

# 18 Royalty: Do they Cost too Much?

## How much does the Queen cost?

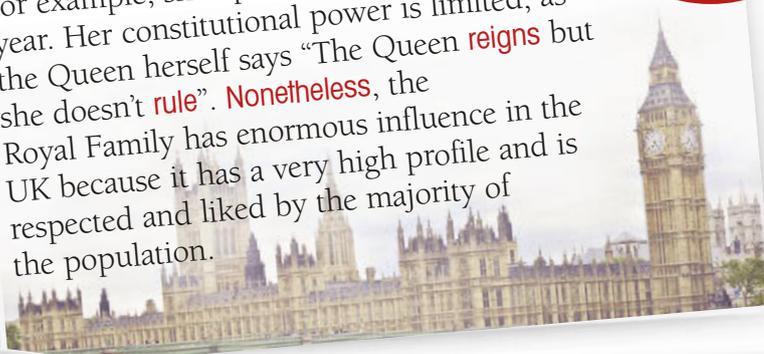
British **taxpayers** pay the Royal Family directly about £40 million a year.

They have additional security costs of about £50 million a year.



## What kind of life does a monarch have?

Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of State in the United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland. She is also officially monarch of 16 Commonwealth **realms** including Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Her role as monarch is almost completely ceremonial, for example, she opens Parliament every year. Her constitutional power is limited, as the Queen herself says "The Queen **reigns** but she doesn't **rule**". **Nonetheless**, the Royal Family has enormous influence in the UK because it has a very high profile and is respected and liked by the majority of the population.



**realms** = regni  
**reigns** = regna  
**rule** = governa  
**nonetheless** = tuttavia  
**taxpayers** = contribuenti  
**works** = opere  
**maintenance** = manutenzione

glossary



## The Queen's Assets

The Queen has a personal fortune of £270 million which makes her the 214th richest person in the UK. However, the Royal Art Collection which contains over 200,000 **works** of art is valued at £10 billion.

## Does the Queen always wear a crown?

In 1945 the Queen qualified as a mechanic in the Army, so she's really good at car **maintenance** and loves driving her Land Rover around Balmoral Castle in Scotland.



1 Look at this list of the European countries and underline those which have monarchies today.

Austria - Belgium - Bulgaria - Czech Republic - Denmark - Estonia - Finland - France - Germany - Greece - Hungary - Ireland - Italy - Lithuania - Luxembourg - Netherlands - Norway - Poland - Portugal - Romania - Slovenia - Spain - Sweden - Switzerland - United Kingdom

2 In the texts above there are lots of word cognates. Use a dictionary to help you write their definitions.

ceremonial - Commonwealth - community - constitutional - correspondence



**duties** = doveri  
**charities** = istituti di carità  
**self-development** = sviluppo personale  
**portraits** = ritratti

glossary

## What does the Royal Family do for the nation?

Outside State **duties**, the Royal Family works hard to support good causes. Between them, the Queen and Prince Philip support over 1,300 **charities**. The 'Duke of Edinburgh Award' is a programme of voluntary activities which encourages **self-development**, commitment, responsibility and service to the community. Over 4 million young people in the UK have participated since it began in 1956.



## Queen's activities

During her reign which began on 2th June ....., the Queen has received over ..... pieces of correspondence, sent over ..... telegrams to people in the UK and the Commonwealth on their ..... birthday and hosted around ..... people at Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace or the Palace of Holyroodhouse. She has launched ..... ships, sent about ..... Christmas cards and posed for ..... official **portraits**.



3 Listen to the account of the Queen's activities during her reign and complete the text with the missing words.



100,000 - 1,1 million - 139 - 1953 - 37,500 - 3 million - 23 - 100th

4 Work in pairs. Imagine you are a monarch. Talk about five things that you like about being a monarch and five things you don't like. Consider these ideas.



- You have different residences.
- You have many State duties.
- You travel to many different countries.
- You have excellent service wherever you go.
- You have little privacy.



English Humour  
 Why is England so wet?  
 Because the Queen  
 has reigned (rained) for  
 more than 50 years!