

‘Omg Look at the Queen’: Trump Has Royals Fuming After Breaking Protocol, Cameras Catch Queen Camilla’s Icy Look and King Charles Freezes

By [Nicole Duncan-Smith](#) | May 1, 2026

President [Donald Trump](#) has never been accused of blending quietly into royal protocol, but his latest interaction with Britain’s most famous couple had social media buzzing like a family reunion gone sideways.

Trump’s repeated protocol stumbles feel less like accidents and more like a pattern. Some say it proves that military school, Ivy League education, and an obsession with European monarchs don’t always translate into polished diplomacy.



Trump sparked outrage online after stepping ahead of Queen Camilla and sidelining King Charles, turning a routine royal greeting into another headline-grabbing protocol moment. (Photo by Andrew Harnik/Getty Images)

During King Charles III and Queen Camilla’s official White House visit, cameras caught a moment viewers quickly labeled as cousin rivalry.

After that [arm-wrestling handshake](#) on April 28, both couples took a stroll on the South Lawn.

Footage showed Camilla, 78, working her way down the line after greeting Cabinet members and senior staff. That's when the reality star-turned-politician suddenly stepped forward, cutting in front of her and disrupting the greeting sequence.

Trump proceeded to greet Britain's foreign secretary. He stepped in front of Charles in a split-second moment that caught the queen off guard. She gave Trump an icy look from behind, and Charles froze in shock.

The clip showed the president jumping ahead of the king, who was also trying to engage with the staff. He extended his hand a second time before giving up, resolving once again that this is the Trump show.

The exchange recovered quickly, but the optics were enough to set social media off. Viewers framed it as another familiar example of Trump's tendency to take over the room — even in spaces built around centuries of protocol.

Within minutes, clips spread across Threads, where users wasted no time making their feelings known.

One commenter demanded an answer from Keir Starmer, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. They [wrote](#), “How embarrassing for the King. Just awful. Starmer needs to answer questions over this enormous blunder of judgement.”

“Doofus stepped in front of the king at his reception, blocking him from shaking hands with anyone. What an embarrassment,” another [added](#).

A third user [declared](#), “Oh bloody hell that's really awful. KC had his hand out to shake and Donald just keeps him out of range. Utter cringeworthy behaviour.”

“He makes everything all about him! What a disgrace!” one person [stated](#). Another said, “What....look at the Queen, she isn’t [impressed](#).”

None of it was entirely surprising to people who have been paying attention. Trump’s awkward history with royal protocol stretches back years, with moments that have a way of resurfacing every time a new meeting rolls around.

“He did the same thing with Queen Elizabeth II, and that was on British soil,” another [wrote](#).

Another said, “Remember when he walked in front of the Queen and kept blocking her, she couldn’t get around him. Charles did the right thing. Stand there and let him get on with it. He and Camilla will probably have a good laugh about it later. Trump think these people came to see him...lol”

That comment is a reference to Trump’s first official visit to the United Kingdom in July 2018, when he met [Queen Elizabeth II](#) at Windsor Castle.

He broke protocol when he walked ahead of the queen rather than alongside or slightly behind her during an inspection of the Guard of Honour, in several videos online.

This small but loaded breach of etiquette went viral almost immediately and has kept protocol experts talking for days. That same trip produced another awkward beat during a formal handshake with the queen. Trump appeared visibly unsure of where to stand and when to move.

Commentators at the time described it as a collision between American informality and British tradition, two styles that clearly did not meet in the middle. It echoed familiar energy during another visit to the United Kingdom.

In September 2025, during a ceremonial appearance, Trump drew criticism [after appearing to move ahead of royal](#) hosts during a formal walkabout.

With 1,300 troops and 120 horses assembled in the largest guard of honor ever staged for a U.K. state visit, every movement was deliberate — and the order mattered.

Protocol watchers questioned whether Trump had once again ignored the established order of precedence.

Charles led, but he gestured for Trump to step ahead at one point, quietly steering the moment to avoid the kind of protocol misstep that drew attention during his 2018 visit.

In one recent incident, from the U.S. trip, Trump and Charles showed their cousin-like teasing when they first greeted each other with an awkwardly [aggressive handshake](#).

The two appeared to tug each other slightly while holding on longer than expected. This created an awkward push-and-pull moment that viewers said looked more like a struggle for control.

For their part, Charles and Camilla handled it the way the royal family typically handles everything — with visible composure and no public acknowledgment that anything had gone sideways. They are, by now, well practiced at navigating the unexpected on the world stage.

But for everyone watching, the episode expised a pattern that, by this point, has become something of a signature.