

**Задания к художественному фильму  
«Королева»  
составитель: Ефремова Ю.Н.**

**2007**

# THE QUEEN

## List of characters

Queen Elizabeth II

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother

Charles, Prince of Wales

Earl Spencer, Princess of Wales Diana's brother

Robin Janvrin, Queen's deputy Private Secretary

Tony Blair

Cherie Blair

Alastair Campbell, Press Secretary to Tony Blair

Lord Airlie, Lord Chamberlain

## Episode I ( -9:40)

### ☞ Read the notes and questions before watching:

- **to be partial** is to show or feel too much support for one person, team, idea, etc., in a way that is unfair;
  - **to be entitled to vote** is to have the right to vote;
  - **to win by a landslide** is to win overwhelmingly;
  - **a manifesto** is a written statement by a political party, saying what they believe in and what they intend to do;
  - **to be on first-name terms** is to call people by their first name as a sign of a friendly relationship;
  - **Balmoral Castle** is a castle in Scotland that the British royal family often use for their summer holidays.
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- How is the appointment of the Prime Minister carried out?
  - How did Mr Janvrin instruct Mr Blair before the audience?
  - What is the Sovereign's constitutional responsibility towards the Government?
  - How often is it the usual practice for the Sovereign to talk with the Prime Minister?
  - Give Mr Blair's political profile as shown in the episode.

### ☞ Comment on the following:

**Elizabeth (to the artist):** I rather envy you being able to vote.

**Equerry (to Mr Blair):** Couple of other things. It's 'Ma'am' as in ham, not 'Ma'am' as in farm.

### ☞ Translate into Russian

**TV Commentary:** "The only questions that still remain: how big will his landslide be? And how extensive, how sweeping will the modernisation programme be that he ushers in?"

**Elizabeth:** Oh. Is he going to 'modernise' us, do you think?

**Janvrin:** I wouldn't put it past him. He's married to a woman with known anti-Monarchist sympathies.

## Episode II (9:40-18:40)

☞ **Read the notes and question before watching:**

- **concussion** is the effect of a severe blow to the head such as confusion and temporary loss of physical and mental abilities;
  - **intensive care** is a department in a hospital that treats people who are very seriously ill or badly injured;
  - **HRH** is His/Her Royal Highness.
- What prevented Prince Charles from going to Paris after he learnt about the accident?

☞ **Paraphrase the following:**

**TV Commentary:** Once again her judgements are under scrutiny.

**Queen Mother:** They keep one of the planes on permanent stand-by. In case I kick the bucket.

**Alastair:** You're writing your maiden conference speech as Prime Minister.

**Tony:** Well, let's cancel everything else. This is going to be massive.

## Episode III (18:40-25:16)

☞ **Read the notes and questions before watching:**

- **a memorial service** is a religious ceremony held in order to remember sb who has died;
  - **over the top** is sth done to an exaggerated degree and with too much effort;
- Whom does Earl Spencer hold responsible for Diana's death?
- Why does the Queen prefer to see Diana's funeral as a private matter? What are the Prime Minister's arguments against it?

- Why does the Queen not think it necessary to make mention of Diana's death during the Sunday service? Whose interests does she act in?

☞ **Paraphrase the following:**

**Alastair:** You are about to speak to the Queen?

**Tony:** Yes.

**Alastair:** Ask her if she greased the brakes.

**Tony:** You don't feel that in view of her high profile and popularity..  
...it might be an idea to pay tribute to her life and achievements?

☞ **Translate into Russian**

**Elizabeth:** It's a family funeral, Mr. Blair. Not a fairground attraction. I think the Princess has already paid a high enough price for exposure to the press, don't you?

**Episode IV** (25:16-30:34)

☞ **Read the notes and questions before watching:**

- ***the Lord Chamberlain*** is the person in charge of managing the royal household;
  - ***to plan for any contingency*** is to get ready for an event that may or may not happen;
  - ***stalking*** is following an animal quietly in order to catch and attack or kill it.
- What is the agenda of the meeting organized by the Lord Chamberlain?
  - Why does Charles disagree with his mother's decision to see Diana's funeral as a private matter?

## Episode V (30:34-43:28)

### ☞ Read the notes and questions before watching:

- **Tay Bridge** is a code name for the eventual funeral of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother;
  - **Changing of the Guard or Guard Mounting** is a regular hand-over of guards in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace accompanied by a Guards band;
  - **Queen of hearts** is a playing card.
- What funeral arrangements did the Lord Chamberlain suggest?
  - What signal does Prince Charles send to the Prime Minister through his secretary? Why? What is he afraid of?
  - Why does the Queen change her mind about going stalking and leave her son alone?

### ☞ Comment on the following:

**Alastair:** This lot call you "The Nation's Mourner in Chief", this lot say you're "The only person who has correctly judged the mood of the country". Even the "Mail"....was impressed.

**Charles:** Look, whatever else you may have thought of Diana - she was a wonderful mother. She adored those boys. And never let them forget it. Always warm. And physical. Never afraid to show her feelings.

**Elizabeth:** Especially whenever a photographer was in sight.

**Prince Philip:** And I was sure he'd give the other one up. Or, at least make sure his wife toed the line. Isn't that what everyone does?

**Elizabeth:** Is it?

### ☞ Paraphrase the following:

**Janvrin:** The Police Commissioner was keen that you consider the idea of a condolence book. It would give the growing crowds something to do. Make marshalling them easier.

**Elizabeth:** We encouraged the match. And signed off on it.

**Prince Philip:** What did he say?

**Elizabeth:** How wonderful Diana was.

**Prince Philip:** That's changing his tune.

**Elizabeth:** What a natural!

**Diana:** I'd like to be a queen of people's hearts, but I don't see myself being Queen of this country. I don't think many people will want me to be Queen. Actually, when I say many people I mean the establishment that I married into, because they've decided that I'm a non-starter.

### ☞ **Translate into Russian**

**Tony:** Has anyone told the Queen yet?

**Alastair:** Dunno. No doubt some flunkey will be dispatched. Grovelling on all fours.

**Charles:** That was always the extraordinary thing about her. Her weaknesses and transgressions only seemed to make the public love her more. Yet ours only make them hate us. Why is that?

Why do they hate us so much?

**Elizabeth:** Not `us', dear.

## **Episode VI** (43:28-49:40)

### ☞ **Read the notes and questions before watching:**

- **the Royal Standard** is the flag used by the monarch and members of the royal family;
- **to phase out hereditary privileges** is to gradually stop providing nobility with benefits.
- When is the Royal Standard flown above Buckingham Palace and when is the flagpole bare?
- Why did people want to see the Royal Standard flown at half mast? Why was the royal family against it? What was Prince Charles' opinion?
- What is Tony Blair's view on reforming the monarchy?

- Whom does Cherie think the Queen reminds Tony of? Why?

☞ **Comment on the following:**

**Tony:** Look...if you want to have a serious conversation about this..

**Cherie:** I do..

**Tony:**...about the Constitution..

**Cherie:** we don't have one.

☞ **Translate into Russian**

**Cherie:** Maybe this time people have finally seen them for what they are.

**Tony:** Which is?

**Cherie:** A bunch of freeloading, emotionally retarded...nutters... They exist in a ludicrous cocoon of privilege and wealth. They don't pay tax.

**Episode VII** (49:40-55:45)

☞ **Read the notes and questions before watching:**

- **to stir up the mood** is to make people feel strong emotions;
  - **to listen in** is to listen to a conversation that you are not supposed to hear;
  - **abdication** is the act of renouncing and resigning from a formal office, especially from the supreme office of state. In 1935 Edward VIII abdicated the British throne in order to marry American divorcée Wallis Simpson, over the objections of the British establishment, the governments of the Commonwealth, the royal family and the Church of England.
- What measures does the Prime Minister suggest the Queen should take?
  - Why does the Queen's secretary call Tony Blair?

☞ **Paraphrase the following:**

**Janvrin:** Try to see it from her perspective.



**Janvrin:** And I cannot emphasize enough what affect that had on her. Unexpectedly becoming King as good as killed her father.

## **Episode VIII** (55:45-1:03:32)

☞ **Read the note and questions before watching:**

- **prop-shaft** is a driveshaft which connects an automobile gearbox to a rear differential; карданный вал;
- How does it happen that the Queen knows what exactly is wrong with her car?
- What does the Queen encounter when her Land Rover breaks down?

☞ **Paraphrase the following:**

**Prince Philip:** So it's vital you hold firm. Stick to your guns. You wait. They will come to their senses soon.

## **Episode IX** (1:03:32-1:09:45)

☞ **Read the note and questions before watching:**

- **Cheshire cat grin** is a big and rather silly smile; from a Cheshire cat, character in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, which disappears very slowly until only its big smile is left.
- What does the Prime Minister tell the Queen to prove that the situation became critical?
- What measures does he advise to avert the disaster?
- Whom does the Queen turn to for advice?

### ☞ **Comment on the following:**

**Alastair:** But the flip-side is... "Blair more popular than Churchill shock."

### ☞ **Translate into Russian**

**Alastair:** Statements of support don't sell papers.

**Elizabeth:** Something's happened. There's been a change...a shift of values. When you no longer understand your people, isn't it time to hand over to the next generation?

**Queen Mother:** Certainly not! Remember the oath you took

**Elizabeth:** "I declare that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service."

**Queen Mother:** Your whole life. That's a commitment to God as well as your people.

### **Episode X** (1:09:45-1:19)

### ☞ **Read the notes and questions before watching:**

- **to deliver a televised address** is to give a speech which is broadcast on television;
- **to show remorse for sth** is to feel extremely sorry for sth wrong or bad that you have done.
- Why does the Queen go to the neighbouring estate to see the stag? Why do you think it appears in the film in the first place?

### ☞ **Translate into Russian**

**Alastair:** 'The Times': "PALACE BENDS THE KNEE TO BLAIR."

'The Sun': "QUEEN CAVES IN ON PALACE FLAG."

'The Express': "DOWNING STREET STEPS IN TO SAVE QUEEN."

'The Mirror': "A QUIET WORD FROM TONY BLAIR AND THE NATION GETS ITS WISH."

**Tony:** You know when you get it wrong, you really get it wrong. That woman has given her whole life in service to her people - fifty years doing a job she never wanted - a job she watched kill her father. She's executed it with dignity, honour and, as far as I can tell, without a single blemish - and now we line up paying for her blood - why? Because she's struggling to lead the world in mourning for a woman who threw everything she offered back in her face, and who seemed, in the last few years, to be committed twenty-four seven to destroy everything she holds dear.

## **Episode XI** (1:19-1:27)

☞ **Read the questions before watching:**

- What extraordinary ability does Tony Blair think the Queen has?
- What effect did Earl Spencer's speech have on people?

☞ **Comment on the following:**

**Cherie:** Listen to you! A week ago you were the great moderniser, making speeches about the "People's Princess", now you've gone weak at the knees... I don't know why I'm surprised. At the end of the day all Labour Prime Ministers go ga-ga for the Queen.

☞ **Translate into Russian:**

**Elizabeth:** May those who died rest in peace.

**Earl Spencer:** <Diana was> someone with a natural nobility who was classless and who proved in the last year that she needed no royal title to continue to generate a particular brand of magic.

## Episode XII (1:27- 1:38)

☞ **Read the notes and questions before watching:**

- ***a tough stance on sth*** is a strong opinion that is stated publicly;
  - ***humility*** is the quality of not thinking that you are better than other people; the quality of being humble;
  - ***to wear one's heart on one's sleeve*** is to allow your feelings to be seen by other people.
- What was it that disconcerted and bothered the Queen after the tragic events? What words does the Prime Minister find to comfort the Queen?

☞ **Comment on the following:**

**Cherie:** So? Off to see your girlfriend?

**Tony:** Now, now.

**Tony:** The circumstances were exceptional, Ma'am. And in the end, you showed great personal strength, courage, and humility.

**Elizabeth:** You're confusing humility with humiliation.

**Elizabeth:** Duty first... self second.

☞ **Paraphrase the following:**

**Tony:** I meant to tell you at the time but you were being monopolised rather.

### Final Discussion

#### **I. How strong was the case for abolition of the monarchy in the UK in 1997?**

Here is what some of the film characters said on the monarchy and the royal family:

1. **Charles:** My mother.....the Queen, comes from a generation at best equipped to.....she grew up in the war... I think what we need, what the country needs is to be led by someone ..."of today". If you follow? Balmoral is..
2. **Tony:** It's unimaginable this country being a republic. Certainly in her lifetime... No one wants it. It's just...daft.
3. **Cherie:** Apparently, one in six people now support the idea of getting rid of the Monarchy.
4. **Secretary** (reads newspapers): "Show us there's a heart in the House of Windsor," says the Sun. "It proves, the Royals are not like us", the Mirror. "Time to change the Old Guard at Buckingham Palace". The Independent, "The Windsors Still Don't Understand Us."
5. **A draft of Tony's speech:** "People have been yearning for a change in this country." Good. "The result is a quiet revolution now taking place. Led by the real modernisers. The British People."
6. **Alastair:** The Sun - "Where is our Queen? Where is her flag?" The Express, "Show us you care", with a picture of a grumpy Queen. The Mail - "Let the Flag Fly at half-mast", and inside, "The Queen should be here to show her respects."
7. **Tony:** Ma'am, a poll that's to be published in tomorrow's paper suggests 70% of people believe your actions have damaged the monarchy and one in four are now in favour of abolishing the monarchy altogether.
8. **Elizabeth:** Something's happened. There's been a change...a shift of values.. When you no longer understand your people, isn't it time to hand over to the next generation?  
**Queen Mother:** Certainly not! Remember the oath you took  
**Elizabeth:** "I declare that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service."  
**Queen Mother:** Your whole life. That's a commitment to God as well as your people.  
**Elizabeth:** It's just no one seems to value tradition or constancy any more.

**Elizabeth:** You don't feel that what respect or affection people might once have had for... this institution has been diminished?

**Tony:** Not at all.

☞ **Agree or disagree with the following:**

The case for reform is simple and obvious. It is in principle wrong and absurd that people should wield power on the basis of birth, not merit or election.

**Give your case for or against abolition of the monarchy.**

**II. What was the role of the fourth estate in the critical situation?**

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Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English Online. <http://www.ldoceonline.com/>  
<http://www.royal.gov.uk/output/Page1.asp>