

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 6

#128 Kings and Queens in the Present World— Emperor Naruhito

Skills/ Objectives: Reading, Listening and Writing Skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

Qt 1: What comes to mind when you hear about emperors in your study of history?

Qt 2: While most emperors are felt to be aggressive and belligerent, some have proven themselves as peace lovers. Can you name anyone like this?

The answers to Qts 1 and 2 will be provided in the next set of exercises.

Vocabulary

- abdicate (verb): to give up a position as king or queen.
- emeritus (noun): no longer having a position, but keeping the title of the position.
- regalia (noun): special clothes and decorations, especially those used at official ceremonies.
- shrine (noun): a place for worship that is holy because of a connection with a holy person.
- heir (noun): a person who will legally inherit a title from another person.
- ceremonial (adjective): about very formal and polite behavior.
- diplomat (noun): a person who officially represents a country's interests in a foreign country.

PART 2: Article for Reading

The following BBC article briefly tells of three generations of Japan's emperors:

Naruhito: Japan's new emperor pledges to be symbol of unity

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-48101637>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Royal families are steeped in tradition and so they are understandably conservative. With the Japanese, the royal family is faced with one insurmountable problem: the lack of a male heir. Watch the following short video clips to learn more about Emperor Naruhito and his enviably educated wife, Empress Masako:

New Emperor of Japan, Naruhito, ascends the Chrysanthemum throne

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/new-emperor-of-japan-reiwa-era-naruhito-ascends-chrysanthemum-throne-today-2019-05-01/>

Crown Princess Masako admits in unusual statement that she feels 'insecure' about her role

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yty-8qKxcuc>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Did you notice the nice description in the following sentence from the main text?

Naruhito succeeds his father, 85-year-old Akihito, who abdicated citing his age and failing health.

When the popular Emperor Akihito decided to “abdicate” (meaning, to give up his position as emperor, *not* because he was impeached or overthrown, but voluntarily), the Japanese people must have expected a good reason. To “cite” here means to mention something because it explains why something else happens. Its use is close to “for the reason of.” Another example of its use is as follows:

Johnson resigned from the board of directors after just six months, citing differences of opinion.

Can you write a sentence of your own using “citing”? Send your writing to: **see.u@cccu.edu.hk**. Remember! Our **SEE U** teachers are always ready to give you feedback.