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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/10/17

Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March?

Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March in the UK and Europe? It's an interesting question with an interesting answer. The clocks go forward in the spring to make the most of daylight hours. They go back in the autumn to allow more daylight hours in the mornings in the wintertime.

Benjamin Franklin, who was one of the US founding fathers, first proposed the idea in 1784. He said jokingly that Parisians should get out of bed early, to economise on their candle use.

During WW1, the British copied the Germans, who changed their clocks to preserve coal usage. After WW1, many countries abandoned the idea. However, the UK did not. During WW2, Britain adopted British Double Summer Time (BDST), which moved the clocks forward by 2 hours in the summer and one hour ahead in the winter. The idea was to increase productivity during the war.

Between 1968 and 1971, Britain remained on BST all-year round. The idea didn't last long though, and GMT was reintroduced, as well as BST. Those in Scotland during wintertime have less daylight hours, due to their more northern latitude.

In 1998, the UK brought the day it changes its clocks forward in line with the rest of Europe. Many other countries around the world also observe daylight saving time. Countries near the equator mostly do not.

On Sunday 29th October the clocks will go back an hour across the UK and Europe to 2am from 3am. Most electronic devices such as tablets and mobile phones will update automatically. Clocks will go forward an hour on Sunday March 25th 2018.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

When do the clocks in the UK and Europe go forward and when do they go back? Why? 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) What does BST mean?
- 2) What does BDST mean?
- 3) What happened in 1968?
- 4) What happens near the equator?
- 5) What is the equator?

Student B questions

- 1) When do the clocks go forward?
- 2) What happened during WW1?
- 3) Who is Benjamin Franklin?
- 4) What did Benjamin Franklin jokingly say?
- 5) Why do the clocks go forward?

Category: UK / Greenwich Mean Time / Clocks
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

Why do the clocks go back in October and... – 10th October 2017

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can about '**Clocks**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Finish these sentences starting them with the words "The clocks..."

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three things you like about the time changes in your country. Discuss!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

SPEAKING – PRESENTATION

In pairs – Prepare a one minute presentation on 'Time' or 'Time changes'. Start your presentation with "Tick tock, tick tock..."

SPEAKING – SONGS/MOVIES/BOOKS

In pairs – In 2 minutes, think of as many books, movies, and songs, which have a reference to time in them. Discuss together as a class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) How do you normally feel after the clocks go forward?
- 3) Do you think it's a good idea to move the clocks backwards and forwards?
- 4) Is it a good idea economically to move the clocks backwards and forwards?
- 5) If you lived in the north of Scotland or Norway, how might you feel about the clocks altering?
- 6) What do you normally do when the clocks go back?
- 7) Do you remember to reset your clocks when the time changes?
- 8) Would you like to see BST all year in the UK?
- 9) What do you know about Benjamin Franklin?
- 10) Is it better to be on one side of a time zone or the other? Explain.

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 3

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in London. Today's interview is about: *Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March?*

- 1) A Scottish farmer.
- 2) A Greek finance minister.
- 3) A Spanish hotel owner.
- 4) A Singapore candle seller.

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

SPEAKING – PRESENTATION

In pairs – *Student A* thinks moving the clocks back and forth by one hour every 6 months is a good idea. *Student B* disagrees with *Student A*. 3 mins.

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) How many clocks, watches, and gadgets, do you have to change when the clocks alter?
- 2) How do you think farmers and airlines feel about the clocks changing?
- 3) Does your country move the clocks back and forth? When?
- 4) What do you call Greenwich Mean Time e.g. GMT+1 or +2 in your country?
- 5) Do you save electricity in the winter by the clocks going back an hour?
- 6) What do you do to save electricity?
- 7) Do you prefer a long summer's night or a short winter's night? Explain.
- 8) Are time zones around the world a good idea? Explain.
- 9) Why is the adjustment to daylight saving time symmetrical about the longest day?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March?

Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March in the UK and Europe? It's an interesting question with an interesting answer. The clocks go (1)___ in the spring to make the most of daylight hours. They go back in the autumn to allow more daylight hours in the mornings in the wintertime.

Benjamin Franklin, who was one of the US founding fathers, first proposed the (2)___ in 1784. He said (3)___ that Parisians should get out of bed (4)___, to (5)___ on their candle use.

During WW1, the British copied the Germans, who changed their clocks to (6)___ coal usage. After WW1, many countries abandoned the idea. However, the UK did not. During WW2, Britain adopted British Double Summer Time (BDST), which moved the clocks forward by 2 hours in the summer and one hour (7)___ in the winter. The idea was to increase (8)___ during the war.

forward / productivity / jokingly / early / idea / ahead / preserve / economise /

Between 1968 and 1971, Britain remained on BST all-year round. The (1)___ didn't last long though, and GMT was reintroduced, as well as BST. Those in Scotland during wintertime have less daylight hours, due to their more northern (2)___.

In 1998, the UK brought the day it changes its (3)___ forward in line with the rest of Europe. Many other countries around the world also (4)___ daylight saving time. Countries near the (5)___ mostly do not.

On Sunday 29th October the clocks will go back an hour across the UK and Europe to 2am from 3am. Most electronic (6)___ such as tablets and mobile phones will (7)___ (8)___. Clocks will go forward an hour on Sunday March 25th 2018.

automatically / observe / clocks / equator / latitude / update / devices / idea /

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March?

Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March in the UK and Europe? It's an interesting question (1)___ an interesting answer. The clocks go forward in the spring to make the (2)___ of daylight hours. They go back in the autumn to allow more daylight hours in the mornings in the wintertime.

Benjamin Franklin, who was one of the US founding fathers, first proposed the idea in 1784. He said jokingly (3)___ Parisians (4)___ get out of bed early, to economise on their candle use.

During WW1, the British copied the Germans, who changed (5)___ clocks to preserve coal usage. After WW1, (6)___ countries abandoned the idea. (7)___, the UK did not. During WW2, Britain adopted British Double Summer Time (BDST), (8)___ moved the clocks forward by 2 hours in the summer and one hour ahead in the winter. The idea was to increase productivity during the war.

however / that / which / should / most / many / with / their

Between 1968 and 1971, Britain remained on BST all-year round. The idea didn't last long though, (1)___ GMT was reintroduced, (2)___ BST. Those (3)___ Scotland during wintertime have less daylight hours, (4)___ to their more northern latitude.

In 1998, the UK brought the day (5)___ changes (6)___ clocks forward in line with the rest of Europe. Many other countries around the world also observe daylight saving time. Countries near the equator mostly do not.

(7)___ Sunday 29th October the clocks will go back an hour across the UK and Europe to 2am from 3am. Most electronic devices (8)___ tablets and mobile phones will update automatically. Clocks will go forward an hour on Sunday March 25th 2018.

such as / on / due / as well as / it / in / and / its

Why do the clocks go back in October and... – 10th October 2017



GAP FILL: LISTENING

Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March?

Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March in the UK and Europe? It's an interesting question with an interesting answer. The clocks go forward in the spring to make the _____. They go back in the autumn to allow more daylight hours in the mornings in the wintertime.

Benjamin Franklin, who was one of the _____, first proposed the idea in 1784. He said jokingly that Parisians should get out of bed early, _____ candle use.

During WW1, the British copied the Germans, who changed their clocks to _____. After WW1, many countries abandoned the idea. However, the UK did not. During WW2, Britain adopted British Double Summer Time (BDST), which moved the clocks forward by 2 hours in the summer and one hour ahead in the winter. The idea was to _____ during the war.

Between 1968 and 1971, Britain remained on BST all-year round. The idea didn't _____, and GMT was reintroduced, as well as BST. Those in Scotland during wintertime have less daylight hours, due to their more _____.

In 1998, the UK brought the day it changes its clocks forward in line with the rest of Europe. Many other countries around the world also observe daylight saving time. Countries _____ mostly do not.

On Sunday 29th October the clocks will go back an hour across _____ 2am from 3am. Most electronic devices such as tablets and mobile phones will _____. Clocks will go forward an hour on Sunday March 25th 2018.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs/As a class*, list **10 things associated with time**. Talk briefly about each of them. *Five minutes*.

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

- 1) The clocks _____
- 2) I think _____
- 3) In my country _____

3) Write down 50 words about: *Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March?* Your words can be read out in class.

4) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***Why do the clocks go back in October and forward in March?***

SPELLING

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

- 1) electronic
- 2) productivity
- 3) preserve
- 4) equator
- 5) though
- 6) forward
- 7) latitude
- 8) mostly
- 9) devices
- 10) automatically

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

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

- 11) question
- 12) daylight
- 13) allow
- 14) wintertime
- 15) during
- 16) however
- 17) between
- 18) those
- 19) observe
- 20) due