

Movies & Languages 2012-2013

The Queen

About the movie

DIRECTOR	Stephen Frears
YEAR / COUNTRY	2006 / UK
GENRE	Biography
ACTORS	Helen Mirren, Michael Sheen, James Cromwell, Sylvia Syms, Alex Jennings



PLOT

After the death of Princess Diana, HRM Queen Elizabeth II struggles with her reaction to a sequence of events nobody could have predicted.

Diana, the 'People's Princess', has died in a car accident in Paris. The Queen and her family decide that for the best, they should remain hidden behind the closed doors of Balmoral Castle. The heartbroken public do not understand and request that the Queen comforts her people. This also puts pressure on newly elected Tony Blair, who constantly tries to convince the monarchy to address the public.

LANGUAGE

"Queen's" English is the most proper and dignified pronunciation and use of the English language.

GRAMMAR

Past Simple or Past Continuous

Examples:

Yesterday I met an old friend (past action, past time).

While I was working (action in progress at a past moment),
the bell rang (past action, past time).

Tom came in, took off his hat, and sat down (past narrative, sequence of actions).

Every day he came to see me (habit in the past).

While Mary was playing, Tom was singing (two actions of parallel duration shown by two continuous tenses).

I was going to speak (= was about to speak or intended to speak) *when Tom got up*.

VOCABULARY

To draw the curtains: to cause a curtain to slide or move, either closing or unclosing	Balmoral Castle: a Scottish castle, home of the Queen, holiday accommodation for fly fishing
To bow: to bend the knee or body or incline the head, as in reverence, submission, salutation, recognition, or acknowledgment	Craggy Head: a place in Durham " - <i>I'll take them for a long walk up Craggy Head.</i> - <i>Yes, but no guns, Phillip. It is Sunday.</i> "
To cut short: it is a long story but to shorten it/ to abbreviate it	Creeping up: to move with the body close to the ground as on hands and knees. To move stealthily or cautiously
Stick to your guns: keep your position even though people attack or criticise you	To grovel: to behave in a servile or demeaning manner
Curtsey, Curtsy: an obeisance by women, made by bending the knees. To make or "drop" a curtsy	Coffin: a funerary box used in the display and containment of dead people, either for burial or cremation
Soliloquy: an utterance or discourse by a person who is speaking as if to himself or herself revealing and relating to thoughts and feelings	Staunch: steadfast in loyalty or principle
Union Jack: the flag of the United Kingdom	Remorse: an emotional expression personal regret felt by a person after he or she has committed an act which they deem to be shameful, hurtful, or violent
To wear one's heart on one's sleeve: to display one's feelings openly and habitually, rather than keep them private	Sovereign: a monarch; a king, queen, or other supreme ruler
Grief: a multi-faceted response to loss, particularly to the loss of someone or something to which a bond was formed	A draft: a rough written version of something that is not yet in its final form Ex: <i>he was on the third draft of the speech, but still wanted to make some changes</i>