

# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

In June 2022 Queen Elizabeth II celebrates the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne in 1952. She is the first British monarch to reign for so many years, so it's an extra special occasion.

## Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises.

## Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–j) with the vocabulary (1–10).

### Vocabulary

1. .... an accession
2. .... a throne
3. .... a monarch
4. .... to reign
5. .... to mark
6. .... to crown
7. .... a parade
8. .... a carriage
9. .... an initiative
10. .... a slogan

### Definition

- a. a king or queen
- b. to represent something that has happened in the past or is about to happen
- c. to put a crown on someone's head in a special ceremony that makes that person king or queen
- d. a short, easily remembered phrase, often used in advertising
- e. the special chair used by a ruler, especially a king or queen, or the state of being a ruler
- f. a vehicle with four wheels that is usually pulled by horses and was used mainly in the past
- g. the time someone starts in a position of authority, especially a queen or king, or when a country officially joins a group of countries
- h. a new plan or process to achieve something or solve a problem
- i. to be the king or queen of a country
- j. a large number of people going in the same direction, usually as part of a public celebration

## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

### What is a 'platinum jubilee'?

A jubilee is an anniversary to mark an important event such as the accession of a monarch to the throne. Names of valuable materials are often given to special anniversaries. For example, silver is used for a 25th anniversary, gold is for a 50th anniversary and platinum for a 70th. A platinum jubilee, which Queen Elizabeth II is celebrating in 2022, marks 70 years of her reign.

### How and when did Princess Elizabeth become Queen?

King George VI died on 6 February 1952. His daughter Princess Elizabeth was only 25 years old at the time and was on a royal tour in Kenya with her husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Philip informed Elizabeth of her father's death, and she immediately returned to the UK as Queen, although she was not crowned until 2 June 1953. No other British monarch has lived or reigned for as long as she has, and no other female head of state has served so many years.

### The Jubilee celebrations

From 2 to 5 June there will be a four-day long weekend for people in the UK. There are lots of special events planned, including the Queen's Birthday Parade, which will take place on Thursday 2 June. Members of the Royal Family will travel in carriages, along with 1,400 soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians. The parade will leave Buckingham Palace and go along a very famous London street called The Mall. On Saturday 4 June, there will be a live concert called The Platinum Party at the Palace, where lots of celebrities will perform. On Sunday 5 June, people across the country are encouraged to hold street parties and have lunch outside with their neighbours.

### Unusual Jubilee events

One of the more original events to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee is a baking competition! The Platinum Pudding competition is open to all residents of the UK who are aged 8 or older. They have to send in their recipe and a photo of the pudding, or dessert, that they've created. You can see some of the competition entries on Instagram using the hashtag #platinumpudding. Another unusual initiative to mark the event is the Queen's Green Canopy. The slogan is 'plant a tree for the jubilee' and people are encouraged to plant trees throughout 2022 to ensure a greener future for the country. The project is working to protect 70 types of ancient trees.

Whether it's street parties, parades, puddings or planting trees, there really is something for everyone to mark the platinum jubilee of the Queen.

### Sources:

<https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend>

<https://www.fortunmandmason.com/platinum-pudding>

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/>

## Tasks

### Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	<b>Answer</b>	
	True	False
1. A jubilee is a type of anniversary to mark an important event.	True	False
2. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrates 50 years of her reign.	True	False
3. Princess Elizabeth was 21 years old when her father died and she became Queen.	True	False
4. She is the longest-reigning British monarch in history.	True	False
5. In June there will be a four-day long weekend for people in the UK.	True	False
6. In the Queen's Birthday Parade, members of the Royal Family will walk along the streets.	True	False
7. There will be a live concert, where lots of celebrities will perform.	True	False
8. People across the country will hold street parties with their neighbours.	True	False
9. Anyone over the age of 18 can take part in a baking competition by sending in a recipe and a photo.	True	False
10. People are encouraged to plant trees as part of a special project.	True	False

### Task 2

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

accession	carriages	parade	#platinumpudding
recipe	reign	slogan	Street parties

1. The Queen's ..... to the throne took place in 1952.
2. Queen Elizabeth II is the first female monarch to ..... for 70 years.
3. 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee' is the ..... for the Queen's Green Canopy project.
4. The ..... through the streets of London will be one of the most spectacular events of the celebrations.
5. Members of the Royal Family will travel in ..... during the parade.
6. .... will take place all over the country as groups of neighbours have lunch together.

7. To take part in the Platinum Pudding competition, you have to send in the .....  
for your special dessert.

8. To see some of the pudding competition entries, you can put ..... into  
Instagram.

### **Discussion**

Have you celebrated any important anniversaries or events recently?

## Answers

### Preparation task

1. g
2. e
3. a
4. i
5. b
6. c
7. j
8. f
9. h
10. d

### Task 1

1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. False
7. True
8. True
9. False
10. True

### Task 2

1. accession
2. reign
3. slogan
4. parade
5. carriages
6. Street parties
7. recipe
8. #platinumpudding