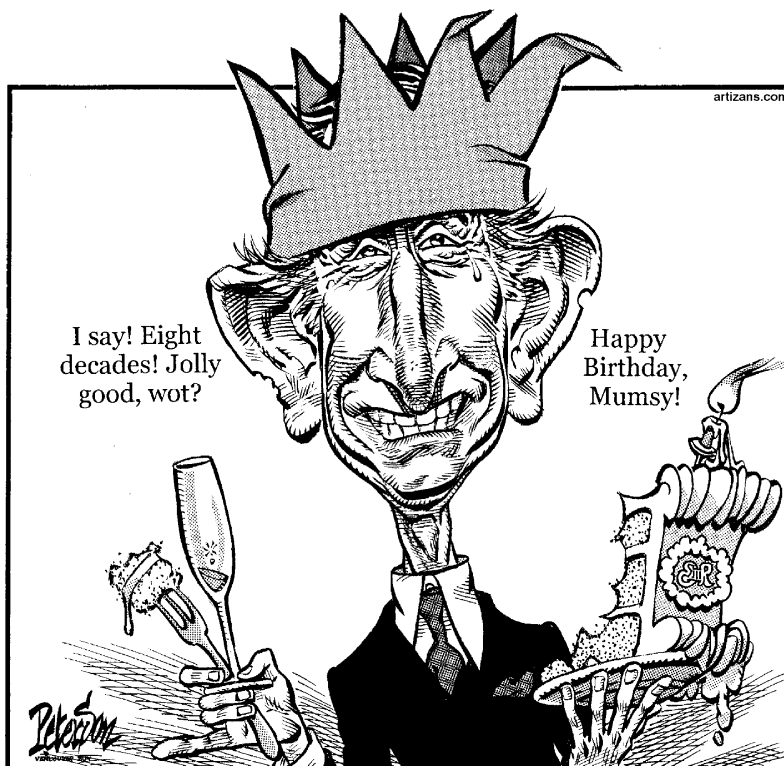


Describing and analyzing¹ cartoons

1 A political cartoon about the British monarchy

Step 1 Brainstorming

Look at the cartoon below. What do you think of when you see it? Write down your ideas in keywords.



jolly ['dʒɒli] – here: really

Step 2 The elements of cartoon analysis

- a) Read the information in the TIP box below before you go on to b).
Make sure you understand everything.

TIP

Analyzing cartoons

- A cartoon usually has two parts: a picture and a text. The combination of both makes us laugh because it often makes fun of events or people that are in the news at that time.

The following devices are often used:

exaggeration² – irony – contrast between picture and text – symbols

- In analyzing a cartoon, you should think about the following aspects:
When was it drawn?
Who drew it?
Who was it drawn for?
Where was it first published³?

Sometimes, however, you won't have all the information you need and may have to do further research.

¹to analyze ['ænləɪz] – analysieren • ²exaggeration [ɪg,zædʒɪ'eɪʃn] – Übertreibung • ³to publish ['pʌblɪʃ] – veröffentlichen

b) Now answer the following questions in keywords or short sentences. The answers will help you to do Step 3.

1. Who is being shown? (For further information, see the information box below.)
2. What is he celebrating?
3. How does the man feel? Is he happy or sad or angry? Why?
4. Which elements does the cartoonist use to make the cartoon funny?
5. What does the cartoonist want to tell us with the cartoon?
6. Do you like the cartoon? Give reasons.

Step 3 Write a cartoon analysis

With the help of the information in the TIP box on page 1, write a short analysis of the Prince Charles cartoon, in full sentences.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Prince Charles – his full name is Charles Philip Arthur George Mountbatten-Windsor – is the oldest son of Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- He was born on 14 November 1948. In 1958, he became Prince of Wales, which is the official title of the heir to the British throne.
- Since then, he has been waiting to do the one thing he was born to do: become king. But his mother has said several times that being monarch is a 'job for life'; she will be queen until she dies. That could mean that Charles still has many more years to wait: His mother is in her 80s and perfectly healthy, and *her* mother lived to be 101! So Charles may not be able to do his 'job' until he is in his 70s or even 80s.



2 Internet task: More cartoons about the British royal family

There are a lot of cartoons about the British 'Royals'.
Look for cartoons you think are funny on one of the following subjects:

- Queen Elizabeth II
- Charles's first wife
- Charles's second wife
- the royal family in general (im Allgemeinen)

Then, pick your favourite one, and analyze it in a short text as you did above.

TIP

Looking for cartoons

- There are many cartoon websites that you can search for by search word or subject.
- Big British newspapers, e.g. *The Times*, and magazines often have good cartoons, too.

Lösungen

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 1

1

Step 1

Prince Charles – celebrating sth. (champagne, cake); half funny, half sad (is he laughing? is he crying?); he looks a bit silly (crown on his head)

Lösungsvorschläge Seite 2

Step 2

b)

1. Prince Charles
2. He is celebrating his mother's 80th birthday ('eight decades' – 'Happy Birthday' – 'Mummys')
3. – It looks like a party atmosphere (cake, champagne) at first, but Charles isn't really smiling, and he's crying.
 - Every year his mother is on the throne, it's another year Charles *isn't* on the throne. And he isn't young himself; so it's no surprise that he isn't happy about celebrating his mum's 80th birthday.
4. – cheap-looking (paper?) crown on head; not a real gold crown → makes Charles look silly
 - huge ears, nose and head
 - the huge head on a little body makes Charles look like a (silly) child
5. The cartoonist might have wanted to make Charles look like a big baby / somebody who has never grown up (or had the chance to grow up) and has never been able to do the job he was born to do.
6. *Individuelle Schülerlösungen*

Step 3

The cartoon by Roy Peterson was published on the Internet and it shows Prince Charles celebrating the 80th birthday of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. Prince Charles is wearing a black suit and tie and a cheap-looking crown on his head. He is holding a huge piece of cake in one hand and a glass of champagne and a fork (with some cake on it) in the other. When you first look at the cartoon, you might think the atmosphere is a happy party atmosphere. But when you look at it a second time, you see that Charles isn't really smiling, and that he is crying; it is clear that he is not happy. The cartoonist has given Charles an extremely big head, huge ears and a huge nose; at the same time Charles has a very small body. The result is that Charles looks like a big child/baby. The message of the cartoon seems to be that Prince Charles cannot really be happy about his mother's 80th birthday because he knows that for every year his mother is the British monarch, it is another year that he himself is *not* monarch. Charles is frustrated because he has waited for so many years, and he may have to wait many more years to be able to do the job he was born to do. For now, he continues to be 'king in waiting'.