

Video zone – The story of the Imperial State Crown

Tasks

Instructions

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary	Definition
1. a coronation	a. a group of politicians who make decisions for their country
2. a monarch	b. something difficult to control because it is big or complicated
3. an opening	c. not moving
4. parliament	d. a formal expression of ideas, which a speaker tells an audience
5. unwieldy	e. a ceremony in which the new king or queen wears the crown for the first time
6. still	f. a royal leader (like a queen, a king or an emperor)
7. a speech	g. an event which celebrates the start of a new period or project
8. otherwise	h. a word which expresses contrast, meaning 'apart from that' or 'in a different way'

Task 1 – True or false?

Are the sentences true or false.

	Answers	
1. The Queen has only worn the Imperial State Crown once.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
2. The Queen's crown is bigger than the one her father wore.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
3. The Queen's father had a similar head to her.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
4. The crown has an interior item to attach it to the Queen's head.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
5. When wearing the crown, it is impossible to read a prepared speech.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
6. The Queen admits that crowns have some negative aspects.	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>

Task 2

Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

heavy	neck	once
otherwise	shaped	still

1. The Queen has only worn St Edward's gold crown
2. It's difficult to remember that diamonds are stones, so very
3. My father and I have about the same sort of head.
4. You have to keep your head very
5. You have to take the speech up because if you looked down, your could break!
6. There are some disadvantages to crowns, but they're quite important things.

Discussion

Can you describe a real or fictional monarch?

Transcript

The most important items used in the coronation are the monarch's two crowns. If the Queen has only worn St Edward's gold crown once, she is much more familiar with this: the diamond-encrusted Imperial State Crown. She wore it at the end of her coronation and for most State Openings of Parliament since.

Queen: You see, it's much smaller, isn't it?

Interviewer: Significantly.

Queen: I mean, it was ... it was the same height. You know, it would be, it would have been up to about there when my father wore it.

Interviewer: I mean, it was huge then.

Queen: Yes, very un... unwieldy.

Interviewer: It's difficult to always remember that diamonds are stones, so very heavy.

Queen: Yes. Fortunately, my father and I have about, about the same sort of shaped head. But once you put it on, it stays. I mean it just remains, itself.

Interviewer: You have to keep your head very still.

Queen: Yes. And you can't look down to read the speech. You have to take the speech up. Because if you did, your neck would break or it would fall off! So there are some disadvantages to crowns, but otherwise they're quite important things.

Answers

Preparation

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

Task 1

1. False
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False
6. True

Task 2

1. once
2. heavy
3. shaped
4. still
5. neck
6. otherwise