

## U.K. votes to leave European Union

26th June, 2016



The United Kingdom has voted to leave the European Union in what is being seen as a political earthquake. Just over 52 per cent\* of Britons expressed their

desire to exit the EU in a referendum on Thursday. Currency markets were immediately affected as the British pound fell to its lowest level against the dollar since 1985. Britain's decision to leave has caused political upheaval. Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to stay in the EU and so politicians in both countries are now contemplating breaking from the UK. Right-wing politicians in Europe congratulated the UK for leaving. One said: "It is Great Britain's independence day. The people were asked, and they decided. The European Union as a political union has failed."

The magnitude of the result was summed up by Rob Ford, professor of politics at Manchester University, who said: "This is the biggest shock to European politics since the fall of the Berlin Wall." The vote has already prompted Britain's leader David Cameron to resign. He led the campaign to stay part of the EU and will step down in October. He said the country needed "fresh leadership". Less certain is the plight of the 3.3 million non-British EU citizens living in Britain, and the 1.3 million Britons living in other EU countries. Others may follow the UK's lead in exiting the EU. Representatives from Holland's Dutch Freedom Party and France's National Front Party said: "Now it is our turn."

\* Correction: 51.8% of those who voted in the referendum.

Sources: *Bloomberg.com / bbc.com / HuffingtonPost*

## Writing

It is good that the UK is leaving the EU. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

United Kingdom / voted / earthquake / currency / decision / right wing / the EU / magnitude / Berlin Wall / leader / campaign / leadership / plight / citizens / our turn

## True / False

- Nearly 60% of people in the UK voted to leave the EU. T / F
- The pound fell to levels against the dollar not seen since 1958. T / F
- All four countries in the UK voted to leave the EU. T / F
- Right-wing politicians in Europe congratulated the UK on its decision. T / F
- A professor said the fall of the Berlin Wall was a bigger shock. T / F
- Britain's leader will no longer be his country's leader in November. T / F
- There are 3.3 million Britons living in other EU countries. T / F
- Some Dutch and French politicians want their countries to leave the EU. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. earthquake    | a. marriage    |
| 2. desire        | b. considering |
| 3. immediately   | c. resign      |
| 4. contemplating | d. wish        |
| 5. union         | e. importance  |
| 6. magnitude     | f. chance      |
| 7. prompted      | g. instantly   |
| 8. step down     | h. example     |
| 9. lead          | i. caused      |
| 10. turn         | j. shock       |

## Discussion – Student A

- Is it the biggest shock in Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall?
- Why did many Britons want to leave the EU?
- What will happen to Britons living in Europe?
- How 'great' is Britain?
- What are the biggest reasons the Leave campaign in the UK won?
- What good and bad things might be ahead for the UK?
- What will happen if other countries leave the EU?
- What questions would you like to ask Britain's pro-leave leaders?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. expressed their desire                       | a. breaking from the UK        |
| 2. caused political                             | b. the 3.3 million             |
| 3. contemplating                                | c. has failed                  |
| 4. Right-                                       | d. of the result               |
| 5. The European Union as a political union      | e. upheaval                    |
| 6. The magnitude                                | f. the fall of the Berlin Wall |
| 7. the biggest shock to European politics since | g. to exit the EU              |
| 8. step   | h. wing politicians            |
| 9. the plight of                                | i. follow the UK's lead        |
| 10. Others may                                  | j. down in October             |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How do you feel about Britain leaving the EU?
- Why did many Britons want to stay in the EU?
- What are the good things about being a member of the EU?
- What do you think of the idea of the UK breaking up?
- What do you think of the European Union?
- Is the politician who said the EU has failed right?
- What will happen to the UK from now?

## Spelling

- a political uerhqktaae
- Britons epdsxesre their desire to exit
- in a refenuermd
- yrncucer markets were immediately affected
- caused political upaelahv
- ndencneedpi day
- The gteadmniu of the result
- ppmrdtoe Britain's leader
- He led the pcgmaani to stay
- the tpgilh of the 3.3 million
- EU etinzsic living in Britain
- teesisetvarnper from Holland's Dutch Freedom Party

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. d	3. g	4. b	5. a
6. e	7. i	8. c	9. h	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – The people

You think the people are the best thing about the UK. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which of these really needs to be improved (and why): the food, music or the weather.

### Role B – The food

You think the food is the best thing about the UK. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which of these really needs to be improved (and why): the people, music or the weather.

### Role C – Music

You think music is the best thing about the UK. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which of these really needs to be improved (and why): the food, the people or the weather.

### Role D – The weather

You think the weather is the best thing about the UK. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which of these really needs to be improved (and why): the food, music or the people.

## Speaking – The U.K.

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things about the UK at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| • music   | • the people       |
| • history | • the food         |
| • fashion | • the royal family |
| • weather | • humour           |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.