

Her Royal Highness Kate Middleton

Early life > Catherine Elizabeth Middleton was born on 9th January 1982 in Reading, England. Her family comes from the English upper-middle class and she has a younger sister and brother. She was a brilliant student with a passion for arts, literature, and history. When she was eighteen, she decided to leave England: she went to Italy where she studied at the British Institute of Florence for a few months, then she travelled to Chile. In 2001 she moved back to the UK where she enrolled at the University of St Andrews in Scotland to study history of art.



Kate and her royal destiny > In 2001 Kate met Prince William when they were both students at St Andrews University and lived in the same student residence. Kate said that when she first met William, she was very shy and blushed, while he was kind and friendly. They began dating in 2003, but their relationship had ups and downs because of the paparazzi who chased her everywhere. In 2007 they broke up but soon reconciled and got engaged in 2010 during a ten-day trip to Kenya, when William proposed with the ring that had been his mother's, Princess Diana. William and Kate celebrated their marriage in Westminster Abbey on 29th April 2011. It was a global TV event with an audience of more than 300 million people. After her marriage, Kate was given the title of "Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge". The royal couple has three children: George, Charlotte, and Louis.

Sports and charity > Kate Middleton has always loved sports. She has played hockey and tennis and has a passion for sailing that she shares with William. In the summer of 2007, Kate joined an all-female dragon-boat crew called The Sisterhood, who raced across the Channel against an all-male crew to raise money

for charity. In 2019, Kate and William competed against each other in the King's Cup Regatta in Cowes on the Isle of Wight. Eight boats took part in the competition; William's came third while Kate's came last, winning a huge wooden spoon as a trophy! She is also very active in charity initiatives and foundations and is patron of many organisations. One of the most popular is the children's mental health charity Place2Be. She launched the first Children's Mental Health Week in 2015 and always speaks about how mental health needs strategies and attention.

The disease > In March 2024 Kate announced through a video message that some post-operative tests had found cancer, and that she had been undergoing chemotherapy since late February. Her medical leave from public engagements was subsequently extended. In September 2024, Kate, in a video message, revealed that she had completed her chemotherapy treatment and that she was looking forward to resuming public engagements in the coming months.



glossary

to blush: arrossire
crew: equipaggio

to date: uscire con
to resume: riprendere

- 1 READING WRITING** Complete the table saying what happened in Kate Middleton's life up until September 2024. For some dates there might be more than one event.

1982	
2000	
2001	
2003	
2007	
2010	
2011	
2015	
2019	
March 2024	
September 2024	



- 2 READING VOCABULARY** Complete Kate Middleton's speech about addiction awareness with the words given below.

causes • journey • become • understanding • connecting • empathy • condition • part

"Addiction is not a choice, no one chooses to 1. an addict, but it can happen to any one of us. Nobody is immune, but unfortunately it is not often discussed as a serious mental health 2. and seldom do we take the time to fully understand its fundamental 3. As a society, we need to start from a position of compassion and

4., where we help people around us, understand their 5. and what has happened to them. I fully support the Taking Action on Addiction campaign, to improve awareness and 6. of addiction. The campaign will show us that not only many people recover from addiction, they can have a happy, healthy life. We can all play our 7. in helping this work by understanding, by listening, by 8. so that together we can build a happier, healthier society."

- 3 SPEAKING DEBATE** Discuss the motion: **Celebrities Have a Right to Privacy.**