

Bill Gates knighted by British Queen (Thu 3 Mar)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about Bill Gates / Microsoft / Queen Elizabeth II / Buckingham Palace / Commonwealth and Being a 'Sir' / titles ... Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

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

ACHIEVEMENT: Bill Gates got his knighthood for his achievements. Talk about each of these with your partner / group. Which are 'truly great' achievements:

- a. Being the richest man in the world.
- b. Setting up Microsoft.
- c. Promising \$5 billion to charities for global health and learning.
- d. Realizing a 1975 dream that a computer would be in every home.
- e. Staying married for 11 years.
- f. Windows Operating System
- g. Staying 'Mr. Nice Guy'
- h. Changing the world

OTHER KNIGHTS: What do you know about the other recipients of the British honorary knighthood. In pairs/groups, discuss how 'truly great' they are:

- a. Bob Geldof
- b. Hamid Karzai
- c. Placido Domingo
- d. Chancellor Kohl
- e. President Mitterrand
- f. Rudolph Giuliani
- g. Ronald Reagan
- h. George Bush (senior)
- i. Alan Greenspan
- j. Bob Hope
- k. Steven Spielberg
- l. Jean Paul Getty Jr.
- m. Yehudi Menuhin
- n. Pelé

PRE-READING IDEAS

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

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

- a. Bill Gates is founder of Microsoft. T / F
- b. He received his award at Buckingham Palace. T / F
- c. He was knighted for selling millions of computers. T / F
- d. His business card can now read 'William H. Gates III, KBE'. T / F
- e. Bill Gates and the British Queen didn't talk computers. T / F
- f. Bill can now call himself 'Sir Bill'. T / F
- g. Non-British or Commonwealth people cannot become 'Sir'. T / F
- h. Only senior British soldiers, judges and high-ranking government officials can become 'Sir'. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| (a) founder | donations |
| (b) honour | letters |
| (c) contributions | icons |
| (d) poverty | major |
| (e) enterprise | top-notch |
| (f) initials | architect |
| (g) significant | award |
| (h) recipients | destitution |
| (i) high-ranking | beneficiaries |
| (a) founder | donations |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| (a) The reasons | himself 'Sir Bill' |
| (b) to recognize | honour |
| (c) reducing | sector |
| (d) elsewhere in the developing | government officials |
| (e) voluntary | contributions |
| (f) It's a great | his contributions to improving health |
| (g) he cannot call | world |
| (h) significant | for his honour |
| (i) It used to | poverty |
| (j) high-ranking | be that only |

GAP FILL

Bill Gates knighted by British Queen (Thu 3 Mar)

BNE: Bill Gates, Microsoft _____, Chairman and Chief Software Architect, was given an honorary knighthood by the British Queen earlier at Buckingham Palace. The reasons for his honour, given by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, are to _____ his “contributions to improving health and reducing poverty in parts of the Commonwealth and elsewhere in the developing world”, and for his “_____ to enterprise, employment, education and the voluntary sector in the United Kingdom”. William H. Gates III can now put the initials KBE after his name, _____ he is now a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Mr. Gates said of his award, “It's a great honour to have the association with this country and receive an award like this.” On meeting the British Queen, he _____ talked about computers - “She said all the kids do [use computers] and they are very useful ... but typing is not as natural for her as it is for young people.”

meaning founder contribution naturally recognize

As he is not a British or Commonwealth _____, he cannot call himself 'Sir Bill'. Honorary knighthoods are given to non-British or Commonwealth people who have made _____ contributions to relations with the UK. Past _____ of the honorary knighthood include Bob Geldof, Hamid Karzai, Placido Domingo, Chancellor Kohl, President Mitterrand, Rudolph Giuliani, Ronald Reagan, George Bush (senior), Alan Greenspan, Bob Hope, Steven Spielberg, Jean Paul Getty Jr., Yehudi Menuhin, and Pelé. It used to be that only _____ soldiers, judges and high-ranking government officials got knighted, but recently British rock, acting and sports legends have become _____, including Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Michael Caine and Sir Bobby Charlton.

senior significant honoured citizen recipients

DISCUSSION:

- a. What do you think of this article?
- b. What do you think of Bill Gates?
- c. What do you think of Microsoft?
- d. What do you think of the British system of titles (Sir, Lord, Prince, Lady, Dame)?
- e. What do you think of British history?
- f. Would you like to go to Buckingham Palace and meet the British Queen?
- g. What honours can people receive in your country?
- h. Is Bill Gates a great man?
- i. Are you good with computers?
- j. If you were as rich as Bill (around \$48 billion) who would you give you money to – which charities or causes?
- k. What are your contributions to society / community / school / workplace / family?
- l. Do you like to talk computers (talk about computers)?
- m. What do you think of the past recipients of an honorary British knighthood?
- n. Who is the greatest living person in your country?

HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCAB 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 more information on the British honours system. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. LETTER:** Write a letter to Bill Gates telling him your thoughts on Microsoft, Windows, charity work etc.
- 4. NEXT KNIGHT:** Write an article about which world person should be next to receive an honorary knighthood from the British Queen, stating your reasons why they deserve this.

FULL TEXT

Bill Gates knighted by British Queen (Thu 3 Mar)

BNE: Bill Gates, Microsoft **founder**, Chairman and Chief Software Architect, was given an honorary knighthood by the British Queen earlier at Buckingham Palace. The reasons for his honour, given by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, are to **recognize** his "contributions to improving health and reducing poverty in parts of the Commonwealth and elsewhere in the developing world", and for his "**contribution** to enterprise, employment, education and the voluntary sector in the United Kingdom". William H. Gates III can now put the initials KBE after his name, **meaning** he is now a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. Mr. Gates said of his award, "It's a great honour to have the association with this country and receive an award like this." On meeting the British Queen, he **naturally** talked about computers - "She said all the kids do [use computers] and they are very useful ... but typing is not as natural for her as it is for young people."

As he is not a British or Commonwealth **citizen**, he cannot call himself 'Sir Bill'. Honorary knighthoods are given to non-British or Commonwealth people who have made **significant** contributions to relations with the UK. Past **recipients** of the honorary knighthood include Bob Geldof, Hamid Karzai, Placido Domingo, Chancellor Kohl, President Mitterrand, Rudolph Giuliani, Ronald Reagan, George Bush (senior), Alan Greenspan, Bob Hope, Steven Spielberg, Jean Paul Getty Jr., Yehudi Menuhin, and Pelé. It used to be that only **senior** soldiers, judges and high-ranking government officials got knighted, but recently British rock, acting and sports legends have become **honoured**, including Sir Paul McCartney, Sir Michael Caine and Sir Bobby Charlton.