

Reading level 2: the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

2nd June 2012



Topics: Queen, Jubilee, celebrations

Learning points:

- vocabulary
- present perfect
- future: going to
- who, which
- listening: intonation

1 Elisabeth Windsor has been Queen for 60 years – since 2nd June 1953. In 1977 she had a Silver Jubilee¹, and in
2 2002 a Golden Jubilee. She is the oldest King or Queen of England in history, and has been on the throne
3 longer than any other monarch except Queen Victoria, who reigned² for 63 years and 216 days.
4 Perhaps Queen Elizabeth II will beat that record, too.

5
6 The United Kingdom is throwing a big party for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. There is going to be a 4-
7 day weekend, with bank holidays on Monday and Tuesday. What will happen?
8

9 On Saturday, the Queen is going to watch the horse racing at Epsom, which should be a bit more special than
10 usual, because the Red Arrows are going to have a flying display and the world-famous Welsh singer
11 Katherine Jenkins is going to sing the National Anthem. In Hyde Park in London, a family
12 festival weekend will start, with lots of traditional food and games and music.



13
14 The celebrations will really kick off³ on Sunday. Hundreds of boats – more than a thousand –
15 are going to sail down the river Thames, which should be a very special occasion⁴. It will be very colourful,
16 because the boats will all be decorated with flags and bunting⁵. Also on Sunday, villages up and down the
17 country might hold street parties.
18

19 On Monday evening, at 7.30pm (BST), a concert in Buckingham Palace is going to start and lots of famous
20 singers are going to perform⁶. When the concert finishes, at 10pm, people all over Britain will light beacons,
21 which are used as signals in the dark. Over 4,000 villages and towns could light beacons,
22 including in church towers. There might be firework displays at the same time.



23
24 On Tuesday, after a church service in St Paul's Cathedral in the
25 morning, the Queen is going to travel in a gold horse-drawn carriage⁷ from
26 Westminster to Buckingham Palace, which will be a huge procession and thousands of
27 people will line the route to watch it. It will start at about 2.30pm.
28



29 Are you going to watch any of the celebrations? In the afternoons, BBC World News is going to show
30 programmes on the television – you could try to watch them.

¹ jubilee = Jubiläum

² to reign = regieren

³ kick off = beginnen

⁴ occasion = Gelegenheit, Anlass, Ereignis

⁵ bunting = Schmucken mit Fähnchen

⁶ perform = aufführen

⁷ horse-drawn carriage = Pferdekutsche

Level 2 questions

1. Present Perfect

In lines 1 and 2, why is the present perfect (has been) used?

2. Future: going to

a) Which three words replace 'will' for the 'going-to future' ?

b) When is the going-to future used? What is the difference between it and 'will'?

3. Who / which

There are five examples of 'who' or 'which' in the text. When you talk about one thing but want to say more about it, these are very useful words!

Can you change these sentences from the Level 1 text, using 'which'?

a) On Saturday, the Queen will watch the horse racing at Epsom. It will be a bit more special, because....

b) Hundreds of boats – more than a thousand – will sail on the river Thames. This should be a very special sight.

c) On Tuesday, after a church service in St Paul's Cathedral in the morning, the Queen will travel in a gold horse-drawn carriage⁸ from Westminster to Buckingham Palace. This will be a big procession and thousands of people will watch it.

4. Listening: intonation

Listen to how the voice goes up and down. It will go up in the middle of sentences, to show that the sentence will continue, and go down at the end, to signal a stop. Questions finish with a rising intonation.

Level 2 answers

1. The present perfect is used because the action is not finished – the Queen is still the queen!

2. a) will = am/is/are + going + to

b) the going to future is for planned/organised actions. It is 'stronger' than 'will' – more fixed.

3. Read the Level 2 text to check your solution!

⁸ horse-drawn carriage = Pferdekutsche