

# THOUSANDS QUEUE FOR QUEEN

Sept 19th, 2022

**WARM-UP QUESTIONS:** *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. Who or what is on the money of your country? Do you know without looking? Try to say before you check.
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it is about?

**VOCABULARY:** *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Queue                | a) a person that goes to a funeral, a person that is sad because someone died       |
| 2. Pay (one's) respects | b) a box in which a dead person is buried   |
| 3. Coffin               | c) to wait in a line to do something  |
| 4. Mourner              | d) the king or queen of a country and their family                                  |
| 5. Empire               | e) the leader of a country, though not always a person with political power         |
| 6. Monarchy             | f) a group of countries ruled by a single country                                   |
| 7. Ceremonial           | g) a chair used by a king or queen during ceremonies, the position of king or queen |
| 8. Throne               | h) for the purposes of ceremony and tradition                                       |
| 9. Head of state        | i) to visit someone as a sign of respect  |

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**LISTEN:** *Listen to the audio track on [eslnewsstories.com](http://eslnewsstories.com) or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text (below).*

In the streets of London, thousands of people are queueing to pay their respects to Queen Elizabeth II, who recently died. The queen's \_\_\_\_\_ is in a coffin in Westminster Hall. Mourners wait for as long as thirteen and a half hours for the chance to walk by the coffin.

Elizabeth, who was ninety-six years old, said her role was to serve the people of Britain and its former empire. Although the British monarchy does \_\_\_\_\_ have formal political power, the queen was often busy with ceremonial duties. She spent seventy years on the throne - more than any other

British king or queen. She was widely respected and \_\_\_\_\_ by people in England and around the world.

The death of Queen Elizabeth II means that her first-born child, Charles, is now King Charles III. This will bring other changes. For example, an \_\_\_\_\_ of the queen is on the money in countries where she is the head-of-state. Newly made money in many countries will feature an image of Charles.

For the people queueing to see the queen’s coffin, a \_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere turned more serious as they got closer to Westminster Hall. The Queen’s funeral will be held on September 19th at Westminster Abbey. Other royals and world \_\_\_\_\_ will be there.

**WORD FORMS:** *Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is unimportant for ESL students, has a different meaning, or does not exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
queue		x	
			mourner
x			empire
x	ceremonial		

**FULL STORY:**

In the streets of London, thousands of people are queueing to pay their respects to Queen Elizabeth II, who recently died. The queen’s body is in a coffin in Westminster Hall. Mourners wait for as long as thirteen and a half hours for the chance to walk by the coffin.

Elizabeth, who was ninety-six years old, said her role was to serve the people of Britain and its former empire. Although the British monarchy does not have formal political power, the queen was often busy with ceremonial duties. She spent seventy years on the throne - more than any other British king or queen. She was widely respected and loved by people in England and around the world.

The death of Queen Elizabeth II means that her first-born child, Charles, is now King Charles III. This will bring other changes. For example, an image of the queen is on the money in countries where she is the head of state. Newly made money in many countries will feature an image of Charles.

For the people queueing to see the queen's coffin, a friendly atmosphere turned more serious as they got closer to Westminster Hall. The Queen's funeral will be held on September 19th at Westminster Abbey. Other royals and world leaders will be there.

Sources: reuters.com, nytimes.com, bbc.com  
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

**COMPREHENSION:** *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. In London, people are waiting for hours. ( T / F )
2. Elizabeth was queen for seventy years. ( T / F )
3. The new queen is called Charles. ( T / F )
4. World leaders will go to the queen's funeral. ( T / F )

**COMPLETE:** *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. death / a lot of / sad / about / the / people / queen's / are
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2. charles / there / money / will / be / on / with / it
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**DISCUSSION:** *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. What did you think about this story? Was there any surprising information?
2. Does your country have a royal family? If not, did it have royalty in the past? What happened to them?
3. What are you willing to queue for? How long are you willing to line up for something?
4. Do the deaths of famous people affect you? How? Give an example if you can.
5. What could you do to pass the time in the queue?
6. Are you interested in the British royal family? Why or why not?
7. Have you been to London? How was it? If not, are you interested in going there? To do what?
8. People say that we should not have royalty anymore because we have new forms of government. What do you think?
9. Why do we have funerals?

