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**Level 4 – 21st July 2025**

## **U.K. to lower voting age from 18 to 16**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250721-voting-age-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250721-voting-age-4.html>

The U.K. will lower the voting age by two years to 16. This "seismic" change is part of reforms to give the electoral system more integrity. The first chance 16-year-olds will have to cast their vote will be in the UK's next general election. The government said: "We are modernizing our democracy, so that it is fit for the 21st century." By extending the vote to younger people, it wants to restore public trust and "boost engagement in UK democracy".

There has been mixed reaction to the change. Supporters say 16-year-olds work and pay taxes, so they should have the vote. The UK prime minister said: "If you pay in, you should have the opportunity to say what you want your money spent on." The UK's deputy prime minister said young people serve in the military, so they should "have a say on issues that affect them". Critics say 16-year-olds cannot buy a lottery ticket, yet they will be able to vote.

Sources: <https://apnews.com/article/uk-voting-age-16-criticism-debate-f85d8675acbf4bd9ceece51135c369e5>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/16-year-olds-to-be-given-right-to-vote-through-seismic-government-election-reforms>  
<https://www.foxnews.com/world/uk-government-lower-voting-age-16-before-next-national-election-despite-conservative-opposition>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250721-voting-age-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. lower the voting age           | a. will have            |
| 2. This "seismic"                 | b. for the 21st century |
| 3. part                           | c. integrity            |
| 4. give the electoral system more | d. change               |
| 5. The first chance 16-year-olds  | e. public trust         |
| 6. cast                           | f. by two years         |
| 7. it is fit                      | g. their vote           |
| 8. It wants to restore            | h. of reforms           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. There has been mixed         | a. ticket                 |
| 2. 16-year-olds work and        | b. a say                  |
| 3. they should have             | c. spent on               |
| 4. say what you want your money | d. pay taxes              |
| 5. young people serve           | e. affect them            |
| 6. they should have             | f. in the military        |
| 7. issues that                  | g. reaction to the change |
| 8. buy a lottery                | h. the vote               |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250721-voting-age-4.html>

The U.K. will (1) \_\_\_\_\_ age by two years to 16.

This (2) \_\_\_\_\_ part of reforms to give the

electoral (3) \_\_\_\_\_. The first chance 16-year-olds

will have to cast their vote will be in the UK's

(4) \_\_\_\_\_. The government said: "We are

modernizing our democracy, so that it is fit for the 21st century." By

(5) \_\_\_\_\_ to younger people, it wants to restore

public (6) \_\_\_\_\_ engagement in UK democracy.

There has been (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the change. Supporters

say 16-year-olds work (8) \_\_\_\_\_, so they should

have the vote. The UK prime minister said: "If you pay in, you should have

(9) \_\_\_\_\_ say what you want your money spent

on." The UK's deputy prime minister said young people serve

(10) \_\_\_\_\_, so they should "have a say on

(11) \_\_\_\_\_ them". Critics say 16-year-olds cannot

buy (12) \_\_\_\_\_, yet they will be able to vote.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250721-voting-age-4.html>

The U.K. will lower the voting age by two years to 16. This "seismic" change is part of reforms to give the electoral system more integrity. The first chance 16-year-olds will have to cast their vote will be in the UK's next general election. The government said: "We are modernizing our democracy, so that it is fit for the 21st century. By extending the vote to younger people, it wants to restore public trust and boost engagement in UK democracy". There has been mixed reaction to the change. Supporters say 16-year-olds work and pay taxes, so they should have the vote. The UK prime minister said: "If you pay in, you should have the opportunity to say what you want your money spent on." The UK's deputy prime minister said young people serve in the military, so they should "have a say on issues that affect them". Critics say 16-year-olds cannot buy a lottery ticket, yet they will be able to vote.

# VOTING AGE SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250721-voting-age-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about the voting age in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.  
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

## WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250721-voting-age-4.html>

Write about the **voting age** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]