

Boris Johnson becomes UK's new leader

26th July, 2019



The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has a new leader. Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson became the UK's new Prime Minister yesterday after Theresa May announced her resignation in June. Mr Johnson, commonly known as Boris, realized a childhood

dream of becoming leader of the UK. It is reported that when he was eight, he told his parents he wanted to be king of the world. He now has the lesser role of Prime Minister but has a tough task ahead of him. His most pressing undertaking is to deliver Brexit and make sure Britain withdraws from the European Union. Mr Johnson has vowed to ensure this will be done by October 31st. His political future depends on this.

Boris Johnson had to go to Buckingham Palace to meet Queen Elizabeth before taking over as the UK's 77th Prime Minister. Tradition dictates that the Queen formally asks any new appointee to form a new government. Johnson accepted and drove to 10 Downing Street - the official residence of the British leader. His first job is to form his Cabinet - the people who will take up key decision-making roles in the new UK government. Johnson said: "Though I am today building a great team of men and women, I will take personal responsibility for the change I want to see." In his first speech to the nation as Prime Minister, he promised to spend more money on the police, education and social welfare.

Sources: bbc.com / foxnews.com / metro.co.uk

Writing

The current leader of my country is the best in our history. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

the U.K. / leader / resignation / childhood dream / king / European Union / Brexit / Buckingham Palace / tradition / tradition / residence / decision-making / speech

True / False

- a) The first name of the UK's new leader is Alexander. T / F
- b) Mr Johnson had a childhood dream to be leader of the U.K. T / F
- c) The article said Mr Johnson's most pressing task was to deliver Brexit. T / F
- d) Mr Johnson said he would deliver Brexit by December 31st. T / F
- e) Mr Johnson is the United Kingdom's 77th Prime Minister. T / F
- f) A new Prime Minister traditionally asks the Queen to form a government. T / F
- g) The official residence of the UK Prime Minister is in Oxford Street. T / F
- h) Mr Johnson promised to cut spending on social welfare. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. resignation | a. make |
| 2. realized | b. orders |
| 3. tough | c. promised |
| 4. vowed | d. putting together |
| 5. depends on | e. achieved |
| 6. dictates | f. difficult |
| 7. form | g. important |
| 8. key | h. hinges on |
| 9. building | i. pay out |
| 10. spend | j. departure |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What leadership skills do you have?
- b) What do you know about Boris Johnson?
- c) What do you think of your country's leader?
- d) What makes a good leader?
- e) What would you do if you were king of the world?
- f) Should there be a world leader?
- g) What was your childhood dream?
- h) What do you know about Brexit?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Theresa May announced her | a. decision-making roles |
| 2. realized a childhood dream of becoming | b. this will be done |
| 3. His most pressing undertaking is | c. money on the police |
| 4. Mr Johnson has vowed to ensure | d. of the British leader |
| 5. His political future depends | e. to deliver Brexit |
| 6. taking over as the | f. resignation in June |
| 7. the official residence | g. responsibility |
| 8. people who will take up key | h. on this |
| 9. take personal | i. leader of the UK |
| 10. he promised to spend more | j. UK's 77th Prime Minister |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Are you a good leader?
- Would you like to meet Queen Elizabeth in Buckingham Palace?
- Would you be a good politician?
- Do men or women make better leaders?
- Do politicians keep their promises?
- What would you spend money on if you were leader?
- What questions would you like to ask Boris Johnson?

Spelling

- May announced her iaegrtnsnio
- Boris raelidz a childhood dream
- He now has the eesrsl role
- His most pressing ndtekruagin
- make sure Britain waiwhdrts
- Johnson has eodvw to ensure this
- Tradition tdtsaeci that
- the Queen formally asks any new atippeeon
- the official cdersinee
- take up key scndieio-making roles
- I will take personal ibsiitesrpyoln
- education and social reafewl

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Safer Streets

You think safer streets is the biggest promise a leader can make. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their promises. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): more hospitals, lower taxes or better education.

Role B – More Hospitals

You think more hospitals is the biggest promise a leader can make. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their promises. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): safer streets, lower taxes or better education.

Role C – Lower Taxes

You think lower taxes is the biggest promise a leader can make. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their promises. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): more hospitals, safer streets or better education.

Role D – Better Education

You think better education is the biggest promise a leader can make. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their promises. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): more hospitals, lower taxes or safer streets.

Speaking – Leader's promises

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important promises for a leader at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| • lower taxes | • national security |
| • more hospitals | • safe streets |
| • social welfare | • better education |
| • diversity | • stamp out corruption |

Answers – True False

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