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**Subject: The British Class System – From Toffs to Precariats**

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## 1. PRE-READING

Discuss the answers to the following questions with your partner:

- Is there a class system in your home country?
- What classes can you distinguish within the society in your country?
- What are the characteristic features of these classes?

## 2. WHILE READING

Find the answers to the following questions:

### From Feudal Roots to Decline

- Who introduced feudalism to Britain?
- Whom did William the Conqueror grant land leases to?
- Who were the tenants?
- What kind of people did the middle class constitute of?
- When were the terms: upper, middle and lower class introduced?
- What kinds of careers could the upper class follow in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries?
- Who were the new players introduced by the industrial revolution?
- Whose halcyon days ended in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and why did they end?

### Breaking Down Class

- How did the author of the article describe the period of the 1950s and 1960s?
- What factors are taken into account by Brits while defining a person's class?
- What kind of survey did Pierre Bourdieu create?
- How many classes were distinguished in the survey in 2011?
- What is the main difference between the elite and the established middle class?
- What is the name of the class with high economic capital but not culturally engaged?
- Who are new affluent workers?
- Who are emergent service workers?
- What is the difference between the traditional working class and the precariat?

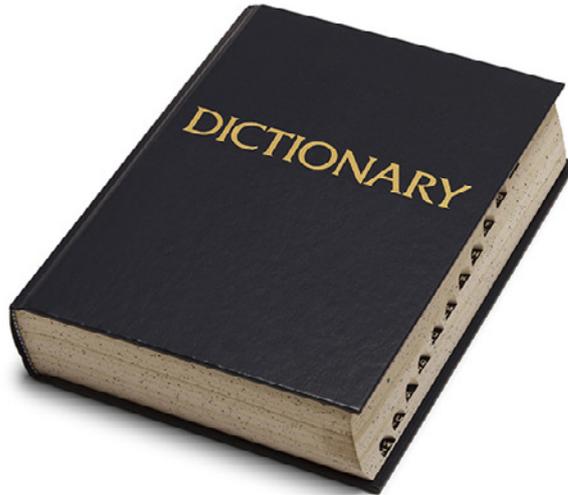
### Received Pronunciation

- What percentage of the population use received pronunciation?
- In which part of the country do the speakers of received pronunciation live?
- What are the preferences of this group of people?
- What is the key to understanding the British class system?

## 3. POST-READING

Look up the definitions of the following words in the dictionary:

- survey
- hunch (n.)
- wealthy
- halcyon days
- gregarious
- urban
- cuisine
- minority
- posh
- smoked salmon



Write questions using 5 of the words from the previous exercise. Ask your partner these questions.