



Queen Elizabeth II: public, private or both?

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<p><u>Birth of Princess Elizabeth</u></p> <p>Princess Elizabeth was born in 1926. She was the oldest child of the Duke and Duchess of York.</p>	
<p><u>Princess Elizabeth in ATS</u></p> <p>During the Second World War, Princess Elizabeth joined the army as a volunteer. She learned how to repair engines, how to drive and how to read maps.</p>	
<p><u>Marriage of Princess Elizabeth to Philip Mountbatten</u></p> <p>Princess Elizabeth had fallen in love with Philip Mountbatten years before they were married. King George VI (her father) had to give his permission for the marriage to go ahead. The couple married in 1947. The Second World War had only ended two years before and there was still a shortage of goods. Princess Elizabeth collected rationing coupons for her dress.</p>	
<p><u>Birth of eldest son, Prince Charles</u></p> <p>In 1948, Princess Elizabeth gave birth to her first child at Buckingham Palace. The baby boy was named Charles.</p>	
<p><u>Death of King George VI</u></p> <p>King George VI (father of Queen Elizabeth II) had been very ill for a long time. He wasn't well enough to travel around the world on an official tour and so in 1952 he asked his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, to go in his place. She was watching wildlife in Kenya when news reached her that her father had died. She had been very close to her father all his life.</p>	
<p><u>Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953</u></p> <p>Queen Elizabeth II was crowned Queen of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Only Canada, Australia and New Zealand still keep the British monarch as their head of state. The Coronation was watched on television by people all around the world.</p>	
<p><u>State opening of Parliament</u></p> <p>Queen Elizabeth II attended almost every State Opening of Parliament during her reign. At each State Opening, she read aloud a speech on behalf of her government.</p>	
<p><u>Holiday at Balmoral</u></p> <p>Balmoral is the holiday home of the royal family in Scotland. Queen Elizabeth II loved spending time here away from her busy life around London. She enjoyed walks, picnics with the family and spending time with her dogs.</p>	

<p><u>Owning corgis</u></p> <p>Queen Elizabeth II was given her own corgi as a young girl, named Dookie. She has kept corgis ever since.</p>	
<p><u>Broadcasting of Christmas message from the Queen</u></p> <p>Queen Elizabeth II recorded a special message to her people every Christmas. It was first broadcast on radio and then later on television. The message was always one of hope.</p>	
<p><u>Horse racing</u></p> <p>Queen Elizabeth II always loved horses. She enjoyed riding horses and also racing them. Her horses won many races over the years. Her horse Dunfermline was a champion racehorse and won two famous races; Epsom Oaks and St Legers Stakes.</p>	
<p><u>Entertaining heads of state at Buckingham Palace</u></p> <p>Laying the table for a state banquet takes a long time. Everything must be perfect; the plates must be exactly the same distance apart, it takes two days to lay the table perfectly. Queen Elizabeth II felt it was important to roll out the red carpet for important visitors from other countries.</p>	
<p><u>Commonwealth Day at Westminster Abbey</u></p> <p>Every year representatives from the 56 Commonwealth countries come together to celebrate the special relationship. There is dance, music and poetry. The different faiths are also represented.</p>	
<p><u>Weekly meetings with the Prime Minister</u></p> <p>Every week, Queen Elizabeth II had a meeting with the Prime Minister (whoever it happened to be). This meeting was private. No prime minister has ever repeated what was said at the meetings. Many prime ministers have said that the meetings were very helpful.</p>	
<p><u>Being a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother</u></p> <p>Queen Elizabeth II had four children, eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.</p>	
<p><u>Hosting Royal Garden party</u></p> <p>Every year, Queen Elizabeth II invited 30,000 people to tea parties. It was a great opportunity for people to meet her and talk to her. 20,000 portions of cake were made for every garden party.</p>	