



## The private and public man

2 Charles is eccentric, and he admits it. He talks to trees and plants. He wants to save wildlife, but enjoys hunting, shooting, and fishing. He dresses for dinner, even if he's eating alone. He's a great socializer. Poets, artists, writers, broadcasters, politicians, actors and singers all eat at his table. Arriving at Highgrove, his family home, on a Saturday afternoon in time for a stiff Martini, guests are entertained in the height of luxury. They are then sent on their way before lunch on Sunday, having been shown round his beautifully-kept gardens.

The Prince also entertains extravagantly at Sandringham, one of the Queen's homes, at least twice a year. There are picnic lunches on the beach, expeditions to local churches, and lavish dinners with organic food from Highgrove. Conversation is lively, but the heir to the throne has to be careful what he says, because he knows only too well that anything he says in private may be repeated in public.

The future monarch that we don't see is a man of great humour, who cares passionately about the state of the British nation, and is devoted to his two children, William and Harry. He is madly in love with 'his darling wife', which is how he refers to Camilla in public.



## A dutiful life

3 Together Charles and Camilla perform royal duties, both at home and abroad. He attends over 500 public engagements a year. He visits hospitals, youth groups, performing artists, charities, and business conferences. He hosts receptions to welcome visiting heads of state and VIPs. He travels abroad extensively, as an ambassador to the United Kingdom, representing trade and industry. He works hard to promote greater understanding between different religions. He is also President of the Prince's Charities, which are active in promoting education, business, the environment, the arts, and opportunities for young people. The group raises over £110 million annually.

Camilla shares Charles' passion for hunting, and also his interest in conservation of towns and countryside. The one thing she leaves to Charles is skiing. She prefers to stay at home when he makes his annual trip to Klosters in Switzerland.



## Everything except the top job

4 Since his second marriage, Prince Charles has everything he wants except, as Diana (who was killed in a car accident in 1997) used to call it, 'the top job'. Yet despite not being on the throne, he has worked hard to accomplish so much. He is concerned about the state of the country he loves, and shows his frustration that governments do little to tackle those problems about which he feels so strongly.

The Prince of Wales has his own food company, Duchy Originals. It originally sold biscuits, but is now expanding to become one of Britain's best-known and most successful organic brands, with over 200 different products, including food, drinks, and hair and body care products.

Charles, well-intentioned, hard-working, conservative and old-fashioned, continues to do his duty as he sees it. But he is no longer alone. One day he will be King, and his darling Camilla will be HRH The Princess Consort.

5 Now you have read the article, have you changed your mind about any of your answers in exercise 3?

### Vocabulary work

Which of these adjectives are positive and which are negative?

*hard-working – positive*

hard-working	bad-tempered
spoilt	eccentric
sociable	old-fashioned
frustrated	passionate
successful	well-intentioned

Give an example of Charles' life or behaviour that illustrates each adjective.

*hard-working – He performs a lot of royal duties, and does charity work.*

### Discussion

- What do you know about the attitude of the British people to their royal family?
- What countries do you know that have a royal family? Are the members of the family popular? What do they do?