

Reading level 3: the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

2nd June 2012



Topics: Queen, Jubilee, celebrations

Learning points:

- vocabulary
- future continuous
- present continuous in the future

1 Elisabeth Windsor has reigned for 60 years – since 2nd June 1953. In 1977 she celebrated her Silver Jubilee,
2 and in 2002 her Golden Jubilee. She is the oldest King or Queen of England in history, and has been on the
3 throne longer than any other monarch except Queen Victoria, who reigned 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, with a 4-day weekend that
7 includes two bank holidays on both Monday and Tuesday. So what events will be taking place?

8
9 On Saturday, the Queen will be watching the horse racing at Epsom, which should be a bit more special than
10 usual, because the Red Arrows are flying overhead and the world-famous Welsh singer Katherine Jenkins is
11 singing the National Anthem. In Hyde Park in London, a family festival weekend has been organised, with lots
12 of traditional food and games and music.



13
14 The celebrations will really kick off¹ on Sunday. Hundreds of boats – more than a thousand –
15 are going to sail in a flotilla² down the river Thames, which is the most unusual and probably
16 the most special of all the events being held. It will be very colourful, because the boats will all have been
17 decorated with flags and bunting³. Also on Sunday, villages up and down the country will be holding street
18 parties.

19
20 On Monday evening, at 7.30pm (BST), a concert in Buckingham Palace is taking place and
21 lots of famous singers have been scheduled to perform. When the concert finishes, at
22 10pm, beacons will be lit up and down the country as signals in the dark. Over 4,000
23 beacons could be lit, including in church towers, with firework displays going off at the
24 same time.



25
26 On Tuesday, following a church service which will be held in St Paul's Cathedral in the morning, the Queen is
27 going to process in a gold horse-drawn carriage from Westminster to Buckingham
28 Palace, starting at about 2.30pm, which is going to be a huge procession – a real
29 highlight of the festivities - and thousands of people are expected to line the route to
30 watch it.



31
32 Will you be watching any of the celebrations? In the afternoons, BBC World News will be showing
33 programmes on the television – you could try to watch them.

¹ kick off = beginnen

² flotilla = Flotille

³ bunting = Schmucken mit Fähnchen

Level 3 questions

1. Future continuous

Continuous tenses take the form **(to be) + --ing** and they emphasise that an event happened over a period of time.

In the future, the form is: **will + be + ---ing**. The emphasis is the same – an event which will be happening over a period of time in the future.

Find the examples of this tense in lines 7, 9, 17 and 32.

2. Present continuous in the future

It is possible to use the present continuous in the future, especially in spoken English.

It is best used for events that happen at a very specific time, although it is used more generally (as here).

Examples of it here can be found in lines 10-11 and line 20.

3. Can you write a text that includes examples of all the future tenses used in Levels 1, 2 and 3?

- will
- could / might / should
- going to
- future continuous
- present continuous in the future