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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/04/15

The UK General Election 2015

Today we are going to talk about the UK General Election. Voters will go to the polls on Thursday 7th May 2015. On the same day local elections will also take place in many, but not all parts, of the UK.

There are 650 parliamentary seats up for grabs. Each seat is created from 650 constituencies. These are spread right across the UK. Their size varies, as each constituency is based on a certain number of people. Thus in London there are many MPs while in Scotland the areas for each MP in the countryside is huge, due to people not living near each other.

Britain opts to use the first past the post system. This means that if there are five candidates who are standing for election in one particular constituency, if the first one gets 21,001 votes, the second one gets 20,500 votes and the others get, say 9,000, 1,025 and 251, the person who got 21,001 votes is elected as the member of parliament for that particular constituency.

Britain does not use proportional representation in General Elections or even Local Elections. It does however, use proportional representation in the European Elections.

In Britain the Conservative Party (Con) (Blue) is in the current coalition government with the Liberal Democrats (LD) (Orange). David Cameron (Con) is the Prime Minister. Nick Clegg (LD) is the Deputy Prime Minister. The Labour Party (Lab) (Red) is in opposition. Ed Miliband (Lab) is its leader. Other parties taking part in the 2015 UK General Election include the UK Independence Party (Purple), the Green Party (Green), the Scottish Nationalists, Plaid Cymru, plus several more in Northern Ireland.

No one knows who will win this year's General Election in the UK. Scotland could see the Scottish Nationalists take seats from Labour. England could see the rise of the UK Independence Party. However, using the current system it is doubtful UKIP will get many actual MPs in parliament.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about *the UK General Election 2015*. 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 is the 'first past the post' system?
- 2) What is 'proportional representation'?
- 3) Who is Nick Clegg?
- 4) Name three political parties.
- 5) What date is the 2015 UK General Election?

Student B questions

- 1) What is also happening on General Election Day?
- 2) What is doubtful?
- 3) What could happen in Scotland?
- 4) How many constituencies are there?
- 5) Who will win the General Election?

Category: UK / General Election / 7th May 2015
Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

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WRITING / SPEAKING

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

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Write down two things you know about each of the following political parties who are taking part in the UK General election 2015. Discuss together!

- 1) Conservative Party.
- 2) Labour Party.
- 3) Liberal Democrat Party.
- 4) UK Independence Party.
- 5) Scottish Nationalist Party – Scotland.
- 6) Plaid Cymru – Wales.
- 7) Green Party.
- 8) The various Northern Ireland parties.
- 9) Other political parties.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Create your own political party! Write down its name then add 10 things in your party's manifesto.

The teacher will choose some pairs to hear their manifestos in front of the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Who would vote for and why?
- 3) Who do you think will actually win the UK General Election 2015?
- 4) How do you think the Scottish Nationalists will do?
- 5) Will the UK Independence Party gain any seats? Explain.
- 6) Will Ed Miliband, who is leader of the Labour Party, become Prime Minister?
- 7) Do you prefer David Cameron to remain Prime Minister?
- 8) What will happen to Nick Clegg? (He is leader of the Liberal Democrats)
- 9) Will the Green Party increase its seats in the UK parliament?
- 10) How have the other UK smaller political parties fared so far in this election, and will they manage to take more seats in the UK parliament?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion Room* at BBC HQ in London. Today's interview is about: *The UK General Election 2015.*

- 1) A Labour Party spokesperson.
- 2) A Conservative Party spokesperson.
- 3) A UKIP spokesperson.
- 4) Other party spokesperson.

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

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. *Student A* is a reporter in London. *Student B* is a political commentator. *Student A* is interviewing *Student B* about the forthcoming UK General Election. *3-5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

The UK General Election 2015

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Will the Labour Party once again run Britain? Is this a good or bad idea?
- 2) Have you watched any of the UK political leaders debates on TV? If you did, explain more.
- 3) In Scotland, will the Scottish Nationalists take many seats from Labour or the Liberal Democrats?
- 4) Will the Conservatives gain a majority?
- 5) Will Nigel Farage get elected as an MP in the British parliament?
- 6) Which party has the best policies?
- 7) Have the UK TV debates featuring the leaders of the political parties made a difference to who you might vote for?
- 8) How is the UK General Election 2015 being discussed in your country?
- 9) Are you having a bet on who will win the UK General Election 2015?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

The UK General Election 2015 – 15th April 2015

GAP FILL: READING

The UK General Election 2015

Today we are going to talk about the UK General Election. Voters will go to the (1)___ on Thursday 7th May 2015. On the same day local elections will also take place in many, but not all parts, of the UK.

There are 650 parliamentary (2)___ up for (3)__. Each seat is created from 650 constituencies. These are spread right across the UK. Their size varies, as each constituency is based on a certain number of people. Thus in London there are many (4)___ while in Scotland the areas for each MP in the countryside is huge, due to people not living near each other.

Britain opts to use the first past the post system. This means that if there are five (5)___ who are standing for (6)___ in one particular constituency, if the first one gets 21,001 votes, the second one gets 20,500 (7)___ and the others get, say 9,000, 1,025 and 251, the person who got 21,001 votes is elected as the member of parliament for that particular (8)___.

constituency / election / votes / seats / polls / grabs / candidates / MPs

Britain does not use proportional representation in General Elections or even Local Elections. It does however, use (1)___ representation in the European (2)___.

In Britain the Conservative Party (Con) (Blue) is in the current (3)___ government with the Liberal Democrats (LD) (Orange). David Cameron (Con) is the Prime Minister. Nick Clegg (LD) is the Deputy Prime Minister. The Labour Party (Lab) (Red) is in opposition. Ed Miliband (Lab) is its leader. Other (4)___ taking part in the 2015 UK General Election include the UK Independence Party (Purple), the Green Party (Green), the Scottish Nationalists, Plaid Cymru, (5)___ several more in Northern Ireland.

No one knows who will (6)___ this year's General Election in the UK. Scotland could see the Scottish Nationalists take seats from Labour. England could see the rise of the UK Independence Party. However, using the current system it is (7)___ UKIP will get many (8)___ MPs in parliament.

elections / actual / plus / doubtful / parties / coalition / proportional / win

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

The UK General Election 2015

Today we are going to talk about the UK General Election. Voters will go to the polls on Thursday 7th May 2015. On the same day local elections will (1)___ take place in many, but not all parts, of the UK.

There are 650 parliamentary seats up for grabs. Each seat is created from 650 constituencies. These are spread right across the UK. (2)___ size varies, as each constituency is based on a certain number of people. (3)___ in London there are (4)___ MPs (5)___ in Scotland the areas for each MP in the countryside is huge, due to people not living near (6)___ other.

Britain opts to use the first past the post system. (7)___ means (8)___ if there are five candidates who are standing for election in one particular constituency, if the first one gets 21,001 votes, the second one gets 20,500 votes and the others get, say 9,000, 1,025 and 251, the person who got 21,001 votes is elected as the member of parliament for that particular constituency.

each / thus / many / also / their / while / this / that

Britain does not use proportional representation in General Elections (1)___ even Local Elections. (2)___ does however, use proportional representation in the European Elections.

(3)___ Britain the Conservative Party (Con) (Blue) is in the current coalition government with the Liberal Democrats (LD) (Orange). David Cameron (Con) is the Prime Minister. Nick Clegg (LD) is the Deputy Prime Minister. The Labour Party (Lab) (Red) is in opposition. Ed Miliband (Lab) is (4)___ leader. Other parties taking part in the 2015 UK General Election include the UK Independence Party (Purple), the Green Party (Green), the Scottish Nationalists, Plaid Cymru, plus several more in Northern Ireland.

No one knows (5)___ will win this year's General Election in the UK. Scotland (6)___ see the Scottish Nationalists take seats from Labour. England could see the rise of (7)___ UK Independence Party. (8)___, using the current system it is doubtful UKIP will get many actual MPs in parliament.

in / it / or / who / however / could / the / its

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GAP FILL: LISTENING

The UK General Election 2015

Today _____ about the UK General Election. Voters will go to the polls on Thursday 7th May 2015. On the same day local elections will also take place in many, but not all parts, of the UK.

There are 650 _____ up for grabs. Each seat is created from 650 constituencies. These are spread right across the UK. Their size varies, as each constituency is based on a _____. Thus in London there are many MPs while in Scotland the areas for each MP in the countryside is huge, due to people not living near each other.

Britain opts to use the first past the post system. This means that if there are _____ are standing for election in one particular constituency, if the first one gets 21,001 votes, the second one gets 20,500 votes and the others get, say 9,000, 1,025 and 251, the person who got 21,001 votes is elected as the member of parliament for that particular constituency.

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_____ will win this year's General Election in the UK. Scotland could see the Scottish Nationalists take seats from Labour. England could see the rise of the _____. However, using the current system it is doubtful UKIP will get many actual MPs in parliament.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, list 20 things about **General Elections**. *One-two minutes. Talk about each of them.*

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

- 1) General Elections _____
- 2) In my country _____
- 3) The election _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email in English to your teacher about: **The UK General Election 2015**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) polls
- 2) seats
- 3) grabs
- 4) MPs
- 5) candidates
- 6) election
- 7) votes
- 8) constituency

ANSWERS

- 1) proportional
- 2) elections
- 3) coalition
- 4) parties
- 5) plus
- 6) win
- 7) doubtful
- 8) actual

SPELLING

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

- 1) elections
- 2) opts
- 3) parliamentary
- 4) constituencies
- 5) countryside
- 6) due
- 7) candidates
- 8) particular
- 9) proportional
- 10) representation

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) government
- 12) coalition
- 13) plus
- 14) independence
- 15) could
- 16) actual
- 17) Prime Minister
- 18) however
- 19) these
- 20) certain

The UK General Election 2015 – *15th April 2015*