

Spot on facts

COMPREHENSION 1 Make a timeline for the brief history of (post)colonisation. Add ... → Δ1

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

1492	<i>'Discovery' of the Americas.</i>
late 16th century	<i>Beginning of the spread of Portuguese, Spanish, English, French, Dutch and German colonies.</i>
1588	British navy defeats the Spanish Armada.
16th/17th century	Trading posts are established around the world.
1607	First British colonies in what would become the US.
17th century	British colonies in the Caribbean, flourishing slave trade.
1770	<i>'Discovery' of Australia by James Cook.</i>
1776	The US declares its independence from Britain.
1807	<i>Colonial slave trade abolished.</i>
1834	<i>Slavery abolished in the British Empire.</i>
1840	Treaties with Maori, British colonies in New Zealand.
1857	Indian Mutiny, increasing military presence of Britain in India.
1865	<i>Slavery abolished in the US.</i>
1876	British Parliament grants the title 'Empress of India' to Queen Victoria.
1880s	<i>British Empire has spread around the world.</i>
before 1900s	<i>Britain 'imports' native people from all over the world.</i>
1907	<i>New Zealand becomes self-governed.</i>
1914–1918	<i>World War I – many soldiers from different parts of the British Empire fight for Britain.</i>
1920s	British Empire comprises one quarter of the earth's land mass.
1931	Canada becomes politically independent. Founding of the 'Commonwealth of Nations'.
1939–1945	<i>World War II – many soldiers from different parts of the British Empire fight for Britain.</i>
after WW II	Era of decolonisation, British Empire falls apart. Increasing immigration of people from (former) parts of the British Empire to Great Britain, eventually leading to multiculturalism in Britain.
1947	India becomes independent, partition into India and Pakistan.
1986	<i>Australia becomes politically independent.</i>

Spot on language

1 Modals are an important feature of the English language. Some modals ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG The Duftoree wasn't an hereditary employment nor was it confined to any particular religion or sect. Both Hindus and Muslims were to be found in this employment. The duty of the Duftoree required they do regular chores and do them with great care. He had to see that every part of the office was clean, the ink-stands filled, the desks properly arranged, the papers dusted, and, in general, have everything ready for the clerks. However, Duftorees were never allowed to/ were never to sweep the floor, that being the exclusive duty of lower servants kept for such purposes only. If the Duftoree had done such a menial job, he would have become an outcast from among his own tribe. A good Duftoree was expected/had to be an expert at making pens and ruling books; and I saw some who had been able to bind books so as to be ready for being covered with leather.

2 Modals can be used to express (moral) obligations. ... → S12.2

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG Individual answers expected. Possible ten-point list:

1. The former colonial powers ought to pay reparations.
2. They should not forget their own mistakes when talking about human rights.
3. They should take a humble look at their own past.
4. They really ought to apologize to the former slaves.
5. They could do more to improve conditions in the former colonies.
6. They might admit more refugees from the former colonies to their countries.
7. They should not boast of having "civilized" Africa.
8. They could appreciate native culture more.
9. They ought to rewrite colonial history.
10. They could give former colonies more power in the UN.

3 Modals are used in if-clauses. What if? Imagine Europe ... → S12.1

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG Individual answers expected. Possible solution:
If Pouchok had discovered Europe in 1453, he might have brought a terrible disease to its shores. If he had brought a terrible disease to Europe, many Europeans would have died. If many Europeans had died, its cultural and technological progress would have stopped. If European progress had stopped, they wouldn't have had the means to send ships to search for 'India'. If the Europeans hadn't sent ships to India, they would never have discovered America. If they hadn't discovered America, the Indians would have had time to develop better weapons and superior technology. If the Indians had had superior weapons and technology, they would have returned to conquer Europe in 1592. If they had conquered Europe, we wouldn't have to learn English today.

4 Translate the following sentences into English. Pay particular ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG When the first settlers arrived in America, they could hardly/were hardly able to understand the natives. They had to learn their language. The settlers needed help to survive the first winter. The next fall/autumn the settlers were able to harvest corn and to celebrate Thanksgiving. They should/ought to have been grateful to the natives forever. Instead they took the land from the natives. That should never have happened.

5 Your pen-pal in New Zealand has written that he considers monarchies ...

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

Dear Tom,

You really cannot seriously want to abolish the British monarchy – it is one of the most important institutions in and for the Commonwealth. Just think of the recent visit of the royals (Prince William, his pretty wife and their lovely baby George) to Australia and New Zealand. Of course, nobody will remember all the speeches held during their two-and-a-half-week visit, the same being true for all the projects that Kate sponsored. However, the young royal family really succeeded in showing the world, the Commonwealth and, in particular, Australia and New Zealand, how lovely it is to have a royal family. This young royal family looked fantastic as they expressed their interest and sympathy to the people they met. Also, they carefully and successfully avoided offending people (doing a much better job than the royal generations before them). William, Kate and little George were welcomed like rock stars, creating an enormous surge of sympathy. Australia's Prime Minister Tony Abbot explained it spot on – having a constitutional monarchy at the top grants his country stability and continuity. He expressed his faith in the British monarchy by claiming that this will be true even when nine-month-old George reigns as George VII. New Zealand's Prime Minister was more reserved on the subject, stating that his country's becoming a republic will be inevitable one day but admitting that the royals have created great enthusiasm.

Summing up, the well prepared visit of the royals marks an important success for London – right now, down under no one is seriously talking of removing Queen Elizabeth II as the head of state. This means a lot to the UK as New Zealand and Australia are not only vital members of the Commonwealth but also some of the most important realms of the British crown who recognise Elizabeth as their queen. As Great Britain is loosening its ties to Europe, it tries to strengthen its ties with the Commonwealth, cooperating economically and militarily. As the monarchy is the most important symbolic link for this Commonwealth, it really would be foolish to abolish the British monarchy.