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**Level 5 – 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-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250721-voting-age-5.html>

The U.K. will lower the voting age to 16. This is two years lower than the current age. This "seismic" change is part of a set of reforms that will give the electoral system more integrity. The first chance 16- and 17-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, we are taking a generational step forward in restoring public trust and boosting engagement in UK democracy."

There has been mixed reaction to the change. Supporters say 16-year-olds work and pay taxes, so they should be allowed to vote. The UK prime minister agreed. He 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 already contribute to society by...paying taxes and serving in the military. It's only right they can have a say on the issues that affect them." Critics say 16-year-olds cannot drink alcohol or get married without their parent's consent, 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-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. lower the voting age      | a. more integrity       |
| 2. two years lower than      | b. for the 21st century |
| 3. this "seismic"            | c. the current age      |
| 4. give the electoral system | d. trust                |
| 5. cast                      | e. change               |
| 6. We are modernizing        | f. to 16                |
| 7. it is fit                 | g. our democracy        |
| 8. restoring public          | h. their vote           |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. There has been mixed        | a. what you want          |
| 2. 16-year-olds work           | b. be allowed to vote     |
| 3. they should                 | c. parent's consent       |
| 4. have the opportunity to say | d. military               |
| 5. contribute to               | e. reaction to the change |
| 6. serving in the              | f. society                |
| 7. the issues that             | g. and pay taxes          |
| 8. get married without their   | h. affect them            |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250721-voting-age-5.html>

The U.K. will lower the voting age to 16. This is two years lower than (1) \_\_\_\_\_. This "seismic" change is part of a set of reforms that will give the electoral (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The first chance 16- and 17-year-olds will have to (3) \_\_\_\_\_ will be in the UK's next general election. The government said: "We (4) \_\_\_\_\_ democracy, so that it is fit for the 21st century. (5) \_\_\_\_\_ vote to younger people, we are taking a generational step forward in (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and boosting engagement in UK democracy."

There has been (7) \_\_\_\_\_ the change. Supporters say 16-year-olds work and pay taxes, so they should be (8) \_\_\_\_\_. The UK prime minister agreed. He said: "If you pay in, you should have the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ what you want your money spent on." The UK's deputy prime minister said: "Young people already (10) \_\_\_\_\_ by...paying taxes and serving in the military. It's only right they can have a say on the (11) \_\_\_\_\_ them." Critics say 16-year-olds cannot drink alcohol or get married without (12) \_\_\_\_\_, yet they will be able to vote.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2507/250721-voting-age-5.html>

The U.K. will lower the voting age to 16. This is two years lower than the current age. This "seismic" change is part of a set of reforms that will give the electoral system more integrity. The first chance 16- and 17-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, we are taking a generational step forward in restoring public trust and boosting engagement in UK democracy." There has been mixed reaction to the change. Supporters say 16-year-olds work and pay taxes, so they should be allowed to vote. The UK prime minister agreed. He 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 already contribute to society by... paying taxes and serving in the military. It's only right they can have a say on the issues that affect them." Critics say 16-year-olds cannot drink alcohol or get married without their parent's consent, 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-5.html>

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

[illegible]