

Poll: Majority of Britons want Britain to leave EU

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Tory MP Douglas Carswell: "This latest poll doesn't just tell us what the British people think. It tells us that all those Westminster grandees who dismissed as extreme those who wanted us out are out of touch with their electorate. There is broad support for change. Only ministers and mandarins stand in the way". A referendum on Britain's EU membership could be held within a year of the next General election. However governments have a habit of putting these things on a back burner if it suits them.

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If Britain left the EU it could always revert more closely to its Commonwealth ties, which itself is a strong trade organisation. Britain heavily subsidizes the EU and the EU gravy train. Most Britons are incensed at the money wasted by the EU. Leaving it however might prove difficult as no one has actually left the EU. If it did leave many Europeans living in Britain might have to leave. Likewise those living in Europe might have to uproot.

Recently British Prime Minister David Cameron hinted in the Commons that an EU referendum pledge will be included in the next Conservative election manifesto. The day that Brussels dictates to the Brits 'it cannot leave' will be a very interesting day indeed!

Category: EU / Britain / Poll

Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate

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EXERCISES

1. Britain and the EU: Think of three things that link Britain and the EU? Go round the room swapping details with others.

2. Dictation: The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

3. Reading: The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

4. Vocabulary: Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

5. The article: Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?
- c) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- d) **Discuss the article**

6. Majority of Britons want to leave the EU: In pairs think of five reasons for Britain to leave the EU. Then add five reasons why they should stay. Write them below. Discuss together.

Reasons for Britain to leave	Reasons to stay
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____
5 _____	5 _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

7. Let's roleplay 1: In pairs/groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Debate FM* radio studio. Today's interview is about: *Majority of Britons want to leave the EU*.

1	Someone from Britain who wants to leave the EU
2	Someone from Britain who wants to stay in the EU
3	The British Prime Minister
4	An EU leader

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

Poll: Majority of Britons want Britain to leave EU – 30th October 2012

8. **Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with 'Opinion polls'. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

9. **Let's roleplay 2:** In pairs. You are in a bar in London. Start a conversation about 'Majority of Britons want to leave the EU'. *5 minutes*.

10. **Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A

- 1) Name the opinion firm.
- 2) Name the British Prime minister.
- 3) Who is Grant Shapps?
- 4) Name the Tory MP.
- 5) Who could revert to what?

Student B

- 1) What could be held within a year of what?
- 2) What does '51%' refer to?
- 3) Name the newspaper.
- 4) What will be 'a very interesting day'?
- 5) Who are incensed about what?

11. **Advantages/Disadvantages of the EU:** In pairs/groups. Think of five advantages of the EU. Write them below. Then add five disadvantages. Talk about them!

Advantages	Disadvantages
1) _____	1) _____
2) _____	2) _____
3) _____	3) _____
4) _____	4) _____
5) _____	5) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

12. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Britons want to leave the EU**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

13. **Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) The EU _____
- b) Britain _____
- c) The poll _____

Poll: Majority of Britons want Britain to leave EU – 30th October 2012

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Should Britain leave the EU?
- 3) What do you think of the EU?
- 4) Do you know of any other EU country that wishes to leave the EU? Explain.
- 5) Is the British government out of touch with its electorate?
- 6) Is your government out of touch with its electorate?
- 7) Are you satisfied with the EU? Explain.
- 8) Does Brussels have too much power?
- 9) What is the future for Europe?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) Should the EU expand?
- 3) Will the EU let Britain leave?
- 4) Just why are the majority of Britons incensed with the EU?
- 5) Would Britain be better off returning to its Commonwealth roots?
- 6) Should Britain be looking at new markets like Brazil instead of the EU?
- 7) Would the EU be better off without Britain?
- 8) Should the British Prime Minister bring the UK referendum forward on today's issue?
- 9) Do you think Brits will be given the opportunity to vote yes/no to leave the EU?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

SPEAKING

Let's debate: What if Britain left the EU?

Allow 10 minutes – As a class / small groups

What if Britain left the EU?

The teacher can moderate the session.

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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Tory Chairman Grant Shapps suggested that the referendum would not include a straight "In or out" question. He said, "Should the question be a simple "yes/no" (1)_____ or would the referendum say 'Look we have negotiated this set of (2)_____ to be held in the UK or brought back to the UK, a new settlement with Europe'." He added, "Do you want this or do you want to carry on as we are? That would be the (3)_____ of it. It should be a yes/no question."

If Britain left the EU it could always (4)_____ more closely to its Commonwealth ties, which itself is a strong trade organisation. Britain (5)_____ subsidizes the EU and the EU gravy train. Most Britons are incensed at the money wasted by the EU. Leaving it however might prove difficult as no one has (6)_____ left the EU. If it did leave many Europeans living in Britain might have to leave. (7)_____ those living in Europe might have to (8)_____.

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mandarins

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

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If Britain left the EU it could always revert more closely to its Commonwealth ties, which itself is a _____. Britain heavily subsidizes the EU and _____. Most Britons are incensed at the money wasted by the EU. Leaving it however might prove difficult as no one has actually left the EU. If it did leave many Europeans living in Britain might have to leave. Likewise those living in Europe _____.

GRAMMAR:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

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(5)___ Britain left the EU it could always revert more closely to its Commonwealth ties, which itself is a strong trade organisation. Britain heavily subsidizes the EU and the EU gravy train. Most Britons are incensed (6)___ the money wasted by the EU. Leaving it however might prove difficult as no one has actually left the EU. If (7)___ did leave many Europeans living in Britain might have to leave. Likewise those living (8)___ Europe might have to uproot.

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SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	opinion	11	revert
2	ministers	12	extreme
3	referendum	13	withdraw
4	mandarins	14	poll
5	membership	15	surge
6	favour	16	could
7	majority	17	however
8	grandees	18	settlement
9	crusade	19	straight
10	organisation	20	actually

LINKS

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/353582/Most-Britons-want-us-to-quit-the-EU-says-new-poll>

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/353848/Hague-warns-of-EU-disillusion-/>

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/353807/David-Cameron-in-showdown-with-Germany-over-EU>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2220778/Most-voters-want-Britain-leave-EU-Support-pulling-highest-level-30-years.html>

ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Poll: Majority of Britons want Britain to leave EU: Recently an opinion **poll** in Britain revealed a **majority** of voters want Britain to leave the European Union. The poll by opinion firm *Survation* showed that 51% of people in Britain were in favour of the UK leaving the EU, while only 34% wanted to stay with Brussels. The **results** suggest that support for Britain to withdraw from the EU is at its highest in 30 years. The **surge**, up 41% on a year ago, is attributed to Britain's *Daily Express* newspaper waging a **crusade** to get Brits to think again on the EU. Tory MP Douglas Carswell: "This latest poll doesn't just tell us what the British people think. It tells us that all those Westminster **grandees** who dismissed as extreme those who wanted us out are out of touch with their electorate. There is broad support for change. Only ministers and **mandarins** stand in the way". A referendum on Britain's EU membership could be held within a year of the next General election. However governments have a **habit** of putting these things on a back burner if it suits them.

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