

## **Prince Albert takes charge of Monaco** (Fri 1 Apr, 2005)

### **WARM-UPS**

**CHAT:** Talk in pairs or groups about Monaco / casinos / Formula One / Prince Albert / New York's Central Park / Grace Kelly / being a prince or princess / the world's most eligible bachelors and spinsters / ... Change topic / partner frequently to increase conversation.

**MONACO BRAINSTORM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Monaco. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

**BEING A MONARCH:** Would being the monarch of Monaco be interesting? Write down some ideas about what you would do if you became sovereign of Monaco. Share what you have written with your partner / group. Decide between you who would be the best monarch.

**MONACO FACTS OPINIONS:** Read these facts about Monaco and express your opinion?

- a. Monaco is less than one square mile in size but competes at the Olympics.
- b. Monaco's citizens number about 6,000 (population is 32,000).
- c. Monaco is thought by many to be one of Europe's most fascinating countries.
- d. Monaco holds a Formula One motor race through its streets every May, even though it has a total of 50 km of roads.
- e. There is no income tax in Monaco.
- f. Although smaller than New York's Central Park, Monaco is a country.
- g. The International Athletics Amateur Federation (IAAF) has its headquarters in Monaco.
- h. Prince Albert competed in five Olympic games in the bobsled competition.
- i. The adjective for Monaco is Monegasque and there is a Monegasque language.
- j. Monaco is planning to build an underground railway.
- k. The Monegasque constitution was changed because Prince Albert is unmarried and childless. Power will pass to his sisters.
- l. The birth rate in Monaco is 0.44%.
- m. Monaco became independent in 1419.

## PRE-READING IDEAS

**WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'royal' and 'duty'.

**TRUE FALSE:** Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Monaco is a tiny island in the Caribbean Sea. T / F
- b. Prince Albert is the new monarch of Monaco. T / F
- c. Prince Albert's father, Prince Rainier, is seriously ill in hospital. T / F
- d. Prince Albert will soon become King Albert. T / F
- e. Prince Rainier is Europe's longest reigning monarch. T / F
- f. Monaco is smaller than New York's Central Park. T / F
- g. Prince Rainier married a Hollywood movie actress. T / F
- h. Prince Albert is married with four daughters. T / F

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| (a) officially | ruling           |
| (b) succession | ill              |
| (c) sovereign  | fast-approaching |
| (d) imminent   | sovereign        |
| (e) ailing     | takeover         |
| (f) reigning   | formally         |
| (g) monarch    | desirable        |
| (h) renounced  | shelter          |
| (i) haven      | eschewed         |
| (j) eligible   | monarch          |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article:

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| (a) officially taken        | death of            |
| (b) royal                   | duties              |
| (c) Prince Albert is        | reigning monarch    |
| (d) the imminent            | claim to the throne |
| (e) in a fragile            | haven               |
| (f) Europe's longest        | over                |
| (g) He came to              | condition           |
| (h) renounced her           | in charge           |
| (i) tax                     | eligible bachelors  |
| (j) one of the world's most | power in 1949       |

## GAP FILL

### Prince Albert takes charge of Monaco

**BNE:** Crown Prince Albert of Monaco has \_\_\_\_\_ taken over the royal duties of the Mediterranean principality. It is not yet a \_\_\_\_\_ succession: Prince Albert is in \_\_\_\_\_ because his father is no longer able to perform his role as sovereign. This seems to be in preparation for the imminent death of his seriously \_\_\_\_\_ father, Prince Rainier, 81, who was hospitalized on March 7 and has been in intensive care for a week. The aged Prince is being treated for heart, lung and kidney problems and is in a \_\_\_\_\_ condition. A statement from Monaco's royal palace announced that "From now, the regency is assured by His Serene Highness Prince Albert."

*ailing*  
*charge*  
*officially*  
*fragile*  
*formal*

Prince Rainier Grimaldi III is Europe's longest reigning \_\_\_\_\_. His family has run Monaco for over 700 years. He came to \_\_\_\_\_ in 1949 following the death of his grandfather Prince Louis II. His mother, Princess Charlotte, renounced her claim to the \_\_\_\_\_ to allow her son to reign. After WWII, Rainier turned his tiny land (smaller than New York's Central Park) into a tax haven and \_\_\_\_\_ for the rich and famous. He brought Hollywood to Monaco when in 1956 he married the American movie star Grace Kelly, who was killed in a car crash on one of Monaco's mountain roads in 1982. Prince Albert, their only son, is unmarried and is said to be one of the world's most eligible \_\_\_\_\_.

*throne*  
*power*  
*bachelors*  
*monarch*  
*playground*

## HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on Monaco. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. MONARCH ME:** Write the daily schedule of your life as monarch of country X. Tell the other 'monarchs' about your schedule in your next class.
- 4. MY KINGDOM (OR 'QUEENDOM'):** You are the ruler of your land. You have been given power to change five things about your country. Write down some brief notes explaining these changes to your people. In your next class your 'subjects' (classmates) will vote on whether to accept your plans.

## DISCUSSION:

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Were you surprised by anything in this article?
- c. What do you know about Monaco?
- d. Is Monaco Europe's most fascinating country?
- e. Would you like to live in Monaco?
- f. What is your image of Monaco's royal family?
- g. Why has 47-year-old Prince Albert never married?
- h. Do you know anything about Prince Albert's sisters, Princesses Caroline and Stephanie?
- i. Have you seen any of Grace Kelly's movies?
- j. Would you like to gamble in Monaco's casinos?
- k. Should Monaco be a real country: it has only 6,000 citizens?
- l. What do you think of the idea of no income tax?
- m. Would you like to be / marry Prince Albert?
- n. Of which country would you choose to become prince or princess?
- o. If you were prince or princess, what title would you choose?
- p. If you were prince or princess, what would you have for breakfast every day?
- q. Where is your playground?
- r. Who are the world's most eligible unmarried men and women?
- s. Did you like this discussion?
- t. Teacher / Student additional questions.

## TEXT

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