
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Record-breaking royal

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NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

A historic day that one of the UK's biggest royal fans has been looking forward to.

Queen Elizabeth II has now **overtaken** Queen Victoria as the UK's **longest-serving** monarch. Victoria was on the throne for 63 years, seven months and two days.

Margaret Tyler, the **self-styled** 'queen of royal **memorabilia**', has turned her house into a **shrine** to Britain's royals.

Each room is dedicated to a member of the family. But Queen Elizabeth has two rooms all to herself.

Vocabulary

overtaken
gone past

longest-serving
person in a position for the most amount of time

self-styled
named by herself

memorabilia
objects collected which are connected to an event or person

shrine
(here) a place to pay respect to a person or institution

Watch this video online: Record-breaking royal <http://bbc.in/1IY8wCg>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports.

Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

overtaken / longest-serving / self-styled / memorabilia / shrine

1. South African police are investigating the raid of a church run by a _____ prophet accused of making his followers eat snakes, rats and hair.
2. The Hobbit has been _____ by Taken 3 at the top of the North American box office chart after spending three weeks in the top spot.
3. A postbox in Bristol has been turned into a _____ by people upset about a decision to remove it.
4. A firefighter who trained to follow in his father's footsteps is retiring after 47 years of service. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue service said Chris Thompson was the _____ firefighter in its history.
5. A collection of _____ devoted to George IV's only child Princess Charlotte, who died giving birth nearly 200 years ago, is to go on sale.

Answers

1. South African police are investigating the raid of a church run by a **self-styled** prophet accused of making his followers eat snakes, rats and hair.

Source: South Africa police investigate 'snake pastor' church raid
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-33846897>

2. The Hobbit has been **overtaken** by Taken 3 at the top of the North American box office chart after spending three weeks in the top spot.

Source: The Hobbit overtaken by Taken 3 at US box office
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-30777391>

3. A postbox in Bristol has been turned into a **shrine** by people upset about a decision to remove it.

Source: Doomed postbox turned into shrine
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/bristol/8183378.stm>

4. A firefighter who trained to follow in his father's footsteps is retiring after 47 years of service. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue service said Chris Thompson was the **longest-serving** firefighter in its history.

Source: Longest-serving Staffordshire firefighter retires
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-23683828>

5. A collection of **memorabilia** devoted to George IV's only child Princess Charlotte, who died giving birth nearly 200 years ago, is to go on sale.

Source: George IV's daughter Princess Charlotte items to be sold in Essex
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-34101696>