

1 How would you behave if you met her / his Royal Highness? Tick the correct answer. 

a. When greeting her/his Royal Highness:

- Men must shake hand
- Women must bow their head
- Women must genuflect



d. Her/his Royal Highness:

- Enjoys shaking hands
- Enjoys hugs
- Must be the first to make physical contact



b. During a conversation with her/his Royal Highness:

- You call her/him Ma'am/Sir
- You call her "Her Majesty"/ "His Majesty"
- You call her/him by her/his first name



e. If you meet her/his Royal Highness

- Start a conversation
- Avoid questioning her/him about her/his family
- Ask her/him personal questions



c. When having dinner with her/his Royal Highness:

- There is no rule
- You stop eating when she/he eats
- You eat at the same time



Are you sure?
Is it your last word?



2 Listen to the recording and check your answers.  CD PISTE 47

3 Here is a list of situations. Say if it is possible or not to act this way. Justify using elements from the Protocol. 

a. Men and women can either bow or tilt? **R** **W**

b. You meet her/his Royal Highness for the first time and your first words are: "Ma'am / Sir, I'm very honoured to meet you." **R** **W**

c. You wait for her/his Royal Highness to sit before sitting. **R** **W**

d. You are having dinner but it is time for you to go back home. You say goodbye to her/his Royal Highness and the other guests and you leave. **R** **W**

e. You are standing opposite her/his Royal Highness. Someone calls you and you turn to answer. **R** **W**

f. You want to say thank you to her/his Royal Highness and shake her/his hand but you keep from doing it. **R** **W**

g. You express your happiness for the royal baby's birth and you ask if she/he is happy too. **R** **W**

h. You come from Lyon and you bring her/him some typical chocolates of your city. **R** **W**

Lexical box

- a grip *une poignée*
- and so on and so forth etc.
- to curtsy *faire une révérence*
- to tilt *incliner*

Your Guide to Acting Properly Around the Royal Family

Not everyone gets a chance to meet the British royal family, so if you ever find yourself in the same room as a member of the British royal family, it's good to know how you should behave. Most people adhere to royal protocol, which is a set of social rules that were set up to organise how the family interacts with members of the public.



What Should I Call Them?

5 When you first greet the queen, you should refer to her as "Your Majesty," and call her "ma'am" from then on. Other royals should be referred to as "Your Royal Highness" when you first greet them, then either "sir" or "ma'am" moving forward. This applies to most high-profile royals like Prince Philip, Prince Charles, and Prince Harry.

Should I Curtsy or Bow?

No one, including British subjects, is obligated by law to curtsy or bow to the monarch. However, British subjects who want to keep with tradition and/or show respect to the royals may either curtsy or

bow to them: short and sweet, with a small, not-too-deep curtsy from women and a short bow (from the head only) from gentlemen.

About That Handshake...

20 You shouldn't offer your hand to the monarch to shake. Instead, you should wait for her/him to offer her/his hand to you, then give a very brief (and not too firm) shake. And of course, no touching of the monarch at all - remember when everyone freaked out about First Lady Michelle Obama placing her hand on the queen's back? By the way, this goes for all members of the royal family.

OK, So What Do We Talk About?

Avoid controversial topics, keep saucy jokes to yourself, smile and be pleasant, and don't dominate the conversation. You should not ask the royals direct questions and instead let them guide the conversation.



Can I Ask For a Selfie?

No! Same goes for autographs. You'll just have to hope that people believe you when you say that you rubbed elbows with royalty.



Adapted from: "Your Guide to Acting Properly Around Queen Elizabeth II",
Maria Mercedes Lara,
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