

Reading level 1: the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

2nd June 2012



Topics: Queen, Jubilee, celebrations

Learning points:

- vocabulary
- future: will, could, might
- prepositions

1 On 2nd June 1953 - sixty years ago – Elisabeth Windsor became Queen. In 1977 she had a Silver Jubilee¹, and
2 in 2002 a Golden Jubilee. She is now the oldest King or Queen of England in history², and only Queen Victoria
3 was on the throne³ for longer (63 years and 216 days). Perhaps Queen Elizabeth II will beat⁴ that record, too.

4
5 The United Kingdom is throwing a big party for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. There will be a 4-day
6 weekend, with bank holidays on Monday and Tuesday. What will happen?

7
8 On Saturday, the Queen will watch the horse racing at Epsom. It will be a bit more special, because the Red
9  Arrows will have a flying display and the world-famous Welsh singer Katherine Jenkins will sing
10 the National Anthem⁵. In Hyde Park in London, a family festival weekend will start, with lots of
11 traditional food and games and music.

12
13 The celebrations will really start on Sunday. Hundreds of boats – more than a thousand – will sail on the river
14 Thames. This should be a very special sight⁶. It will be very colourful.
15 Also on Sunday, villages across Britain might hold street parties.

16
17 On Monday evening, at 7.30pm (BST), a concert in Buckingham Palace will start and lots of famous singers will
18 perform⁷. When the concert finishes, at 10pm, people all over Britain will light fires. These fires are called
19 'beacons'⁸ and are used as signals in the dark. Over 4,000 villages and towns could light
20 beacons, including in church towers⁹. There might be firework displays at the same time.



21
22  On Tuesday, after a church service in St Paul's Cathedral in the morning, the Queen
23 will travel in a gold horse-drawn carriage¹⁰ from Westminster to Buckingham Palace.
24 This will be a big procession and thousands of people will watch it. It will start at
25 about 2.30pm.

26
27 Will you watch any of the celebrations? In the afternoons, BBC World News will show programmes on the
28 television – you could try to watch them.

¹ jubilee = Jubiläum

² history = Geschichte

³ throne = Thron

⁴ beat = schlagen

⁵ national anthem = Bundeshymne

⁶ sight = Sicht / Blick / Sehenswürdigkeit

⁷ perform = aufführen

⁸ beacon = Signalfeuer

⁹ tower = Turm

¹⁰ horse-drawn carriage = Pferdekutsche

Level 1 questions

1. Three words in this text tell you that it is about the future.
 - a. What are the words?
 - b. What is the difference between them?

2. Can you fill in the right prepositions?

_____ 2nd June 1953 - sixty years ago – Elisabeth Windsor became Queen.

_____ 1977 she had a Silver Jubilee, and _____ 2002 a Golden Jubilee.

She is now the oldest King or Queen of England in history, and only Queen Victoria was _____ the throne for longer.

The United Kingdom is throwing a big party _____ the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

There will be a 4-day weekend, with bank holidays _____ Monday and Tuesday.

_____ Saturday, the Queen will watch the horse racing _____ Epsom.

_____ Hyde Park _____ London, a family festival weekend will start.

The celebrations will really start _____ Sunday.

Hundreds _____ boats – more than a thousand – will sail _____ the river Thames. This should be a very special sight.

_____ Monday evening, _____ 7.30pm (BST), a concert _____ Buckingham Palace will start.

Over 4,000 villages and towns could light beacons, including _____ church towers.

There might be firework displays _____ the same time.

_____ Tuesday, after a church service _____ St Paul's Cathedral _____ the morning, the Queen will travel

_____ a gold horse-drawn carriage _____ Westminster _____ Buckingham Palace.

It will start _____ about 2.30pm.

_____ the afternoons, BBC World News will show programmes _____ the television.

Level 1 answers

1.
 - a. The 'future' words are will, could & might.
 - b. 'will' is for any future – it only means 'future'
'might' and 'could' mean 'possibly' – this future is not certain
2. Check your answers in the text!