



NO FUTURE

DOWN WITH THE CROWN

LEVEL 3 ENGLISH COURSE MATERIAL
SECOND TERM OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

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PART 4

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PART 4 - THE NEXT GENERATION'S STRATEGY



A photograph released by Apple TV+ showing Prince William with the Canadian comic actor, Eugene Levy as part of Mr. Levy's Apple TV+ series, "The Reluctant Traveler." Credit: Apple TV+

Culture Note: *Spare*, by Prince Harry (2023) - adapted from *Wikipedia*



In his highly expected book, Harry details his childhood and the profound effect of the death of his mother, Diana, as well as his teenage years, and subsequent deployment to Afghanistan with the British army.

He writes about his relationship with his older brother, Prince William, and his father, King Charles III, as well as his courtship and marriage to the American actress Meghan Markle and the couple's subsequent stepping back from their royal roles. He mentions how he did not expect to lose his state-funded security as a result, as his uncle Andrew who was "accused of the sexual assault of a young woman" was allowed to keep his.

Key quotes:

"The Heir and the Spare—there was no judgment about it, but also no ambiguity. I was the shadow, the support, the Plan B. I was brought into the world in case something happened to Willy. I was summoned to provide backup, distraction, diversion and, if necessary, a spare part. Kidney, perhaps. Blood transfusion, speck of bone marrow. This was all made explicitly clear to me from the start of life's journey and regularly reinforced thereafter. ... I took no offense. I felt nothing about it, any of it."

"In some ways he was my mirror, in some ways he was my opposite. My beloved brother, my arch-nemesis, how had that happened?"

"I told them that I failed to see how speaking to Oprah was any different from what my family and their staff had done for decades – briefing the press on the sly, planting stories. And what about the endless books on which they'd co-operated, starting with Pa's 1994 crypto-autobiography with Jonathan Dimbleby? Or Camilla's collaborations with the editor Geordie Greig? The only difference was that Meg and I were upfront about it. We chose an interviewer who was above reproach, and we didn't once hide behind phrases like "Palace sources", we let people see the words coming out of our mouths."

"My problem has never been with the monarchy, nor the concept of monarchy. It's been with the press and the sick relationship that's evolved between it and the Palace."

Now that you've read the culture note, answer the following questions (you may have to make reasoned guesses):

1. Prince Harry is:

- A. A former soldier
- B. No longer a working member of the royal family
- C. A detractor of his uncle Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's
- D. All of the above

2. *Spare*, his memoir:

- A. Is 416-page long, and also exists as a 15-hour audiobook edition, which Harry himself narrates
- B. Became the fastest selling non-fiction book of all time
- C. Refers to the aristocratic adage that an "heir and a spare" were needed to ensure that an inheritance remained in the family in the event of the death of the first-born (a spare part = an extra part).
- D. All of the above

Document 3: Holding Back Tears, Prince William Shows a New Side of a Future King

Adapted from Mark Landler, *The New York Times*, October 10, 2025

At a time when the British royal family has been convulsed by drama, **infighting** and a tendency by some royals to overshare, Prince William has remained largely **aloof** — **loath to** reveal the kinds of details found in *Spare*, the memoir by his **estranged** brother, Prince Harry.

Yet William, too, has lifted the veil in recent weeks, in his own carefully controlled way.

Appearing with the Canadian comic actor Eugene Levy on an episode of his travel series, and later with a woman who lost her husband to suicide, William has shown a more personal side, speaking about his desire to change the monarchy after he becomes king and **tearing up** over another family's tragedy.

The two **glimpses** of William, 43, have **hardly** remade the public image of the eldest son of King Charles III. But they have filled in some blanks in the portrait of a man who has carefully cultivated the profile of a middle-aged husband and father, determined to **shield himself** and his family from undue scrutiny.

The exercise in image making **has taken on** more urgency since his father was diagnosed with an **undisclosed** form of cancer in early 2024. While Buckingham Palace insists that Charles, 76, is **on the mend**, the **prospect** of William having to step up to the throne no longer seems so distant.

"He's on fast forward," said Tina Brown, the British American journalist who has written two books about the royal family. "His father had 50 years to tell the world who he was before becoming king. It's essential for William to show the human side of himself before his image gets set in stone as the stoic **foil** to Harry."

In a video released Friday to coincide with World Mental Health Day, William met with Rhian Mannings, who lost a baby to illness and her husband to suicide. As the two sat at Ms. Mannings's kitchen table in Cardiff, Wales, William asked her what she would say to her husband, if she could.

"I would just like to sit him down like this and say, 'Why didn't you come to me?'" she replied. "Because he's missed out on just so much joy."

William looked away, his eyes **brimming** with tears.

"Are you OK?" Ms. Mannings asked.

Struggling to **compose himself**, William said, "I'm sorry; it's hard to ask you the questions."

It was a **startling** display of emotion — **not least** in contrast to the **stiff-upper-lip** stoicism of older-generation royals like Queen Elizabeth II — though it recalled the emotional encounters his mother, Princess Diana, had with people with AIDS in the 1990s. William's focus on suicide prevention echoed his mother's desire to destigmatize AIDS.

In the appearance with Mr. Levy on his Apple TV+ series, "The Reluctant Traveler," William offered a tour of Windsor Castle and offered some intriguing hints about how he might shake up the monarchy.

"It's safe to say that change is on my agenda," William said to Mr. Levy, as the two sat over pints at a pub in Windsor. "Not **overly** radical change," he added, "but changes that I think need to happen."

William arrived for the meeting on a motorized scooter. He jumped off and **greeted** Mr. Levy by telling him he loved "American Pie," the 1999 sex comedy in which Mr. Levy played a confused dad.

That drew a laugh from Mr. Levy, an actor whose **deadpan delivery** has **spiced up** movies like “Best in Show” and the TV series “Schitt’s Creek.” He told the prince that spending a day with him was a “**bucket list**” **item**, as the two set off on a walk around Windsor’s grounds.

“Was getting drunk with Prince William on your bucket list?” the prince said with a smile.

For Britain’s royals-obsessed press, William’s encounter with Mr. Levy was both **tantalizing** and threatening. By working with an American streaming service, William **served notice** that he could **shape his narrative** while bypassing the tabloids, which have long **wielded power** in shaping the image of the royals.

When William’s wife, Catherine, announced that she had completed her chemotherapy in September 2024, she did so in a video made by Will Warr, a London videographer who specializes in wedding videos. She and William have also posted videos of themselves with their three children on Instagram.

The London papers noted that Mr. Levy did not **broach a sensitive issue**: William’s **feud** with Harry. Mr. Levy said he was not instructed by the prince’s staff to avoid it. But he told ITV News, “I had no interest in asking him about that, because it was, you know, a very delicate issue and certainly not up to me to get into it.”

Pub visits aside, William left no doubt that he intended to preserve a zone of privacy around his family. “Those who **overstep** it, I’ll fight against,” he said to Mr. Levy. “It’s about knowing where the line is.

The Mental Health Day video mentioned in the article: [Rhian’s Story: “It Starts With A Conversation” | Suicide Prevention On World Mental Health Day](#)

A. COMPREHENSION

1. Go back to p. 2. Which part of the text does the photograph best illustrate? Give the lines, and write down the quote.

2. Present the document briefly (type, source, author, date, topic).

3. **Vocabulary**—match the French words with their English equivalents **bolded** in the text.
a. **General vocabulary**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 1. salua | --- | A. deadpan delivery |
| 2. le ton impassible | --- | B. prospect |
| 3. non révélé•e | --- | C. has taken on |
| 4. une chose à faire avant de mourir | --- | D. has spiced up |

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 5. excessivement | ---- | E. undisclosed |
| 6. la perspective (dans l'avenir) | ---- | F. "bucket list" item |
| 7. a assumé | ---- | G. not least |
| 8. en voie de guérison | ---- | H. greeted |
| 9. ne fût-ce que | ---- | I. on the mend |
| 10. a pimenté | ---- | J. tantalizing |
| 11. captivant | ---- | K. overly |

b. The conflict between the two brothers

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|---------------|
| 1. un repoussoir, un faire-valoir | ---- | A. infighting |
| 2. avec qui on est brouillé•e | ---- | B. estranged |
| 3. une querelle | ---- | C. foil |
| 4. luttes intestines | ---- | D. feud |

b. Prince William and the media

- | | | |
|--|------|-------------------------------|
| 1. un récit | ---- | A. aloof |
| 2. se calmer | ---- | B. brimming |
| 3. se protéger | | C. shield himself |
| 4. distant•e | ---- | C. compose himself |
| 5. exercer, user de | ---- | D. startling |
| 6. flegme | ---- | E. stiff-upper-lip |
| 7. aborder (un sujet sensible) | ---- | F. a narrative |
| 8. pleins, noyés de | ---- | H. served notice |
| 9. larmoyant•e | ---- | G. wielded |
| 10. étonnant•e, surprenant•e | ---- | H. overstep |
| 11. dépasser, outrepasser | ---- | I. tearing up |
| 12. signifier (quelque chose à qqun•e) | ---- | J. broach (a sensitive issue) |

Focus on part 1: II. 1-20 (From "At a time when..." to "...the stoic foil to Harry.")

3. True or False? Justify with a quote from the text.

a. Recently, William has opened up and appeared more human than usual.

b. As a result, his public image has been radically transformed.

4. In your own words, explain the two main factors influencing William's new image management strategy.

Focus on part 2: ll. 21-33 (From “In a video released...” to “...to destigmatize AIDS.”)

5. In your own words, explain how what William did in his latest World Mental Health Video was both a break from and a continuation of past royal attitudes.

Focus on part 3: ll. 34-the end (From “In the appearance...” to “...where the line is.”)

6. True or False? Justify with a quote from the text.

a. William wants to revolutionise the British monarchy.

b. The encounter with M. Levy was the first time William snubbed the British press.

c. M. Levy did not ask about Harry because William’s reaction could have been negative.

Going further: Read the Culture Note about *Spare* (p.43) again, and answer the following questions.

1. True or False? Justify with a quote from the Culture Note.

a. Harry has admitted that he has always felt jealous of William. T/F

b. Harry’s feelings towards William are ambiguous. T/F

2. The royal brothers’ relationship with the media.

a. Fill in the table below:

	William	Harry
Attitude to the British press		
Use of American media		
Use of other options		

b. Write three sentences to compare and contrast the brothers' relationship with the media based on your notes above. Use the appropriate structures of comparison / contrast.

B. GRAMMAIRE : le *present perfect*

- (1) At a time when the British royal family has been convulsed by drama ... Prince William has remained largely aloof
- (2) Yet William, too, has lifted the veil in recent weeks
- (3) The two glimpses of William, 43, have hardly remade the public image of the eldest son of King Charles III.
- (4) "Was getting drunk with Prince William on your bucket list?" the prince said with a mischievous smile
- (5) the tabloids, which have long wielded power in shaping the image of the royals
- (6) When William's wife, Catherine, announced that she had completed her chemotherapy in September 2024, she did so in a three-minute video
- (7) Catherine and William have also posted videos of themselves with their three children on Instagram over the years.

1. Soulignez les verbes au *present perfect* dans les phrases ci-dessus. **Essayez dans chaque cas d'expliquer pourquoi on l'a utilisé et non pas le prétérit ou un autre type de présent.**

(1) -----

- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____
- (6) _____
- (7) _____
- (8) _____

1. Quand emploie-t-on le *present perfect* ?

a. Emplois généraux :

	Pour...	Marqueurs de temps fréquents	Exemple(s) tiré(s) du texte :
a.	parler d'actions ou événements entamés dans le _____ et continuant dans le présent.	FOR* SINCE* _____	
b.	faire le _____ d'actions ou événements, valable au moment présent.	already, ever, never, not yet, _____	
c.	parler d'actions ou événements achevés mais ayant encore des _____ perdurant dans le présent.	_____	
d.	parler d'actions ou événements qui viennent de se produire, donc très _____ du moment présent.	just	

b. Conclusion : le *present perfect* est un temps du _____ (comme l'indique son nom).

 **RAPPEL :** le *prétérit* (voir *All Canadians*, pp. 15-16)

Pour parler du _____ **révolu, on emploie TOUJOURS le PRÉTÉRIT.**

Il renvoie en effet à des **actions ou événements passés, ACHEVÉS** et marque la _____ avec le présent.

De nombreux **marqueurs temporels** peuvent indiquer que l'action ou événement est bel et bien achevé-e : *X years/months/etc. AGO, LAST year/month, /etc., when I was ..., IN + date, etc.*

c. "Depuis" — Observez les phrases ci-dessous et complétez la leçon.

- (1) This has particularly been the case since the Queen's death.
- (2) The monarchy seems to have changed a lot since the 1990s.
- (3) Harry had been wanting to speak his mind freely for years.
- (4) The image of the princes has never been the same since the world saw them walking behind their mother's coffin.

💡 Lorsque l'on utilise le **present perfect** pour parler d'une _____, on utilise principalement **FOR** ou **SINCE** (ou *in/over the past X years/months/weeks/days*).

	suivi de	Exemple(s) :
FOR		
SINCE		

3. Comment former le *present perfect* ? Soulignez les verbes au *present perfect* dans les phrases ci-dessous, inspirées de la culture note et du texte, puis complétez le tableau.

Has the media's treatment of the rift between Prince William and Prince Harry changed much in recent years? While Harry has spoken openly in interviews and books, William has not commented publicly on their relationship. He has not responded to claims made in the media, and he has not taken part in any public discussions about the feud. As a result, the silence has fueled speculation and has not helped ease public curiosity about their ongoing tension.

Forme :	Exemple tiré du texte :	Structure :
affirmative		
négative		
interrogative		

4. 🗣️ RAPPEL: les 3 prononciations de la terminaison -ED

Complétez le tableau ci-dessous avec les verbes soulignés précédemment.

	/ɪd/	/t/	/d/
SON AVANT -ED	/t/ ou /d/	/k/, /p/, /f/, /θ/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/ ou /s/	TOUS LES AUTRES SONS
Exemples			

💡 La prononciation de la terminaison -ED dépend du **son qui la précède, autrement dit du dernier son du verbe lorsqu'il est à l'infinitif.**

Exemple : "decide" se termine par le son /d/, donc la marque -ED dans "decided" se prononce /ɪd/.

Exercises → go to EPIGRAM



<https://cours.univ-paris1.fr/course/section.php?id=248590>

C. SPEAKING/WRITING

- In *Spare* (2023), Prince Harry wrote: “Being royal, it turned out, wasn’t all that far from being onstage. Acting was acting, no matter the context.” How does this quote apply to the screenshot p. 2? Use it to comment on the picture.