson, who had already divorced one man and was in the process of divorcing another.

[00:03:08] Long story short, there was strong opposition to the new king's relationship with this American [divorcée](#)<sup>8</sup>, and instead of leaving her, he left the monarchy, [abdicating](#)<sup>9</sup> his position as king and passing the [throne](#) to his brother, Elizabeth's father.

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<sup>8</sup> someone who is divorced and has not married again

<sup>9</sup> resigning from, giving up

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[00:03:28] To state the obvious<sup>10</sup>, this was unexpected<sup>11</sup>.

[00:03:32] It had never happened before. No British monarch had ever voluntarily given up<sup>12</sup> the throne before, especially for something as trivial<sup>13</sup> as love.

[00:03:44] Elizabeth's father became king, much to his surprise as well.

[00:03:49] And in an instant, or at least in under a year, Elizabeth went from being a relatively minor young royal to being next in line to the throne, aged only 10 years old.

[00:04:04] Even though her father was now king, he was only 40 years old.

[00:04:09] Young, comparatively speaking, and Elizabeth no doubt thought that she would be able to live out her childhood in relative obscurity<sup>14</sup>, as a semi-normal person before having to take on the duties<sup>15</sup> of queen herself, if that was what was required.

[00:04:28] It wasn't to be.

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<sup>10</sup> to say what can be easily seen

<sup>11</sup> causing surprise, not expected

<sup>12</sup> resigned from, renounced

<sup>13</sup> unimportant

<sup>14</sup> the state of not being known

<sup>15</sup> the things she had to do as part of being the queen

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[00:04:29] In 1952, after 15 years on the [throne](#), her father died of a [blood clot](#)<sup>16</sup>, when Elizabeth was only a couple of months away from her 26th birthday.

[00:04:42] Like many men at the time, he had been a heavy smoker and died shortly after his 56th birthday.

[00:04:51] Elizabeth was in Kenya at the time, on a tour with her new husband, Phillip. She learned of her father's death from the local news.

[00:05:00] In an instant all eyes were on her, on this 25 year old girl.

[00:05:07] Up until then, she had lived a relatively [secluded](#)<sup>17</sup> life. She hadn't gone to school, and instead had been taught by private tutors at her family home.

[00:05:19] As a young woman, Elizabeth had got married, she had enjoyed time living in Malta with her new husband, Prince Phillip, and she had been enjoying life [out of the spotlight](#)<sup>18</sup>.

[00:05:31] Her father had been unwell for several years, and had actually had his left [lung](#)<sup>19</sup> removed. So Elizabeth, in preparation for the day she would become queen,

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<sup>16</sup> a mass of cells that interfere with the circulation of blood, also known as thrombosis

<sup>17</sup> away from people, private

<sup>18</sup> without getting public attention

<sup>19</sup> either of the two organs in the chest with which people breathe

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reportedly brought black clothes with her wherever she went, just in case she received the news and had to change into [mourning](#)<sup>20</sup> clothes.

[00:05:55] So she was prepared, from a practical view at least, but no doubt there is not much that can really prepare you for life as Queen.

[00:06:07] At her [coronation](#)<sup>21</sup>, in 1953, she became the most famous woman in the country, and one of the most famous women in the entire world.

[00:06:18] Her face was on the money not only in the UK but in Canada, Australia, and all over British colonies in Africa and the Caribbean.

[00:06:28] She was on [postage](#)<sup>22</sup> [stamps](#)<sup>23</sup>, she was all over the newspapers.

[00:06:32] You could take a picture of the queen to almost any town or village in the world and people would know who she was.

[00:06:41] [To state the obvious](#), it must have been an incredible amount of pressure for anyone, but especially for someone who had grown up in a tiny bubble.

[00:06:53] Now, let's quickly reflect on the world, and the country, that Elizabeth found when she became queen in 1952.

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<sup>20</sup> expressing great sadness because of someone's death

<sup>21</sup> the ceremony of crowning a king or queen

<sup>22</sup> relating to sending of letters by post

<sup>23</sup> labels or printings on items of mail as evidence of the payment for the service

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[00:07:02] The Second World War had finished only 7 years before, there was still [rationing](#)<sup>24</sup> in Britain, meaning that there were still limits on food and certain goods, and indeed the queen used her [ration](#)<sup>25</sup> [coupons](#)<sup>26</sup> to buy her wedding dress.

[00:07:19] Britain still had colonies all over the world, Europe was [rebounding](#)<sup>27</sup>, the United States had been fighting in Korea, the Cold War was just getting started.

[00:07:31] By 1952 the process [initiated](#)<sup>28</sup> by the first majority Labour government in Britain of [getting rid of](#)<sup>29</sup> colonies and starting the Commonwealth was [well underway](#)<sup>30</sup>, and Britain's empire was [firmly](#)<sup>31</sup> [on the decline](#)<sup>32</sup>.

[00:07:49] And talking specifically about the British monarchy, the public hated the queen's uncle, Edward VIII for [abdicating](#), and his brother, King George VI had a [tough](#)<sup>33</sup> job at trying to win back public support and trust in the British monarchy.

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<sup>24</sup> limited availability of food and other certain goods

<sup>25</sup> a fixed amount of certain goods one can have when there is not much of them available

<sup>26</sup> pieces of papers that could be exchanged for food and other goods

<sup>27</sup> recovering

<sup>28</sup> started

<sup>29</sup> letting go and being free of

<sup>30</sup> have been started a while ago

<sup>31</sup> with little possibility of change

<sup>32</sup> becoming less in size and power

<sup>33</sup> difficult, hard



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[00:08:08] The post-war period was a period of change in the UK. People questioned [the status quo](#)<sup>34</sup>, the Labour government introduced heavy taxes on wealth, and there were real question marks over whether the UK should have a monarch as its head of state.

[00:08:27] Looking across the Channel, France seemed to be doing ok without a monarch, Italy had got rid of its monarch, and let's not forget that the British people had [revolted](#)<sup>35</sup> against their monarch before, and executed the king and [abolished](#)<sup>36</sup> the monarchy in 1649, so it wasn't a complete impossibility that it could happen again.

[00:08:51] So, when Elizabeth was crowned queen, the UK, its monarchy, and the wider world was in a slightly [precarious](#)<sup>37</sup>, a difficult, situation.

[00:09:03] If she makes it to February 6th of 2022, when she will only be a couple of months away from her 96th birthday, she will become the first monarch to celebrate her [platinum jubilee](#)<sup>38</sup>, the celebration of 70 years on the British [throne](#).

[00:09:22] [To state the obvious](#), a lot has happened in those 70 years, in the UK, to the world, to the monarchy, and to the queen personally.

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<sup>34</sup> the situation at that time

<sup>35</sup> taken violent action

<sup>36</sup> ended

<sup>37</sup> dangerous, difficult

<sup>38</sup> the celebration of being a queen for 70 years

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[00:09:31] Instead of going through the queen's life [chronologically](#)<sup>39</sup>, we are going to focus on three main themes.

[00:09:39] Firstly, her personal life, and how much we know about her as a human being.

[00:09:46] Secondly, how the monarchy has changed with her at its head.

[00:09:52] And thirdly, the [controversies](#) she has managed to survive and the problems she has faced.

[00:09:59] So, her personal life. It is somewhat of a [contradiction](#)<sup>40</sup> that the queen might be one of the most famous women in the world, yet we really know very little about her as a human being.

[00:10:14] Throughout the years she has remained [mute](#)<sup>41</sup>, silent, on political issues, and we really don't know what she thinks about almost anything.

[00:10:25] People have [interpreted](#)<sup>42</sup> various things she has done as being signs of her beliefs, for example wearing a hat that looked a little bit like the EU flag was interpreted as showing her support of the EU, but we really don't know what she actually thinks.

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<sup>39</sup> in a way that follows the order in which the events occurred

<sup>40</sup> opposition or big difference between things compared

<sup>41</sup> not speaking, silent

<sup>42</sup> understood

[00:10:44] Royal commentators have always commented on her [sense of duty](#)<sup>43</sup> and [loyalty](#)<sup>44</sup> to the crown, and suggested that she wants to remain almost invisible, anonymous, because the important thing is what she represents—the British monarchy—and showing her personality and true character would get in the way of what she represents.

[00:11:10] We do know a little bit about what she likes.

[00:11:13] In particular, she is a huge fan of a type of dog called a Corgi, which is a type of small dog originally from Wales.

[00:11:23] On an interesting linguistic note, the word “corgi” actually comes from the Welsh words for “cor”, meaning [dwarf](#)<sup>45</sup>, or very small, and “ci”, meaning dog. So “corgi” just means “dwarf dog” in Welsh.

[00:11:41] In any case, the Queen loves them, and has had over 30 different corgis over the course of her life. They are, reportedly, not very [well behaved](#)<sup>46</sup>, and run all over Buckingham Palace, sitting on the sofas and generally causing trouble.

[00:11:59] There are all sort of stories about how the Queen does things like drinks a glass of champagne every night before bed, and how she has been wearing the same

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<sup>43</sup> awareness of her responsibilities

<sup>44</sup> faithfulness and belief in

<sup>45</sup> very small in size

<sup>46</sup> not behaving in an acceptable or right way

nail polish since 1989, but these stories tend to use a lot of “anonymous sources”, and although they might make for fun newspaper articles, they’re probably as much fiction as they are fact.

[00:12:25] Our second theme is how the monarchy has changed [under her tenure](#)<sup>47</sup>, while she has been queen.

[00:12:32] [As far as this is concerned](#)<sup>48</sup>, even the most [devout](#)<sup>49</sup> republican would have to admit that the Queen has been effective at modernising the British monarchy and appealing to the public, both in the UK and abroad.

[00:12:49] She and other members of the Royal Family have made thousands of public appearances, visiting hospitals, schools, becoming [patrons](#)<sup>50</sup> of charities. She has allowed documentaries to be made about the Royal Family, and has presented the Royal Family as more [accessible](#)<sup>51</sup> and more human than ever before.

[00:13:11] And this is in a large part due to the queen, personally, due to Elizabeth.

[00:13:18] She as an individual is still very popular in the UK and abroad.

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<sup>47</sup> while she has been queen

<sup>48</sup> with regard to this, about this

<sup>49</sup> committed, believing strongly in their ideas

<sup>50</sup> supporters

<sup>51</sup> able to be reached

[00:13:24] In the UK, recent surveys have around 72% of the population saying that they [approve](#)<sup>52</sup> of her.

[00:13:32] She is also hugely popular in America. There's been a national [poll](#)<sup>53</sup> in America of the public's most admired man and women every year.

[00:13:44] Since 1948, the Queen has been in the “top ten” list 38 times, more than any other woman in history.

[00:13:54] The second, by the way, is Jackie Kennedy, who has appeared 27 times.

[00:14:00] In 2021, the prime minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, when he was asked about Australia becoming a republic, said, about the queen. “She's been an extraordinary head of state, and I think [frankly](#)<sup>54</sup>, in Australia, there are more Elizabethans than there are [monarchists](#)<sup>55</sup>”.

[00:14:20] So, he is saying that people in Australia are bigger fans of the queen the person than what the queen represents.

[00:14:30] This is somewhat [ironic](#)<sup>56</sup>, given how hard the queen tries to hide her personality and put all the focus on what she represents, but she would no doubt be

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<sup>52</sup> have a positive opinion

<sup>53</sup> a study in which people are asked for their opinions about someone

<sup>54</sup> honestly

<sup>55</sup> supporters of monarchy

<sup>56</sup> strange because of being different from what one would usually expect



happy that she is helping [solidify](#)<sup>57</sup> the reputation of the monarchy for the next generation.

[00:14:49] It hasn't, of course, all been simple for the queen, and this leads us on to our third part: the [controversies](#) and tougher times.

[00:15:00] She has made some bad mistakes, and there have been plenty of times when it looked like it would be difficult to come back.

[00:15:09] 1992, for example, she called her "annus horribilis". Two of her children, Anne and Andrew, separated from their partners.

[00:15:18] It was revealed that her eldest son, Charles, was having an [affair](#)<sup>58</sup>, and there were [intimate](#)<sup>59</sup> conversations published between Princess Diana and another man, James Gilbey.

[00:15:31] There was even a large fire at one of her residences, Windsor Castle, and there was a public [outcry](#)<sup>60</sup> when it was suggested that the repairs would be paid for with public money. As a result, the queen agreed to [partially](#)<sup>61</sup> pay for it herself, and

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<sup>57</sup> make more stable and better

<sup>58</sup> a sexual relation

<sup>59</sup> very personal, private

<sup>60</sup> strong expression of disapproval and anger

<sup>61</sup> not completely

also agreed to start paying income tax, which as a monarch she wasn't legally required to do.

[00:15:57] In 1997 Princess Diana was killed, and the Queen's reaction to her death was considered by many to be [emotionless](#)<sup>62</sup> and cold.

[00:16:08] Indeed, her popularity reduced dramatically in the period after Diana's death, and a record 17% of Brits said that the monarchy should be [abolished](#).

[00:16:21] Yes, 17% isn't that much, but just three and a half years before, partly [out of sympathy](#)<sup>63</sup> for the queen's terrible year, only 9% of people wanted to abolish it.

[00:16:35] More recently, as you may be aware, her grandson Harry and his wife, Meghan Markle, decided that they would [remove](#)<sup>64</sup> themselves from the British monarchy, and did several high profile interviews directly and indirectly [criticising](#)<sup>65</sup> senior members of the royal family.

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<sup>62</sup> showing no emotion

<sup>63</sup> because of sympathy

<sup>64</sup> take themselves away

<sup>65</sup> judging with disapproval

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[00:16:54] And let's not forget the [ongoing](#)<sup>66</sup> problems with her third, and reportedly favourite, son, Andrew, and his [association](#)<sup>67</sup> with the [convicted](#)<sup>68</sup> sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

[00:17:08] As far as the queen's mistakes go, it is worth reminding ourselves that the queen is 95 years old, was married for 73 years and has had 4 children, the oldest of whom is 72 years old.

[00:17:23] It's a long life and a larger than average family, so it is only human that there will be mistakes and unhappiness along the way. The main difference is that her mistakes and unhappiness are incredibly public, and are [splashed all over](#)<sup>69</sup> the newspapers.

[00:17:43] Critics of the queen would certainly say that the fact that she has ended up with three of her four children in [failed](#)<sup>70</sup> marriages, and her reportedly favourite child, Andrew, accused of sex abuse suggests that she may have [neglected](#)<sup>71</sup> her [duties](#) as a parent.

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<sup>66</sup> continuing to exist or progress

<sup>67</sup> relation

<sup>68</sup> found guilty of an offense or crime

<sup>69</sup> put in a position where it can be easily seen by many people

<sup>70</sup> having not succeeded

<sup>71</sup> Not paid proper attention to

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[00:18:02] Now, as a final part to today's episode, let's talk about the language of Queen Elizabeth.

[00:18:09] You have probably heard the expression "The Queen's English". Some people think that this is the same as BBC English or Received Pronunciation, but it's really not.

[00:18:21] Or at least the Queen doesn't speak in BBC English or in Received Pronunciation or what we might call "Standard English".

[00:18:30] I'll play a little clip of her speaking in a minute, but there are a few things I want to tell you to look out for first.

[00:18:39] Firstly, look out for how she pronounces "o" - it's more like "ohh", it's a very [guttural](#)<sup>72</sup> sound. Listen to how she says "ago" and "often", instead of "ago" and "often".

[00:18:55] Her vowel sounds tend to be quite a lot longer, so she says "heyappy" rather than "happy", listen out for it in "Happy Christmas" (or "Happy Christmas").

[00:19:09] The clip I'm actually playing is from her first Christmas Broadcast, by the way, in 1957. She has made a Christmas message ever since. Listen to this one first, then we'll see how her voice has changed over the years.

[00:19:26] OK, here goes.

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<sup>72</sup> produced in the throat and having a harsh sound

[00:19:28] Happy Christmas, 25 years ago. My grandfather broadcast the first of these Christmas messages. Today is another [landmark](#)<sup>73</sup> because television has made it possible for many of you to see me in your homes on Christmas Day.

[00:19:49] Interestingly enough, her accent has actually [softened](#)<sup>74</sup> quite a bit since this first speech, which you could also see as an example of her adapting to be more normal, speaking more like a normal person.

[00:20:05] Of course, her accent is still far from normal, but as you'll see in the next clip, it is a lot less pronounced than it was when she first took the [throne](#).

[00:20:19] Here's her speaking in one of her most recent Christmas messages.

[00:20:23] We will be with our friends. Again, we will be with our families again, we will meet again, but for now I send my thanks and warmest good wishes to you all.

[00:20:35] Can you see the difference?

[00:20:38] Here they are again for you.

[00:20:39] Happy Christmas, 25 years ago. My grandfather broadcast the first of these Christmas messages. Today is another [landmark](#) because television has made it possible for many of you to see me in your homes on Christmas. Day

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<sup>73</sup> an event marking an important stage of development

<sup>74</sup> became softer



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[00:20:59] We will be with our friends. Again, we will be with our families again, we will meet again, but for now I send my thanks and warmest good wishes to you all.

[00:21:13] Now, just because this is the queen speaking, please don't think that you need to speak like that - if you copied this accent perfectly people would look at you in a very strange way, so there is absolutely no need to speak the way she does.

[00:21:30] OK, we have time for a couple more [unusual](#) stories about the life of the queen.

[00:21:36] Firstly, did you know that once a drunk man managed to [climb over<sup>75</sup>](#) the fences of Buckingham Palace, the queen's official residence, managed to get into the palace and actually into the queen's bedroom while she was sleeping?

[00:21:53] It's true. A man called Michael Fagan managed to get into Buckingham Palace in 1982 and found his way to the queen's bedroom while she was sleeping.

[00:22:05] Thankfully, nothing terrible happened, and it's still not clear exactly what his motivations were, why he did it.

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<sup>75</sup> go up and then come down on the other side

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[00:22:14] Over the years he has claimed that he was in love with the queen, that he was on drugs, and that he hoped she could help him in some way. It caused a huge [scandal<sup>76</sup>](#), and since then security has been significantly [tightened<sup>77</sup>](#).

[00:22:30] The queen also, as part of her plan to make the royal family more approachable, has answered more than 3.5 million different letters from members of the public, and sent more than half a million cards to people in Britain who have either turned 100 years old or celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

[00:22:52] And over the years of travelling all over the world and being given presents from people from all different countries, she has [amassed<sup>78</sup>](#) quite a collection.

[00:23:03] It reportedly includes an elephant, a pair of cowboy boots, 7kg of prawns, and two tortoises.

[00:23:11] Now, the question that you might be thinking, and one we haven't yet covered, is what happens when she dies?

[00:23:21] Well, on a practical level, the [throne](#) will pass to her eldest son Charles, assuming he is still alive, and he will either become king or decide to pass it straight

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<sup>76</sup> an event that causes public shock and disapproval

<sup>77</sup> more strict or firm

<sup>78</sup> collected a large amount of something

down to his son, Prince William. [Opinion polls](#)<sup>79</sup> suggest people would love him to do this, to pass it to Prince William, but it seems unlikely.

[00:23:45] In any case, that's the easy part.

[00:23:48] The harder part is how the British monarchy moves on, how it opens a new chapter. Queen Elizabeth is already the longest-serving monarch in British history, and at the time of making this episode the fourth longest serving monarch in world history.

[00:24:07] She is only two and a half years away from being the longest-serving monarch in history, and she would [overtake](#)<sup>80</sup> Louis XIV of France, who got a bit of a [head start](#)<sup>81</sup> on her because he became king at the age of four.

[00:24:23] She has been a [remarkably](#)<sup>82</sup> [consistent](#)<sup>83</sup> figure in UK history.

[00:24:27] She has lived through a world war, there have been 14 different prime ministers that have served under her, and 4 out of 5 people in Britain, including myself I should add, weren't alive when she was crowned queen.

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<sup>79</sup> occasions when people are asked questions about their opinions on something

<sup>80</sup> catch up and pass

<sup>81</sup> advantage

<sup>82</sup> to an uncommon degree, in a way that is special and worth mentioning

<sup>83</sup> reliable and steady

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[00:24:42] So, the vast majority of people in Britain, everyone under the age of 68 to be precise, has only lived under one British monarch: Queen Elizabeth.

[00:24:55] She may have her [flaws](#)<sup>84</sup>, but is certainly a [remarkable](#)<sup>85</sup> woman.

[00:25:00] One of the great [ironies](#)<sup>86</sup>, however, is that although she is one of the most recognisable people on the planet, and she exists on [banknotes](#)<sup>87</sup>, coins, and [postage stamps](#) all over the world there will be very few people who will ever be able to say that they have really known the true Queen Elizabeth.

[00:25:20] OK then, that is it for today's episode on the life and times of Queen Elizabeth II.

[00:25:29] I hope it's been an interesting one, and that you've learnt something new.

[00:25:33] As always, I would love to know what you thought about this episode.

[00:25:38] I know that the queen and the British monarchy is a subject of great [fascination](#)<sup>88</sup> for lots of people outside the UK, so tell me, what do people think about Queen Elizabeth in your country?

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<sup>84</sup> mistakes or weaknesses

<sup>85</sup> special and worth mentioning

<sup>86</sup> disagreements between what is expected and what actually happens

<sup>87</sup> pieces of printed paper that are used as money

<sup>88</sup> interest

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[00:25:51] What do you think will happen when she is gone?

[00:25:54] I would love to know.

[00:25:56] You can head right into our community forum, which is at  
community.leonardoenglish.com and get chatting away to other curious minds.

[00:26:05] You've been listening to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo  
English.

[00:26:10] I'm Alastair Budge, you stay safe, and I'll catch you in the next episode.

[END OF EPISODE]

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## Key vocabulary

Word	Definition
Controversies	situations that cause argument or disagreements
Unusual	not common or ordinary
Throne	special chair used by a king or queen
Unlikely	not probable to happen
In the line of succession	in the order of people who would become kings or queens
Odds	the probability that something would happen
Leapfrog	jump over
Divorcée	someone who is divorced and has not married again
Abdicating	resigning from, giving up
To state the obvious	to say what can be easily seen
Unexpected	causing surprise, not expected
Given up	resigned from, renounced

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Trivial	unimportant
Obscurity	the state of not being known
Duties	the things she had to do as part of being the queen
Blood clot	a mass of cells that interfere with the circulation of blood, also known as thrombosis
Secluded	away from people, private
Out of the spotlight	without getting public attention
Lung	either of the two organs in the chest with which people breathe
Mourning	expressing great sadness because of someone's death
Coronation	the ceremony of crowning a king or queen
Postage	relating to sending of letters by post
Stamps	labels or printings on items of mail as evidence of the payment for the service
Rationing	limited availability of food and other certain goods
Ration	a fixed amount of certain goods one can have when there is not much of them available

## Queen Elizabeth II

<b>Coupons</b>	pieces of papers that could be exchanged for food and other goods
<b>Rebounding</b>	recovering
<b>Initiated</b>	started
<b>Getting rid of</b>	letting go and being free of
<b>Well underway</b>	have been started a while ago
<b>Firmly</b>	with little possibility of change
<b>On the decline</b>	becoming less in size and power
<b>Tough</b>	difficult, hard
<b>The status quo</b>	the situation at that time
<b>Revolted</b>	taken violent action
<b>Abolished</b>	ended
<b>Precarious</b>	dangerous, difficult
<b>Platinum jubilee</b>	the celebration of being a queen for 70 years
<b>Chronologically</b>	in a way that follows the order in which the events occurred
<b>Contradiction</b>	opposition or big difference between things compared

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<b>Mute</b>	not speaking, silent
<b>Interpreted</b>	understood
<b>Sense of duty</b>	awareness of her responsibilities
<b>Loyalty</b>	faithfulness and belief in
<b>Dwarf</b>	very small in size
<b>Well behaved</b>	not behaving in an acceptable or right way
<b>Under her tenure</b>	while she has been queen
<b>As far as this is concerned</b>	with regard to this, about this
<b>Devout</b>	committed, believing strongly in their ideas
<b>Patrons</b>	supporters
<b>Accessible</b>	able to be reached
<b>Approve</b>	have a positive opinion
<b>Poll</b>	a study in which people are asked for their opinions about someone
<b>Frankly</b>	honestly
<b>Monarchists</b>	supporters of monarchy

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**Queen Elizabeth II**

<b>Ironic</b>	strange because of being different from what one would usually expect
<b>Solidify</b>	make more stable and better
<b>Affair</b>	a sexual relation
<b>Intimate</b>	very personal, private
<b>Outcry</b>	strong expression of disapproval and anger
<b>Partially</b>	not completely
<b>Emotionless</b>	showing no emotion
<b>Out of sympathy</b>	because of sympathy
<b>Remove</b>	take themselves away
<b>Criticising</b>	judging with disapproval
<b>Ongoing</b>	continuing to exist or progress
<b>Association</b>	relation
<b>Convicted</b>	found guilty of an offense or crime
<b>Splashed all over</b>	put in a position where it can be easily seen by many people
<b>Failed</b>	having not succeeded



Queen Elizabeth II

Neglected	not paid proper attention to
Guttural	produced in the throat and having a harsh sound
Landmark	an event marking an important stage of development
Softened	became softer
Climb over	go up and then come down on the other side
Scandal	an event that causes public shock and disapproval
Tightened	more strict or firm
Amassed	collected a large amount of something
Opinion polls	occasions when people are asked questions about their opinions on something
Overtake	catch up and pass
Head start	advantage
Remarkably	to an uncommon degree, in a way that is special and worth mentioning
Consistent	reliable and steady
Flaws	mistakes or weaknesses
Remarkable	special and worth mentioning

**Ironies** disagreements between what is expected and what actually happens

**Banknotes** pieces of printed paper that are used as money

**Fascination** interest

*We'd love to get your feedback on this episode.*

*What did you like? What could we do better?*

*What did you struggle to understand?*

*Let us know in the forum [community.leonardoenglish.com](https://community.leonardoenglish.com)*