

Read the following text:

The Wars of the Roses were a series of dynastic conflicts that shook England between 1455 and 1487. They were fought between two rival branches of the royal Plantagenet family: the House of Lancaster, whose emblem was a red rose, and the House of York, symbolized by a white rose. The struggle for the throne arose after years of weak rule and deep economic crisis following the Hundred Years' War with France. Political instability gave ambitious nobles the perfect opportunity to fight for power, turning private disputes into national warfare.

The conflict began during the reign of Henry VI, a monarch plagued by mental illness and indecision. His wife, Margaret of Anjou, tried to preserve their family's position, but the Yorkist leader Richard, Duke of York, challenged their authority. Several bloody battles followed, in which both sides gained and lost ground repeatedly. The war brought devastation to the countryside, disrupted trade, and left the English population exhausted.

In 1461, Richard's son, Edward IV, seized the crown for the Yorkists. His reign brought a brief period of stability, but the peace was short-lived. When Edward died, his young son became Edward V, though he never truly ruled. The boy and his brother disappeared mysteriously while under the protection of their uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester — who then crowned himself King Richard III. To this day, historians still debate whether Richard was responsible for their disappearance or if he was merely a victim of political intrigue.

Richard's rule lasted only two years. In 1485, Henry Tudor, a Lancastrian claimant living in exile, landed in England and defeated Richard at the Battle of Bosworth. Henry became King Henry VII and married Elizabeth of York, thereby uniting the two rival houses. His reign established the Tudor dynasty, which would rule for over a century and oversee the English Renaissance.

Yet, despite this apparent reconciliation, traces of resentment persisted. Some Yorkist supporters continued to plot rebellions, and pretenders to the throne emerged for years afterward. Even so, Henry VII's careful governance, strict control of the nobility, and restoration of financial order helped England recover from decades of turmoil. Modern historians often see the Wars of the Roses as a turning point: a brutal conflict that destroyed the medieval order but laid the foundations of modern England.

1. Answer the two subsections in this question.

1.1. After reading the text, indicate whether the following statements are True (T), False (F), or the information is Not Given (NG). In true and false cases only, copy the part of the text which justifies your answer.

1. The conflict was partly the result of England's political weakness after fighting a long war abroad.
2. Henry VI's mental illness made him a popular and respected king among his subjects.
3. Edward IV's rule brought lasting peace and prosperity to England until his natural death.
4. The disappearance of the Princes in the Tower was immediately and officially blamed on Richard III.
5. Henry Tudor's claim to the throne was accepted without opposition from Yorkist supporters.
6. Historians today unanimously agree that the Wars of the Roses destroyed England's monarchy completely.

1.2. Find a synonym (S) or an antonym (A) in the text for each of the following words.

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|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. agreement (A) | 4. scheme (S) |
| 2. ally (A) | 5. advocate (S) |
| 3. dispute (S) | |

2. Answer the two subsections in this question.

2.1. Write a NEW sentence that has the same meaning as the given one. Use the word or expression in brackets.

1. "This is Richard. I've just read his letter." (whose)
2. "Don't take this sword; it doesn't belong to you," said the knight. (not)
3. Many people believe they have the strength to change history. (capable)

4. Everybody knew the king had been hiding in France for years. (was)

5. Whichever side wins the battle will control the kingdom. (neither)

6. They should have told the queen the truth long ago. (been)

2.2. Answer the following questions about pronunciation (RP pronunciation).

1. In which one of the following words is the underlined letter pronounced as the “a” in “car”? past, fate, march, carry, balance.

2. In which words do we pronounce the letter “t”? fasten, battle, listen, castle, little, often.

3. In which word does the stress fall on the first syllable? control, hotel, power, restore, garage.

4. In which of the following words are the underlined letters pronounced /s/? century, causes, roses, decsision, voics.

3. In this text, fill each one of the gaps with a word taken from the box below. Bear in mind that there are five extra words which you must leave out. Each word may be used only once.

The Wars of the Roses were a series of 1._____ conflicts that 2._____ the kingdom of England for more than thirty years. They were caused by 3._____ claims to the throne and the ambitions of 4._____ nobles. The struggle 5._____ between two royal houses: Lancaster and York. The war finally ended with the 6._____ of Henry Tudor, who 7._____ the two sides by 8._____ Elizabeth of York. His reign marked the 9._____ of a new dynasty and brought 10._____ peace to the country.

rival	destroyed	noble	fighting	victory
married	divided	beginning	temporary	uniting
between	claiming	endless	joined	ambitious