

1. Read the text and mark the statements *True (T)*, *False (F)* or *Not Stated (NS)*.

A Day in the Life of the Queen

Many people think that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has an easy life. She stays in her beautiful palace, travels abroad and does nothing else. Actually, it's not true. The Queen's day is very busy.

The Queen begins her day like many people – with a good breakfast. That is usually cornflakes and porridge, yoghurt and marmalade.

The Queen's working day begins at her desk. She reads the daily British newspapers and checks her correspondence. It's hard to believe but she gets over 300 letters a day. Of course Her Majesty cannot read them all, so she just reads some of them and tells her staff members how to answer them.

Then the Queen sees her Private Secretaries who bring her the official papers and documents to read and sign. All this takes about an hour. Together, they also go through the day's programme – receiving a new ambassador, visits to hospitals, other public events.

Later comes the time for official meetings, or "audiences": the Queen sees some important people, like foreign ambassadors, ministers, or judges. Each meeting lasts 10 to 20 minutes, and usually the Queen and her visitor meet alone.

Then it's lunchtime. Her Majesty prefers to have lunch privately. However, every few months she and the Duke of Edinburgh (her husband) invite guests to an informal lunch. Every afternoon at 2.30 pm, the Queen goes for a walk in the

palace grounds. The rule is that if anybody is in the garden, they must leave. Nobody can talk to her. It's possible only if she speaks first. She likes walking alone, because it's her thinking time.

The rest of the afternoon is devoted to the Queen's social duties and public engagements. She visits schools, hospitals, factories, homes for elderly people, hostels for the homeless, and other different organisations. The Queen often goes to open events and buildings, and make speeches.

If the engagement is outside London, the Queen travels by air, using a helicopter or a plane. All in all there are about 430 engagements every year.

The Queen's working day does not stop at the end of the afternoon. Every Tuesday at 6.30 pm she meets the Prime Minister. On some evenings, the Queen goes to a film première, a concert performance or any other official event. She also regularly organises receptions at Buckingham Palace (usually with other members of the Royal Family).

If there is no public visit, the Queen spends the evening at the palace. She fills in a crossword, often watches television with supper on a tray, and goes to bed at around 11 pm. But quite often the lights are on until midnight. The Queen studies confidential documents and reads other official papers.

1. The Queen receives lots of letters every day. _____
2. The Secretaries decide which letter the Queen reads. _____
3. The Queen has lunch with many important people. _____
4. An official meeting doesn't have a time limit. _____
5. The afternoon walk is a private time for the Queen. _____
6. The Queen has dinner in the places she visits. _____
7. If the engagement is inside London the Queen travels by car. _____
8. The Queen meets the Prime Minister every week. _____
9. The Queen doesn't have receptions at the palace. _____
10. The Queen usually works in the evening. _____