

# WEEKLY ENGLISH PRACTICE

## God Save King Charles?

King Charles III will be crowned on 6th May in a £100m medieval ceremony paid for by the tax-payer. Coach John uncovers some unusual facts about the new monarch.



### He still takes his childhood teddy bear everywhere.

King Charles' childhood **stuffed** bear goes by the name of Teddy. As a child, Charles slept with Teddy every night, and in his teenage years, he took Teddy to school to combat **homesickness** and unhappiness.

Even as an adult it travels everywhere with him. When it loses a button or begins to **fray**, his childhood **nanny** has to mend Teddy.

### A confessed adulterer.

He publicly admitted cheating on Princess Diana in 1994, which today, as head of the Church of England, should have barred him from ascending the throne.

### He has a really long name.

When he was a prince, his full name and titles were; His Royal Highness Prince Charles Philip Arthur George, Prince of Wales, KG, KT, GCB, OM, AK, QSO, PC, ADC, Earl of Chester, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland.

### He's a picky eater (to say the least).

Not only does he insist on having his eggs boiled for exactly seven minutes, he also asks to have tea, muffins and seven boiled eggs served to him every day between 4 and 5 p.m.

But his **pickiness** doesn't just stop there: He also asks his chefs to put poached eggs on top of every meal, steam his vegetables in a specific type of mineral water, and make his orange and **damson gin** from the fruits grown at Highgrove, one of his palaces.

### His daily routines.

According to Princess Diana's ex-butler, Paul Burrell, "His pyjamas are pressed every morning, his shoelaces are pressed flat with an iron, the bath plug has to be in a certain position, and the water temperature has to be just tepid, in a bathtub filled only half full.

The king even "has his **valets** squeeze one inch of toothpaste onto his toothbrush every morning." Afterwards he starts his strict breakfast routine.

"Wherever the prince goes in the world, the breakfast box goes with him. He has six different types of honey, some special mueslis, his dried fruit and anything that's a bit special that he is a bit **fussy** about."

Along with his breakfast box, King Charles allegedly sends a van of his possessions to his friends' country houses ahead of his arrival to unload his "bed, furniture and even pictures," Tina Brown reported in 'The Palace Papers'.

It is said he even brings his own toilet seat and *Kleenex Velvet* toilet paper wherever he goes.

### He sleeps in the nude.

*...Now, try and get rid of that mental image before it scars your brain!*



by ECP coach

**John Hird**

## Word list

**stuffed:** filled with something

**homesickness:** feeling sad because of a longing for home or family while away from them

**fray:** to (cause to) become worn into loose threads at the edge or end

**nanny:** a person employed to look after children in their own home. (Mary Poppins was a nanny)

**pickiness:** the state of being fussy or finicky; too particular

**damson gin:** a liqueur, usually homemade, made from damson plums macerated in a sugar and gin syrup for eight weeks or more. Vodka is sometimes used in place of gin. The proof will vary somewhat but is generally around 44

**valet:** a male servant who attends to the personal needs of his employer, as by taking care of clothing; manservant.

**fussy:** hard to satisfy or please (See also: **picky**)

## Let's chat about that!

1. Give a summary of the text to your coach and/or classmates.
2. What did Charles confess to in 1994?
3. Do you remember what happened to his ex-wife Diana?
4. Why do the royals have such long names and so many titles?
5. What is Charles picky about? Are you picky about some things?
6. Would you like to have a butler and a some valets? What would you ask them to do for you?
7. Are you a republican or a monarchist?

## Learning to Learn: Royal Idioms

Look at this list of **royal idioms** and their definitions. Choose five and use them in a sentence. Share with your classmates and/or send them to your ECP Coach.

**Queen Bee:** a woman who is in a favoured or preeminent position

**Crown jewels:** the jewellery, including the regalia, used by a sovereign on a state occasion. Used colloquially to signify anything which is considered very important or valuable

**Jewel in the crown:** the most valuable or successful part of something

**Prince Charming:** a man who embodies a woman's romantic ideal / a man who avidly seeks the attention and affections of women; a ladies' man

**Royal road to...:** an easy way of attaining something

**A Royal Pain (informal):** American expression for someone who is exceedingly troublesome or irritating to have around

**Drama Queen:** a person who tends to react to every situation in an overdramatic or exaggerated manner

**Live like a king:** to live in a very comfortable way, with a lot more money than you need

**King's ransom:** an extremely large amount of money

**Hold court:** to act as the center of attention for one's admirers

**Crowning glory:** the best/most notable aspect of something

**On the (porcelain) throne:** using the toilet

**To court someone:** to flatter or flirt with someone with the hope of winning their favour