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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 20/08/14

Scottish referendum – Yes or No?

Today, let's talk about the forthcoming Scottish referendum. The vote on whether to stay in the United Kingdom or become an independent country will take place on Thursday 18th September 2014. The question voters in Scotland will vote on is: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" Voters can choose the following answers; either 'Yes' or 'No'?

Coincidentally, 2014 is the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn when the English were defeated by the Scots. The Ryder Cup (Golf) is also being held in 2014 and recently Scotland held the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. For these reasons Scottish National Leader Alex Salmond chose to want the vote in 2014.

Just over twenty years ago Czechoslovakia split peacefully and became the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The world has moved on since then; especially in the economic sense. The 2008 financial crisis changed everything.

For the people of Scotland it is a choice of either 'Yes' or 'No'. There are advantages and disadvantages for both Scotland and Great Britain and the United Kingdom. Independence would allow the Scots to be free of the UK and London. However, there are fears about its currency. London has said an independent Scotland could not use the British pound.

The EU has said it could neither be a member of the EU nor the Euro. Currency speculators could move in on the Scottish currency. The UK could lose its seat on the UN Security Council. Britain could be much weaker by a Scottish 'Yes'. Australian and U.S. leaders don't want Scotland to break away. Many Scottish voters are still undecided on whether to vote 'Yes' or 'No'.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about the Scottish referendum vote. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Name the countries.
- 2) When is the vote?
- 3) Name the Scottish leader.
- 4) What happened 700 years ago?
- 5) What has the EU said?

Student B questions

- 1) What have the U.S. and Australian leaders said?
- 2) What happened in 2008?
- 3) What question will be on the ballot paper?
- 4) Name the countries in the United Kingdom.
- 5) What has London said?

**Category: Scotland / Scottish Referendum / Independence
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

Scottish referendum – Yes or No? - 20th August 2014

SPEAKING / READING / DISCUSSION

Ten reasons to vote 'No' for independence.

- 1) Sharing Scottish oil resources benefits us all.
- 2) Leaving responsibilities at Westminster.
- 3) Happy choice of government at Westminster.
- 4) Believing in building nuclear weapons.
- 5) Doubtful about benefits for Scotland.
- 6) The continued free movement of labour and lack of border control.
- 7) Believing England and Scotland are better off together.
- 8) The worry of mass unemployment if the military shipbuilding jobs leave the Clyde.
- 9) Economic stability for all.
- 10) Doubtful about supporting the EU.

WRITING / SPEAKING

On the board - In pairs/As a class - List other advantages and disadvantages for Scotland becoming independent from the UK. 5 mins.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) How are the Scottish celebrities going to vote?
- 3) Will Scotland vote for independence?
- 4) How would you vote if you were Scottish?
- 5) Why haven't the English or Welsh got a say in the vote in Scotland?
- 6) Should Wales or indeed England become independent?
- 7) Will Britain's international standing be depleted if Scotland becomes independent?
- 8) Why is London so worried about Scotland breaking away?
- 9) What currency will Scotland use if it becomes independent?
- 10) What is the latest on the Scottish vote?

SPEAKING / READING / DISCUSSION

Ten reasons to vote 'Yes' for independence.

- 1) No more nuclear weapons.
- 2) Taking responsibility all governing powers to Scotland.
- 3) Get the government we choose.
- 4) Securing oil funds in the North Sea.
- 5) Understanding that 'No' may lead to changes for the worse.
- 6) Believing that Scotland and England have opposite political and social views.
- 7) Believing in more equal wages.
- 8) Believing in the benefits for Scotland and yourself as an individual.
- 9) Believing in the creation of more jobs.
- 10) Scotland has the resources and finances.

(Source for No and Yes - © 2014 - David Robinson and IndependentScotland.org)

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY

In groups of three. Student A is considering voting 'Yes'. Student B is considering voting 'No'. Student C is undecided. 5 mins.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Will Alex Salmond's political career be over if it's a 'No' vote?
- 3) What are *your* newspapers saying about the Scottish independence vote?
- 4) If Scotland votes 'Yes', will this lead to other countries/regions in Europe choosing to vote to leave the country they are in?
- 5) Can you think of what other areas in Europe that might like to become an independent country?
- 6) Why are the English not fussed about the Scottish vote?
- 7) How would the nation's debt be shared?
- 8) What else would change in an independent Scotland?
- 9) What is the latest on the referendum?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

Scottish referendum – Yes or No? - 20th August 2014

GAP FILL: READING

Scottish referendum – Yes or No?

Today, let's talk about the (1)___ Scottish referendum. The (2)___ on whether to stay in the United Kingdom or become an independent country will take place on Thursday 18th September 2014. The question (3)___ in Scotland will vote on is: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" Voters can choose the following answers; either 'Yes' or 'No'?

(4)___, 2014 is the 700th (5)___ of the Battle of Bannockburn when the English were defeated by the Scots. The Ryder Cup (Golf) is also being held in 2014 and (6)___ Scotland held the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. For these (7)___ Scottish National Leader Alex Salmond chose to want the vote in 2014.

Just over twenty years ago Czechoslovakia (8)___ peacefully and became the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

anniversary / forthcoming / split / reasons / voters / coincidentally / recently / vote

The world has moved on since then; especially in the economic (1)___ . The 2008 financial crisis changed everything.

For the (2)___ of Scotland it is a choice of either 'Yes' or 'No'. There are (3)___ and disadvantages for (4)___ Scotland and Great Britain and the United Kingdom. Independence would (5)___ the Scots to be free of the UK and London. However, there are (6)___ about its currency. London has said an independent Scotland could not use the British pound.

The EU has said it could neither be a member of the EU nor the Euro. Currency (7)___ could move in on the Scottish currency. The UK could lose its (8)___ on the UN Security Council. Britain could be much weaker by a Scottish 'Yes'. Australian and U.S. leaders don't want Scotland to break away. Many Scottish voters are still undecided on whether to vote 'Yes' or 'No'.

advantages / sense / speculators / people / fears / seat / both / allow

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Scottish referendum – Yes or No?

Today, let's talk (1)___ the forthcoming Scottish referendum. The vote on whether to stay in the United Kingdom or become an independent country will take place on Thursday 18th September 2014. The question voters in Scotland will vote on is: "(2)___ Scotland be an independent country?" Voters can choose the following answers; (3)___ 'Yes' or 'No'?

Coincidentally, 2014 is the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn (4)___ the English were defeated by the Scots. The Ryder Cup (Golf) is (5)___ being held in 2014 and recently Scotland held the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. For (6)___ reasons Scottish National Leader Alex Salmond chose to want the vote in 2014.

(7)___ (8)___ twenty years ago Czechoslovakia split peacefully and became the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

just / also / when / should / these / about / either / over

The world has moved on since then; especially (1)___ the economic sense. The 2008 financial crisis changed everything.

(2)___ the people of Scotland it is a choice of either 'Yes' (3)___ 'No'. There are advantages and disadvantages for both Scotland (4)___ Great Britain and the United Kingdom. Independence would allow the Scots to be free of the UK and London. However, there are fears about (5)___ currency. London has said an independent Scotland could not use the British pound.

The EU has said (6)___ could neither be a member of the EU nor the Euro. Currency speculators could move in on the Scottish currency. (7)___ UK could lose its seat on the UN Security Council. Britain could be much weaker by a Scottish 'Yes'. Australian and U.S. leaders don't want Scotland to break away. Many Scottish voters are still undecided (8)___ whether to vote 'Yes' or 'No'.

it / in / or / on / its / for / the / and

Scottish referendum – Yes or No? - 20th August 2014

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Scottish referendum – Yes or No?

Today, let's talk _____ Scottish referendum. The vote on whether to stay in the United Kingdom or become an independent country will take place on Thursday 18th September 2014. The question voters in Scotland will vote on is: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" Voters can choose the _____; either 'Yes' or 'No'?

Coincidentally, 2014 is the 700th anniversary of the _____ when the English were defeated by the Scots. The Ryder Cup (Golf) is also being held in 2014 and recently Scotland held the Glasgow 2014 _____. For these reasons Scottish National Leader Alex Salmond chose to want the vote in 2014. Just over twenty years ago _____ peacefully and became the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The world has moved on since then; especially in the economic sense. The 2008 _____ changed everything.

For _____ it is a choice of either 'Yes' or 'No'. There are advantages and disadvantages for both Scotland and Great Britain and the United Kingdom. Independence would allow the Scots to be free _____. However, there are fears about its currency. London has said an independent Scotland could not use the British pound.

The EU has said it could neither be a member of the EU nor the Euro. _____ could move in on the Scottish currency. The UK could lose its seat on the UN Security Council. Britain could be much weaker by a Scottish 'Yes'. Australian and U.S. leaders don't want Scotland to break away. Many Scottish voters are still undecided _____ 'Yes' or 'No'.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - On the board - As a class - Vote on whether you would make Scotland independent or not? 'Yes' or 'No'? Discuss together!

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) Scotland _____
- 2) The vote _____
- 3) I want _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Scottish referendum – 'Yes' or 'No'?** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) forthcoming
- 2) vote
- 3) voters
- 4) coincidentally
- 5) anniversary
- 6) recently
- 7) reasons
- 8) split

ANSWERS

- 1) sense
- 2) people
- 3) advantages
- 4) both
- 5) allow
- 6) fears
- 7) speculators
- 8) seat

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) question
- 2) forthcoming
- 3) referendum
- 4) independent
- 5) should
- 6) Scotland
- 7) country
- 8) coincidentally
- 9) anniversary
- 10) Commonwealth

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) pound
- 12) choice
- 13) either
- 14) disadvantages
- 15) would
- 16) allow
- 17) currency
- 18) nor
- 19) speculators
- 20) weaker

Scottish referendum – Yes or No? - *20th August 2014*