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Level 6 – 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.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

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

The British government has announced a lowering of the voting age to 16. This is two years lower than the current age at which a person can cast their vote. This "seismic" change is part of a package of reforms that will give the electoral system greater integrity, while including more young people in the democratic process. The first chance 16- and 17-year-olds will have to exercise their right to 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 in Britain to the change. Supporters contend that 16-year-olds in Britain work and pay taxes, so they should be allowed to vote. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer 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 working, paying taxes and serving in the military. It's only right they can have a say on the issues that affect them." However, there are many critics. Some point to the fact that 16-year-olds cannot drink alcohol, buy a lottery ticket, 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>

WARM-UPS

1. VOTING AGE: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the voting age. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

the voting age / seismic / change / reforms / electoral system / integrity / step / trust
mixed reaction / supporters / 16-year-olds / paying taxes / the military / society

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. 20: Students A **strongly** believe people should not be allowed to vote until they are 20; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. AGE: From what age should people be allowed to do these things? Why? Should there be an upper age limit at which people can longer do these things? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Age	Why	Upper Limit
Vote			
Drive			
Get married			
Become president			
Get a housing loan			
Retirement			

5. AGE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "age". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. YOUTH ISSUES: Rank these with your partner. Put the most pressing issues for 16-year-olds at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Anxiety about global crises
- Stress from studying
- Social media likes
- Bullying
- Peer pressure
- The future
- Having things
- Money

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. cast | a. About different age groups in a family or society. |
| 2. seismic | b. Very big or important. |
| 3. package | c. Being honest and doing the right thing. |
| 4. integrity | d. Put something somewhere, like a vote. |
| 5. exercise | e. Being involved or interested in something. |
| 6. generational | f. A group of things put together. |
| 7. engagement | g. Use a right or power. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8. mixed reaction | h. Working in a job, like in the army. |
| 9. contend | i. Help by giving something (like time, work, or money). |
| 10. contribute | j. People who say what they think is wrong with something. |
| 11. serving | k. When some people like something and some people do not. |
| 12. military | l. Say or believe something is true. |
| 13. critics | m. Saying yes to something or giving permission. |
| 14. consent | n. The army and other people who protect a country. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

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

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The UK will make voting for 16-year-olds mandatory. **T / F**
2. The article said the lower voting age will create a political earthquake. **T / F**
3. Sixteen-year-olds will be able to vote from the next general election. **T / F**
4. The UK said it wants 16-year-olds to be fitter by voting. **T / F**
5. A vast majority of Britons are behind the lowered voting age. **T / F**
6. The UK prime minister said people who pay taxes should get a vote. **T / F**
7. The deputy prime minister said people in the military should get a vote. **T / F**
8. In the UK, 16-year-olds can get married with their parents' approval. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. announced | a. chance |
| 2. seismic | b. soundness |
| 3. integrity | c. collection |
| 4. fit | d. declared |
| 5. engagement | e. army |
| 6. reaction | f. significant |
| 7. package | g. response |
| 8. opportunity | h. participation |
| 9. military | i. agreement |
| 10. consent | j. suitable |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. a person can cast | a. right to vote |
| 2. give the electoral system | b. in the military |
| 3. exercise their | c. in UK democracy |
| 4. so that it is fit | d. their parent's consent |
| 5. boosting engagement | e. greater integrity |
| 6. There has been mixed | f. to say what you want |
| 7. have the opportunity | g. that affect them |
| 8. serving | h. for the 21st century |
| 9. have a say on the issues | i. reaction in Britain |
| 10. get married without | j. their vote |

GAP FILL

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

The British government has announced a lowering of the voting age to 16. This is two years lower than the (1) _____ age at which a person can cast their vote. This "(2) _____" change is part of a (3) _____ of reforms that will give the electoral system greater integrity, while including more young people in the democratic process. The first (4) _____ 16- and 17-year-olds will have to exercise their (5) _____ to vote will be in the UK's next general election. The government said: "We are modernizing our democracy, so that it is (6) _____ for the 21st century. By (7) _____ the vote to younger people, we are taking a generational step forward in restoring public trust and (8) _____ engagement in UK democracy."

There has been mixed (9) _____ in Britain to the change. Supporters (10) _____ that 16-year-olds in Britain work and pay taxes, so they should be allowed to vote. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer agreed. He said: "If you pay in, you should have the opportunity to say what you want your money (11) _____ on." The UK's deputy prime minister said: "Young people already (12) _____ to society by working, paying taxes and serving in the (13) _____. It's only right they can have a say on the issues that affect them." However, there are many (14) _____. Some point to the fact that 16-year-olds cannot drink alcohol, buy a (15) _____ ticket, or get married without their parent's (16) _____, yet they will be able to vote.

fit
seismic
chance
boosting
current
extending
right
package

contribute
consent
contend
lottery
military
reaction
spent
critics

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

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

- 1) This is two years lower than the current age at which a person can _____
 - a. caste their vote
 - b. cast their vote
 - c. clasp their vote
 - d. chaste their vote
- 2) "seismic" change is part of a package of reforms that will give the electoral _____
 - a. system greater integral
 - b. system greater integers
 - c. system greater integrity
 - d. system greater inter-gritty
- 3) The first chance 16- and 17-year-olds will have to _____
 - a. exercise their light
 - b. exercise their right
 - c. exercise their fight
 - d. exercise their rite
- 4) The government said: "We are modernizing our democracy, so that _____"
 - a. it is bit
 - b. it is lit
 - c. it is hit
 - d. it is fit
- 5) a generational step forward in restoring public trust and boosting engagement _____
 - a. on UK democracy
 - b. in UK democracy
 - c. to UK democracy
 - d. at UK democracy
- 6) Supporters contend that 16-year-olds in Britain work _____
 - a. end pay taxes
 - b. and paid taxes
 - c. and pay taxis
 - d. and pay taxes
- 7) you should have the opportunity to say what you want your _____
 - a. money spend on
 - b. money spent on
 - c. money spent ton
 - d. monies pent on
- 8) The UK's deputy prime minister said: "Young people already _____"
 - a. contribute to society
 - b. contribute to society
 - c. contribute to society
 - d. contribute to society
- 9) Young people already contribute to society by working, paying taxes and serving _____
 - a. in the militia
 - b. in the milli-tree
 - c. in the miller tree
 - d. in the military
- 10) cannot drink alcohol, buy a lottery ticket, or get married without _____
 - a. their parent's consent
 - b. their parent's content
 - c. their parent's concert
 - d. their parent's confetti

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

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

The British government has (1) _____ of the voting age to 16. This is two years lower than the current age at which a person can cast their vote. This (2) _____ part of a package of reforms that will give the electoral (3) _____, while including more young people in the democratic process. The first chance 16- and 17-year-olds will have to (4) _____ to vote will be in the UK's next general election. The government said: "We are modernizing (5) _____ that it is fit for the 21st century. By [extending] the vote to younger people, we are taking a generational step forward in (6) _____ and boosting engagement in UK democracy."

There has been (7) _____ Britain to the change. Supporters contend that 16-year-olds in Britain work and pay taxes, so they should be (8) _____. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer agreed. He 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 already contribute to society by working, paying taxes and serving (10) _____. It's only right they can have a say on the issues that affect them." However, there (11) _____. Some point to the fact that 16-year-olds cannot drink alcohol, buy a lottery ticket, or get married without (12) _____, yet they will be able to vote.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What is the current age from which people in the UK can vote?
2. What does the UK government want to give the electoral system?
3. When will 16-year-olds have their first chance to vote?
4. What did the UK government say it is modernizing?
5. What does the UK want to restore?
6. What kind of reaction has there been to the lowering of the voting age?
7. Why does the UK leader think 16-year-olds should be able to vote?
8. Who said young people contribute to society by serving in the military?
9. What kind of ticket did critics say young people cannot buy?
10. What do people in the UK need to be able to get married at 16?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

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

- 1) What is the current age from which people in the UK can vote?
 - a) 21
 - b) 20
 - c) 19
 - d) 18
- 2) What does the UK government want to give the electoral system?
 - a) a boost
 - b) greater integrity
 - c) polish
 - d) a points system
- 3) When will 16-year-olds have their first chance to vote?
 - a) in the next referendum
 - b) in the next local elections
 - c) in the next general election
 - d) from next week
- 4) What did the UK government say it is modernizing?
 - a) democracy
 - b) Britain
 - c) the election results system
 - d) voting booths
- 5) What does the UK want to restore?
 - a) the voting computer operating system
 - b) its lead
 - c) public trust
 - d) an old polling station
- 6) What kind of reaction has there been to the lowering of the voting age?
 - a) furious
 - b) mixed
 - c) considerable
 - d) little
- 7) Why does the UK leader think 16-year-olds should be able to vote?
 - a) They know more than 80-year-olds.
 - b) They are the future.
 - c) They are intelligent.
 - d) They work and pay taxes.
- 8) Who said young people contribute to society by serving in the military?
 - a) the UK's deputy prime minister
 - b) the leader of the opposition
 - c) the UK's prime minister
 - d) an army chief
- 9) What kind of ticket did critics say young people cannot buy?
 - a) an election ticket
 - b) a gold ticket
 - c) a lottery ticket
 - d) a concert ticket
- 10) What do people in the UK need to be able to get married at 16?
 - a) money
 - b) parental consent
 - c) a special test
 - d) an interview

ROLE PLAY

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

Role A – Anxiety About Global Crises

You think anxiety about global crises is the most pressing issue for youth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issue isn't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least pressing of these (and why): study stress, bullying or the future.

Role B – Study Stress

You think study stress is the most pressing issue for youth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issue isn't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least pressing of these (and why): anxiety about global crises, bullying or the future.

Role C – Bullying

You think bullying is the most pressing issue for youth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issue isn't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least pressing of these (and why): study stress, anxiety about global crises or the future.

Role D – The Future

You think the future is the most pressing issue for youth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issue isn't as pressing. Also, tell the others which is the least pressing of these (and why): study stress, bullying or anxiety about global crises.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

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

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'voting' and 'election'.

voting	election

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• two• cast• greater• exercise• fit• trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• mixed• contend• spent• issues• critics• ticket
---	---

VOTING AGE SURVEY

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

VOTING AGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'vote'?
3. What do you think of voting?
4. Should we tell people who we vote for?
5. From what age should people be allowed to vote?
6. Is it more important for a 16-year-old or 90-year-old to vote?
7. What do you think of your country's electoral system?
8. What is democracy and how important is it?
9. How much faith do you have in democracy?
10. How much faith do you have in your country's government?

U.K. to lower voting age from 18 to 16 – 21st July 2025
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VOTING AGE DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'election'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How important is voting?
15. Should voting be compulsory?
16. Who has better decision-making when voting, a 16- or 90-year-old?
17. Should anyone who pays taxes be allowed to vote?
18. From what age should someone be allowed to get married?
19. What issues do you think are important to 16-year-olds?
20. What questions would you like to ask a 16-year-old about voting?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

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

The British government has announced a (1) ____ of the voting age to 16. This is two years lower than the current age at which a person can (2) ____ their vote. This "(3) ____" change is part of a package of reforms that will give the electoral system greater integrity, while including more young people in the democratic process. The first chance 16- and 17-year-olds will have to (4) ____ their right to vote will be in the UK's next general election. The government said: "We are modernizing our democracy, so that it is (5) ____ for the 21st century. By [extending] the vote to younger people, we are taking a generational step forward in restoring public trust and (6) ____ engagement in UK democracy."

There has been (7) ____ reaction in Britain to the change. Supporters contend that 16-year-olds in Britain work and pay taxes, so they should be allowed to vote. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer agreed. He said: "If you pay (8) ____, you should have the opportunity to say what you want your money spent (9) ____." The UK's deputy prime minister said: "Young people already contribute to society by working, paying taxes and serving in the (10) _____. It's only right they can have a say on the issues that affect them." However, there are many critics. Some (11) ____ to the fact that 16-year-olds cannot drink alcohol, buy a lottery ticket, or get married without their parent's (12) ____, yet they will be able to vote.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) levelling | (b) slowing | (c) lowering | (d) plummeting |
| 2. | (a) cast | (b) caste | (c) past | (d) paste |
| 3. | (a) volcanic | (b) seismic | (c) tidal | (d) cosmic |
| 4. | (a) practice | (b) activity | (c) workout | (d) exercise |
| 5. | (a) healthy | (b) shapely | (c) fit | (d) tough |
| 6. | (a) boasting | (b) boosting | (c) basting | (d) beasting |
| 7. | (a) mixed | (b) combined | (c) stirred | (d) blended |
| 8. | (a) dearly | (b) for | (c) out | (d) in |
| 9. | (a) of | (b) in | (c) on | (d) up |
| 10. | (a) militate | (b) militia | (c) militant | (d) military |
| 11. | (a) end | (b) point | (c) finger | (d) highlight |
| 12. | (a) consent | (b) corset | (c) concert | (d) content |

SPELLING

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

Paragraph 1

1. nucnaedon a lowering of the voting age
2. this eisscmi change
3. give the electoral system greater yrnigetit
4. people in the democratic cpesors
5. taking a laegeninotar step forward
6. boosting geneemgatn in UK democracy

Paragraph 2

7. supporters encntdo that
8. the UK's deyput prime minister
9. young people already btcoitrneu to society
10. serving in the iiartmyl
11. there are many icrtsci
12. get married without their parent's netosnc

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

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

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () age at which a person can cast their vote. This "seismic" change is part of a package
- () agreed. He said: "If you pay in, you should have the opportunity to say what you want your money
- () buy a lottery ticket, or get married without their parent's consent, yet they will be able to vote.
- () fit for the 21st century. By [extending] the vote to younger people, we are taking a generational
- () of reforms that will give the electoral system greater integrity, while including more young people in the democratic
- () process. The first chance 16- and 17-year-olds will have to exercise their right
- () spent on." The UK's deputy prime minister said: "Young people already contribute
- () step forward in restoring public trust and boosting engagement in UK democracy."
- () that 16-year-olds in Britain work and pay taxes, so they should be allowed to vote. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer
- () that affect them." However, there are many critics. Some point to the fact that 16-year-olds cannot drink alcohol,
- (**1**) The British government has announced a lowering of the voting age to 16. This is two years lower than the current
- () There has been mixed reaction in Britain to the change. Supporters contend
- () to society by working, paying taxes and serving in the military. It's only right they can have a say on the issues
- () to vote will be in the UK's next general election. The government said: "We are modernizing our democracy, so that it is

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

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

1. A voting lowering of 16 age to the .
2. Reforms system electoral greater integrity give the will .
3. Seventeen-year-olds exercise vote will to their right .
4. So 21st for the fit century that it's .
5. A restoring in step public generational trust forward .
6. There Britain been mixed in reaction has .
7. Say spent want your money what you on .
8. Young contribute already society to by working people .
9. They the a can on say have issues .
10. Point the to 16-year-olds drink that fact cannot .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

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

The British government has announced a *leveraging* / *lowering* of the voting age to 16. This is two years lower than the *current* / *currency* age at which a person can *paste* / *cast* their vote. This "seismic" change is part of a package of reforms that will give the *elect* / *electoral* system greater integrity, while *including* / *inclusive* more young people in the democratic process. The first chance 16- and 17-year-olds will have to exercise their *right* / *left* to vote will be in the UK's next *generally* / *general* election. The government said: "We are modernizing our democracy, so that it is *bit* / *fit* for the 21st century. By [extending] the vote to younger people, we are taking a *generating* / *generational* step forward in restoring public trust and *boasting* / *boosting* engagement in UK democracy."

There has been *mix* / *mixed* reaction in Britain to the change. Supporters contend *what* / *that* 16-year-olds in Britain work and pay taxes, so they should be allowed *to* / *for* vote. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer agreed. He said: "If you pay in, you should have the opportunity to say *that* / *what* you want your money spent *on* / *in*." The UK's deputy prime minister said: "Young people already contribute to society by working, *payment* / *paying* taxes and serving in the *militia* / *military*. It's only right they can have a *say* / *speak* on the issues that affect them." However, there are many critics. Some *point* / *finger* to the fact that 16-year-olds cannot drink alcohol, buy a lottery ticket, or get married without their parent's *concert* / *consent*, yet they will be able to vote.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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

Th_ Br_t_sh g_v_rnm_nt h_s _nn__nc_d _ l_w_rng _f
th_ v_t_ng _g_ t_ 16. Th_s _s tw_ y__rs l_w_r th_n
th_ c_rr_nt _g_ _t wh_ch _ p_rs_n c_n c_st th__r
v_t_. Th_s "s__sm_c" ch_ng_ _s p_rt _f _ p_ck_g_ _f
r_f_rms th_t w_ll g_v_ th_ _l_ct_r_l syst_m gr__tr
_nt_gr_ty, wh_l_ _ncl_d_ng m_r_ y__ng p__pl_ _n th_
d_m_cr_t_c pr_c_ss. Th_ f_rst ch_nc_ 16- _nd 17-y__r-
_lds w_ll h_v_ t_ _x_rc_s_ th__r r_gh_t t_ v_t_ w_ll
b_ _n th_ _K's n_xt g_n_r_l _l_ct__n. Th_ g_v_rnm_nt
s__d: "W_ _r_ m_d_rn_z_ng __r d_m_cr_cy, s_ th_t _t
_s f_t f_r th_ 21st c_nt_ry. By [_xt_nd_ng] th_ v_t_
t_ y__ng_r p__pl_, w_ _r_ t_k_ng _ g_n_r_t__n_l st_p
f_rw_rd _n r_st_rng p_b_l_c tr_st _nd b__st_ng
_ng_g_m_nt _n _K d_m_cr_cy."

Th_r_ h_s b__n m_x_d r__ct__n _n Br_t__n t_ th_
ch_ng_. S_pp_rtr_s c_nt_nd th_t 16-y__r-lds _n
Br_t__n w_rk _nd p_y t_x_s, s_ th_y sh__ld b_
_ll_w_d t_ v_t_. _K Pr_m_ M_n_st_r K__r St_rmr
_gr__d. H_ s__d: "_f y__ p_y _n, y__ sh__ld h_v_
th_ _pp_rtn_ty t_ s_y wh_t y__ w_nt y__r m_n_y
sp_nt _n." Th_ _K's d_p_ty pr_m_ m_n_st_r s__d:
"Y__ng p__pl_ _lr__dy c_ntr_b_t_ t_ s_c__ty by
w_rk_ng, p_yng t_x_s _nd s_rv_ng _n th_ m_l_t_ry.
_t's _nly r_gh_t th_y c_n h_v_ _ s_y _n th_ _ss__s
th_t _ff_ct th_m." H_w_v_r, th_r_ _r_ m_ny cr_t_cs.
S_m_ p__nt t_ th_ f_ct th_t 16-y__r-lds c_nn_t drnk
_lc_h_l, b_y _ l_tt_ry t_ck_t, _r g_t m_rr__d w_th__t
th__r p_r_nt's c_ns_nt, y_t th_y w_ll b_ _bl_ t_ v_t_.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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

the british government has announced a lowering of the voting age to 16
this is two years lower than the current age at which a person can cast their
vote this seismic change is part of a package of reforms that will give the
electoral system greater integrity while including more young people in the
democratic process the first chance 16 and 17 year olds will have to exercise
their right to vote will be in the uks 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 in britain to the change supporters contend
that 16 year olds in britain work and pay taxes so they should be allowed to
vote uk prime minister keir starmer agreed he said if you pay in you should
have the opportunity to say what you want your money spent on the uks
deputy prime minister said young people already contribute to society by
working paying taxes and serving in the military its only right they can have
a say on the issues that affect them however there are many critics some
point to the fact that 16 year olds cannot drink alcohol buy a lottery ticket or
get married without their parents consent but they will be able to vote

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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

The British government has announced a lowering of the voting age to 16. This is two years lower than the current age at which a person can cast their vote. This "seismic" change is part of a package of reforms that will give the electoral system greater integrity, while including more young people in the democratic process. The first chance 16- and 17-year-olds will have to exercise their right to 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 in Britain to the change. Supporters contend that 16-year-olds in Britain work and pay taxes, so they should be allowed to vote. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer 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 working, paying taxes and serving in the military. It's only right they can have a say on the issues that affect them." However, there are many critics. Some point to the fact that 16-year-olds cannot drink alcohol, buy a lottery ticket, or get married without their parent's consent, yet they will be able to vote.

FREE WRITING

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

Write about **the voting age** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

[illegible]

ACADEMIC WRITING

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

People should not be allowed to vote until they are 18. Discuss.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. VOTING AGE: Make a poster about the voting age. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. VOTING TEST: Write a magazine article about requiring people to take a political intelligence test before they are allowed to vote. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on the voting age. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on when people should be able to start voting. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. d 2. b 3. f 4. c 5. g 6. a 7. e
8. k 9. l 10. i 11. h 12. n 13. j 14. m

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 F 3 T 4 F 5 F 6 T 7 T 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

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

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Eighteen
2. Greater integrity
3. In the next general election
4. Democracy
5. Public trust
6. Mixed reaction
7. They work and pay taxes.
8. The UK's deputy prime minister
9. A lottery ticket
10. Parental consent

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. A lowering of the voting age to 16.
2. Reforms will give the electoral system greater integrity.
3. Seventeen-year-olds will exercise their right to vote.
4. So that it's fit for the 21st century.
5. A generational step forward in restoring public trust.
6. There has been mixed reaction in Britain.
7. Say what you want your money spent on.
8. Young people already contribute to society by working.
9. They can have a say on the issues.
10. Point to the fact that 16-year-olds cannot drink.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. d 2. b 3. c 4. a 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. a 9. c 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)