

Reading

1a Read the article. Then match the dates and events.

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| 1 1895 | a Albert became king. |
| 2 1936 | b War with Germany started. |
| 3 1939 | c Prince Albert was born. |
| 4 1952 | d George VI died. |

The Shy Prince

We usually think that kings and queens have an easy life. In 1936, a shy prince became King George VI. Why? His brother left the job. But the shy prince didn't want to be a monarch. In fact, he never expected to be king. So who was George VI?

His real name was Albert and he was born in 1895. He was the second of six children. His older brother, Edward, was the heir, so Albert never thought about it much. Edward was good-looking and comfortable in front of the public. In 1936, he became king when their father died.



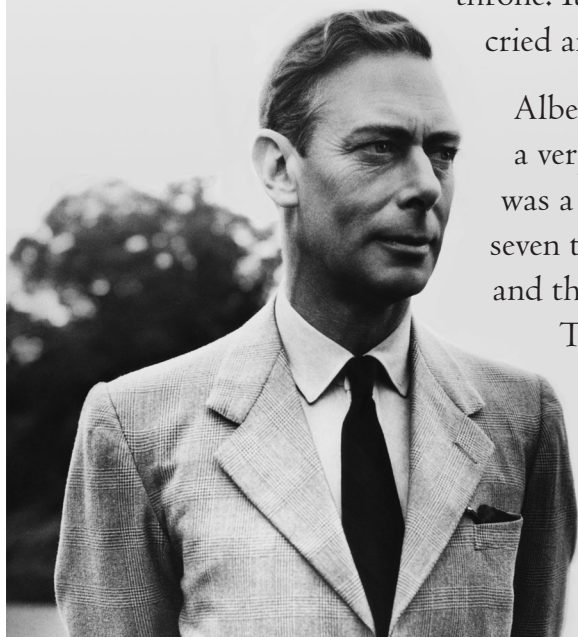
Albert wasn't very healthy and he had a stammer. He was clever, but his stammer made life very difficult. It made it hard for him to give public speeches. He hated doing it.

Edward soon discovered that he preferred his private life to the boring job of king. He wanted to marry an American woman, so he couldn't be King. In less than a year, Edward left the throne. It was Albert's job now. He wrote in his diary that he cried and was very upset.

Albert decided to use the name George VI. He ruled during a very difficult period in history. From 1939 to 1945, there was a war with Germany. Bombs hit Buckingham Palace seven times. But the King spoke to the people on the radio, and they loved and admired him. His speech improved.

Today historians say George VI probably saved the monarchy.

He died in 1952 when he was 56. He didn't want to be king – but he did a good job.



**1b Answer the questions.**

- 1 Who was the king before Albert?
Edward was the King before Albert.
- 2 Why didn't Albert like making speeches?
- 3 Why did Albert become king instead of Edward?
- 4 Was Albert happy when he became king?
Why/Why not?
- 5 What name did Albert use when he was king?
- 6 How many times did bombs hit Buckingham Palace?
- 7 What do historians say about Albert?
- 8 How old was Albert when he died?

1c Read the statements and correct the false information.

- 1 In 1936, Albert became King Edward VI.
In 1936, Albert became King George VI.
- 2 He was the youngest of six children.

- 3 It was easy for him to give public speeches.

- 4 Prince Edward was good looking and uncomfortable in front of the public.

- 5 George VI ruled during an easy period in history.

- 6 He didn't do a good job.

Writing: Over to you...**2a Read the fact file about the life of Neil Armstrong. Then complete the biography.****FACT FILE Neil Armstrong****5th August 1930** Born in Ohio, USA**1950-1953** Flew planes in the Korean War**1962** Joined NASA as a test pilot**1966** First space mission (Gemini 8)**1969** First man on the Moon (Apollo 11)**1971** Became university professor in Cincinnati, Ohio

Quick fact! Neil Armstrong flew more than 200 different planes in his life.



Neil Armstrong is one of the most famous people in history. He was born on ¹*5th August* 1930 in ²_____, USA. From 1950 to 1953, he flew planes in the Korean War. In 1962, he ³_____ NASA as a test pilot. He flew his first space mission (⁴_____ 8) in 1966. He was the first man on the Moon in ⁵_____. In 1971 he became a ⁶_____ professor in Cincinnati, Ohio. He flew more than 200 ⁷_____ in his life.

2b Write a biography of your life. Use the biography in Exercise 2a as a model.
