



Queen Elizabeth II

# *Christmas Speech*

25 December 2020

handout with exercises



## *pre-viewing questions*

1. Do you know what the Queen commented on in her Christmas speech in 2019?
2. What issues might be covered in her 2020 speech? What might be the general tone of her speech?
3. Which of the following words might be used in the speech? In what context?



**festive, COVID19, Easter, Diwali,  
pandemic, goat, crib, vaccine,  
Jesus, succeed, overnight, closer,  
Nightingale, New Year's Eve**



*Now watch the video:  
and answer the questions below*



1. What is the general spirit of the speech?
2. Which words from the box above are used?
3. What topics are brought up by the Queen?
4. Who is in the photo on the Queen's desk?
5. Are there any metaphors or similes used in the speech?
6. What is Diwali?
7. What should guide us according to the Queen?

## *post viewing activity*

- ★ Note down 3 new words/expressions would like to remember from Her Majesty's Christmas speech.
- ★ Look up their meanings and see in what contexts they are used
- ★ Write example sentences.



## *Follow-up activity*

1. What does **deepfake** mean?
2. Look up an Urban Dictionary definition of "**deepfake**".
3. Watch the deepfake of the Queen's Christmas speech made by Channel 4:



4. What emotions does the video evoke?
5. Is it rude?
6. Where is the fun?
7. What similarities between the speeches can you notice?  
What characteristics of the Queen's style are enhanced?
8. What references to 2020 are made?

*Merry  
Christmas!*



# Answer key

## pre-viewing questions

1. Among others: 50th anniversary of landing on the moon, D-Day, 8th great-grandchild being born.
2. Coronavirus, Australia wildfires, Meghan and Harry leaving the Royal Family, Brexit...

## while viewing questions

1. Positive, uplifting, comforting, applauding.
2. Festive, Easter, Diwali, Nightingale, closer, Jesus, succeed.
3. COVID (not directly - as challenges of the year, small heroes), NHS, the birth of Jesus, Unknown Warrior Memorial.
4. Prince Philip
5. (...) shone a lamp of hope (...) our front-line services still shine that lamp for us, even on the darkest nights there's hope in the new dawn, parable of the good Samaritan - good Samaritans have emerged across society.
6. Indian festival of lights.
7. Light of Christmas, spirit of selflessness, love and hope.

## follow-up activity

- 1/2. "Deepfake" is an advanced technique for human image synthesis based on artificial intelligence.
4. It might be funny for some people, but some might think it is too much.
5. It might be, but it was not the intention.
6. It ridicules the typical features of the Queen's speeches. The convention is based on what the Queen could say if she wasn't restricted by the protocol.
7. The tone, the structure of the sentences, a theme.
8. Toilet paper shortages, Meghan and Harry leaving the Family scandal with Prince Andrew in North America, NHS, Boris Johnson, angel in wearing a facemask on the tree, Netflix and Phil (instead of Netflix and chill).



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