

## B2.1 The Questionnaire - Handout

**1** There are obviously different ways that these questions can be phrased. Also, question formation is difficult in English. However, it should be immediately apparent (at least to the native speaker) which topics are being discussed. You can gently guide your partner if he or she is having difficulty and accept alternatively worded versions of the questions – accentuate the positive.

Key vocabulary includes: *Jubilee, stuff, absolutely overjoyed, barbaric, to act as a deterrent, to envy and a regret*. Your partner can always check unknown words in a dictionary. At this level, a monolingual one is probably better than a bilingual one and there are some excellent ones online (e.g. <http://oald8.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>). But your own explanations of these terms are a perfect form of consolidation. In terms of grammar the last text uses the Past Perfect tense ("had" + Past Participle) after "wish" for a past regret. Your partner may need reminding that the verb always goes back one tense after "wish".

**2** It should be easy to match up the questions to the texts. The learner may feel that they have little to add on the question of the British monarchy, so if there is little interest in this topic maybe the political situation in their own country can be discussed instead.

**3** The question about "extravagance" will probably cause confusion if you do not clarify first that its primary meaning in English is *overspending*. In most other European languages its meaning is *outrageous* or *flamboyant* (i.e. "He wore an extravagant costume for the Carnival"). Although it can also be used in this way in English, this is its secondary, lower frequency meaning.

**4** These topics should provide further ideas for discussion. The topic *my most treasured possession* may cause vocabulary problems, so if you could talk about it yourself first, its meaning could be clarified for your partner.

**5** This paragraph should not be too difficult to write after all the discussion you have had with your partner. In fact, you might like to ask which information your partner intends to include in their description and arrange for him or her to read out their description to you the next time you have a Tandem session.