**The King’s Speech (2010)**

[Prince Albert, Duke of York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_VI), the second son of [King George V](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_V), stammers through his speech closing the 1925 [British Empire Exhibition](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire_Exhibition) at [Wembley Stadium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wembley_Stadium_%281923%29), while the resulting ordeal is being broadcast by radio worldwide. The Duke has given up hope of a cure, but his wife [Elizabeth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Elizabeth_The_Queen_Mother) persuades him to see [Lionel Logue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lionel_Logue), an Australian speech therapist in London. During their first session, Logue breaches royal etiquette by referring to the Prince as "Bertie," a name used by his family. When the Duke decides Logue's methods and manner are unsuitable, Logue wagers a [shilling](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shilling_%28British_coin%29) that the Duke can recite [Hamlet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamlet)'s "[To be, or not to be](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_be,_or_not_to_be)" soliloquy without trouble while listening to "[The Marriage of Figaro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Marriage_of_Figaro)" on headphones. Logue records his performance on an [acetate record](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acetate_disc). Convinced he has stammered throughout, Prince Albert leaves in anger, declaring his condition "hopeless" and dismissing Logue. Logue offers him the recording as a keepsake.

After King George V makes his 1934 [Christmas radio address](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Christmas_Message), he explains to his son the importance of broadcasting to a modern monarchy. He declares that "David" ([Edward, Prince of Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_VIII)), Albert's older brother and the [heir to the throne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heir_apparent), will bring ruin to himself, the family, and the country when he accedes to the throne. King George demands that Albert train himself, starting with a reading of his father's speech. He makes an agonising attempt to do so.

Later, the Duke plays Logue's recording and hears himself unhesitatingly reciting Shakespeare. He decides to return to Logue, where he and his wife both insist that Logue focus only on physical exercises. Logue teaches his patient muscle relaxation and breath control techniques but continues to probe gently and persistently at the psychological roots of the stutter. The Duke eventually reveals some of the pressures of his childhood, and the two men start to become friends.

In January 1936, George V dies, and David ascends the throne as King Edward VIII, but causes a constitutional crisis with his determination to marry [Mrs. Wallis Simpson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallis,_Duchess_of_Windsor), an American socialite divorcée who is still legally married to her second husband. At a party in [Balmoral Castle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balmoral_Castle), Albert points out that Edward, as [head of the Church of England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Governor_of_the_Church_of_England), cannot marry Mrs. Simpson, even if she receives her second divorce; Edward accuses his brother of wanting to usurp his place.

At his next session, Albert expresses his frustration that while his speech has improved when talking to most people, he still stammers when talking to his own brother, and reveals the extent of Edward VIII's folly with Mrs. Simpson. When Logue insists that Albert could be a good king instead of his brother, the latter labels such a suggestion as [treason](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_treason_in_the_United_Kingdom), and in his anger, mocks and dismisses Logue. When [King Edward VIII abdicates](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_VIII_abdication_crisis) to marry Mrs. Simpson, Albert accedes as King George VI. The new King and Queen visit Logue at his home to apologise, startling Mrs. Logue, who was [unaware that the new king was her husband's patient](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confidentiality#Clinical_and_counseling_psychology).

During preparations for his coronation in [Westminster Abbey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westminster_Abbey), George VI learns that Logue has no formal qualifications, as initially assumed by him. When confronted, Logue explains how he was asked to help [shell-shocked](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combat_stress_reaction#Shell_shock_during_World_War_I) Australian soldiers returning from the First World War. When George VI remains unconvinced of his fitness for the throne, Logue sits in [King Edward's Chair](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Edward%27s_Chair) and dismisses the underlying [Stone of Scone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stone_of_Scone) as a trifle. Goaded by Logue's seeming disrespect, the King surprises himself with his own sudden burst of outraged eloquence.

Upon the declaration of [war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) with [Nazi Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_Germany) in September 1939, George VI summons Logue to [Buckingham Palace](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buckingham_Palace) to prepare for his upcoming radio address to millions of listeners in [Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom) and [the Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire). Knowing the challenge that lies before him, both [Winston Churchill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winston_Churchill) and Prime Minister [Neville Chamberlain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neville_Chamberlain) offer the King their support. The King and Logue are then left in the room. He delivers his speech somewhat competently, while Logue guides him. By the end of his speech, George VI is speaking freely with little to no guidance from Logue. Afterwards, the King and his family step onto the balcony of the palace, and are applauded by the thousands who have gathered.

A [title card](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Title_card) explains that Logue was always present at King George VI's speeches during the war, and that they remained friends for the rest of their lives.

## **Cast**

* [Colin Firth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Firth) as [King George VI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_VI)
* [Geoffrey Rush](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoffrey_Rush) as [Lionel Logue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lionel_Logue)
* [Helena Bonham Carter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helena_Bonham_Carter) as [Queen Elizabeth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen_Elizabeth_The_Queen_Mother)
* [Guy Pearce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Pearce) as [King Edward VIII](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_VIII)
* [Timothy Spall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_Spall) as [Winston Churchill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winston_Churchill)
* [Derek Jacobi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Derek_Jacobi) as [Archbishop Cosmo Lang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmo_Gordon_Lang)
* [Jennifer Ehle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jennifer_Ehle) as Myrtle Logue
* [Anthony Andrews](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Andrews) as [Stanley Baldwin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_Baldwin)
* [Claire Bloom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claire_Bloom) as [Queen Mary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_of_Teck)
* [Eve Best](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eve_Best) as [Wallis Simpson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallis_Simpson)
* [Freya Wilson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freya_Wilson) as [Princess Elizabeth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_II)
* [Tim Downie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Downie) as the [Duke of Gloucester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Henry,_Duke_of_Gloucester)
* [Roger Hammond](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roger_Hammond_%28actor%29) as Dr. Blandine Bentham
* [Ramona Marquez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramona_Marquez) as [Princess Margaret](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princess_Margaret,_Countess_of_Snowdon)
* [Michael Gambon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Gambon) as [King George V](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_V)

**Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)**

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): In this grave hour, perhaps the most **fateful** in our history, I send to every household of my peoples, both at home and overseas, this message, spoken with the same depth of feeling for each one of you, as if I were able to cross your threshold and speak to you myself. For the second time in the lives of most of us, we are at war. Over and over again we have tried to find a peaceful way out of the differences between ourselves and those who are now our enemies. But it has been **in vain**. We have been forced into a conflict, for we are called to meet the challenge of a principle, which, if it were to prevail, would be fatal to any civilized order in the world. Such a principle, stripped of all disguise, is surely the mere primitive doctrine that **might is right**. For the sake of all that we ourselves hold dear, it is unthinkable that we should refuse to meet the challenge. It is to this high purpose that I now call my people at home, and my peoples across the seas, who will make our cause their own. I ask them to stand calm and firm and united in this **time of trial**. The task will be hard. There may be dark days ahead, and war can no longer be confined to the battlefield. But we can only do the right as we see the right, and reverently commit our cause to God. If one and all we keep resolutely faithful to it, then, with God's help, we shall prevail.

**Fateful** = fatidico; **in vain** = invano, inutile; **might is right** = (espressione idiomatica fondata sulla rima tra *might* e *right*: la forza è il diritto) chi usa la forza fa valere il proprio diritto; **time of trial** = tempo/momento che ci mette a dura prova

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Do you know any jokes?

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): ...**Timing isn't my strong suit**.

**Timing isn't my strong suit =** (battuta basata sull’uso metaforico di *suit*, il seme delle carte da gioco) il tempismo non è la mia carta migliore/il mio forte

[Queen Elizabeth](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000307/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [Using the name "Mrs. Johnson"] My husband's work involves a great deal of public speaking.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Then he should change jobs.

[Queen Elizabeth](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000307/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): He can't.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): What is he, an **indentured servant**?

[Queen Elizabeth](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000307/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Something like that.

**indentured servant** = servo a contratto

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): All that work **down the drain**. My own brother, I couldn't say a single word to him in reply.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Why do you stammer so much more with David than you ever do with me?

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): 'Cos you're b... bloody well paid to listen.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Bertie, I'm not a geisha girl.

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): St... stop trying to be so bloody clever.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): What is it about David that stops you speaking?

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): What is it about you that bloody well makes you want to go on about it the whole bloody time?

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Vulgar, but fluent; you don't stammer when you **swear**.

**down the drain** = (let. giù per gli scarichi) sprecato; **to stammer** = balbettare, tartagliare; **to swear** = (qui) dire parolocce

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): If I'm King, where's my power? Can I form a government? Can I levy a tax, declare a war? No! And yet I am the seat of all authority. Why? Because the nation believes that when I speak, I speak for them. But I can't speak.

**to levy a tax =** imporre una tassa

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [Sees Logue is sitting on the coronation throne] What are you doing? Get up! You can't sit there! GET UP!

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Why not? It's a chair.

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): No, that. It is not a chair. T-that... that is Saint Edward's chair.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): People have **carved** their names on it.

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [Simultaneously] That... chair... is the seat on which every king and queen has... That is the Stone of Scone you ah-are **trivializing** everything. You trivialize...

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [Simultaneously] It's held in place by a large rock. I don't care about how many royal **arseholes** have sat in this chair.

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Listen to me. \*Listen to me!\*

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Listen to you? By what right?

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): By divine right if you must, I am your king.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): No you're not, you told me so yourself. You didn't want it. Why should I waste my time listening?

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Because I have a right to be heard. I have a voice!

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [pauses] Yes, you do.

[Longer pause]

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): You have such perseverance Bertie, you're the bravest man I know.

**to carve** = (qui) incidere con un coltello; **Stone of Scone** (detta anche Stone of Destiny, la pietra del destino, fu per secoli associate all’incoronazione dei re scozzesi e in seguito, nel 1296, portata in Inghilterra per essere poi posizionata sotto la Sedia dell’incoronazione) = Pietra di Scone; **to trivialise** = banalizzare; **arsehole** = coglione

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [as George "Berty" is lighting up a cigarette] Please don't do that.

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): I'm sorry?

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Please don't smoke. I believe sucking cigarette smoke into your lungs will kill you.

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): I need to relax. My physicians say it relaxes the throat.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): They're idiots.

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): **They've all been knighted**.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [sarcastic] **Makes it official then**.

**They've all been knighted** = sono stati tutti nominate cavalieri; **Makes it official then** = allora è stato ufficialmente riconosciuto che sono degli idioti!

[Stanley Baldwin](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000762/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Sir, I have asked to see you today in order to tender my resignation as Prime Minister.

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): I'm so sorry to hear that... Mr Baldwin.

[Stanley Baldwin](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000762/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Neville Chamberlain will take my place as Prime Minister. It's a matter of principle. I was mistaken. I have found it impossible to believe that there is any man in the world so lacking in moral feeling as Hitler. And that the world may be hurled for a second time into the abyss of destructive war. Churchill was right all along. This was always Hitler's intention. I'm only very sorry to leave you at this great time of crisis.

[Stanley Baldwin](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000762/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): [pauses]

[Stanley Baldwin](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000762/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): I'm very much afraid, sir, that **your greatest test** is yet to come.

**your greatest test =** la Sua prova più difficile

[Myrtle Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000383/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Will their Majesties be staying for dinner?

[Logue and Bertie look panic-stricken. Elizabeth comes to the rescue]

[Queen Elizabeth](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000307/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): We would love to, **such a treat**, but alas... a previous engagement. What a pity.

**such a treat** = sarebbe un tale piacere!

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): David? I've been trying to see you.

[King Edward VIII](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001602/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): I've been terribly busy.

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Doing what?

[King Edward VIII](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001602/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Kinging.

**Kinging** = a fare/giocare al re

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Surely a prince's brain knows what its mouth is doing?

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): **You're not well acquainted with princes, are you**.

**You're not well acquainted with princes, are you** = Non conosce molto bene i principi, non è vero?

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): **My castle, my rules.**

**My castle, my rules =** (gioco di parole fondato sull’espressione idiomatica *My house my rule*, dove la casa del re è un castello) a casa mia si fa come dico io

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Every monarch in history has succeeded someone who is dead. Or just about to be. My predecessor's not only alive, but very much so. Bloody mess. Can't even give them a Christmas speech.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Like your dad used to do.

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Precisely.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): He's not here anymore.

[King George VI](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000147/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Yes he is: **he's on that shilling** I gave you.

[Lionel Logue](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001691/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Easy enough to give away. You don't have to carry him around in your pocket. Or your brother. You don't need to be afraid of the things you were afraid of when you were five.

**he's on that shilling =** è su quella banconota da uno scellino

[King George V](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0002091/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): In the past all a King had to do was look respectable in uniform and not fall off his horse. Now we must invade people's homes and ingratiate ourselves with them. This family is reduced to those lowest, **basest** of all creatures, we've become actors!

**basest =** più vile

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_king%27s_speech>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1504320/?ref_=nv_sr_1>