

## UK mulls removing former Prince Andrew from line to become monarch

23rd February 2026



The biggest constitutional crisis for almost a century is enveloping the British monarchy. The former Prince Andrew was arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office, an offence that can carry a sentence of life imprisonment. On Thursday, he was held in custody for nearly 11 hours. UK police are investigating allegations that Andrew shared confidential trade information with the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Andrew was a UK trade envoy between 2001 and 2011. The British government is now considering removing him from the line of succession to the throne. Andrew is currently eighth in line to be the monarch. This can only be changed with new legislation.

In 1936, the former King Edward VIII abdicated. The UK government passed a law to recognize the abdication and to declare that Edward had ceased to be king. A similar law could affect Andrew, who has been mired in controversy regarding his association with Epstein. Subsequent scandals resulted in Andrew being formally stripped of his title of prince last year by his brother King Charles III. This meant Andrew can no longer be called "Prince Andrew", nor can he use his other royal titles. He is now known simply as Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor. He has yet to comment on the allegations of misconduct, but has consistently denied any wrongdoing in his connection with Epstein.

Sources: [npr.org](https://www.npr.org) / [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [royalcentral.co.uk](https://www.royalcentral.co.uk)

### Writing

There is no need for a royal family in the 21st century. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

constitution / crises / monarchy / misconduct / life imprisonment / trade / legislation / king / government / controversy / scandals / title / royal / wrongdoing / allegations

### True / False

- 1) Andrew's arrest is the biggest royal crisis for more than 100 years. T / F
- 2) There is a possibility Andrew could spend the rest of his life in prison. T / F
- 3) There are allegations that Andrew shared secret trade information. T / F
- 4) Andrew is currently third in line to the British throne. T / F
- 5) In 1936, the then UK king stepped down from his role. T / F
- 6) Andrew's brother King Charles III took away his title of prince. T / F
- 7) Andrew has many other royal titles he can still use. T / F
- 8) Andrew spoke to the press about why he was arrested. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>crisis</b>      | a. claims         |
| 2. <b>misconduct</b>  | b. ambassador     |
| 3. <b>offence</b>     | c. laws           |
| 4. <b>envoy</b>       | d. deprived       |
| 5. <b>legislation</b> | e. critical point |
| 6. <b>abdicated</b>   | f. repudiated     |
| 7. <b>subsequent</b>  | g. stood down     |
| 8. <b>stripped</b>    | h. wrongdoing     |
| 9. <b>allegations</b> | i. later          |
| 10. <b>denied</b>     | j. crime          |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the British monarchy?
- b) What do you know about Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor?
- c) Do you think a royal should be able to be arrested?
- d) What would it be like to be sentenced to prison for life?
- e) Should Andrew be removed from the British line of succession?
- f) What would it be like to be a prince?
- g) Should princes and princesses only be in fairy stories?
- h) What advice do you have for Andrew?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. The biggest constitutional crisis for | a. of life imprisonment       |
| 2. arrested on suspicion of misconduct   | b. allegations of misconduct  |
| 3. an offence that can carry a sentence  | c. with new legislation       |
| 4. Andrew is currently eighth in         | d. wrongdoing                 |
| 5. This can only be changed              | e. almost a century           |
| 6. In 1936, the former                   | f. in controversy             |
| 7. mired                                 | g. title of prince            |
| 8. formally stripped of his              | h. line to be the monarch     |
| 9. He has yet to comment on the          | i. King Edward VIII abdicated |
| 10. consistently denied any              | j. in public office           |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of the idea of royal families?
- Should Britons be proud of their royal family?
- What controversies have there been in your country recently?
- What scandals are going on in your country?
- Would you like to be a royal?
- What should happen to Andrew from now?
- What questions would you like to ask Andrew?

## Spelling

- The biggest uttsalciontnoi crisis for almost a century
- enveloping the British aromchyn
- on inuoscp of misconduct in public office
- UK police are investigating oelganiltsa
- removing him from the line of isscuosnec
- This can only be changed with new noaiseglti
- the former King Edward VIII cdbdaetai
- Edward had aecsed to be king
- rdime in controversy
- regarding his tosiasincoa
- usnegeusbt scandals
- denied any rioowndng

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. g	7. i	8. d	9. a	10. f

## Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What is a constitutional crisis enveloping?
2.	What is Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor suspected of?
3.	What is a possible sentence if Andrew is found guilty?
4.	When was Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor a trade envoy?
5.	Where on the line of succession to the UK throne is Andrew?
6.	When did the former King Edward VIII abdicate?
7.	What has Andrew been mired in?
8.	Who stripped Andrew of his title of prince?
9.	What can Andrew not use besides the title of prince?
10.	What has Andrew not yet commented on?

## Speaking – Fame

Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting way of being famous at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Prince/Princess
- Bestselling writer
- Soccer superstar
- Top influencer
- President/Prime minister
- Singing superstar
- Top movie star
- Tech/AI CEO

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.