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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 05/07/15

Religion in Britain and its future

Today, let's talk about religion in Britain. We will discuss how it is today and how it will be in the future. The main religion in England and Wales is Anglican Christianity, as preached by the Church of England. It is a denomination of Christianity that is headed by The Queen.

Britain is multi-faith. This includes Catholics, Methodists and Baptists. Other religions in Britain include: Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam. There is also the Elim Pentecostal Church, the Church of Scotland, the Free Presbyterian Church, the United Reform Church and the Methodist Church.

The future of religion in Britain looks bleak. White British people will become the minority. It is already happening. Church populations continue to shrink rapidly. Young people don't want to go to church on a Sunday morning.

Social media and lifestyles in Britain today mean youngsters lead an entirely different lifestyle to that of their grandparents, who more than likely did go to church. In a nutshell white Britons today have lost their taste for worship. The Church of England is declining!

"The future of religion in Britain is to be found in Islam and black majority churches." This is according to Professor David Voas, who specialises in population studies at Essex University. He adds, "Muslims already contribute to 10% of British births. Within several decades people of Muslim heritage will form 10% of the population, even if immigration came to an abrupt halt tomorrow."

In the last 40 years Roman Catholicism has also grown significantly. It will continue to do so due to the massive influx of European migrants.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about religion in Britain. 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 main religion in England and Wales?
- 2) What looks bleak?
- 3) Who is Professor David Voas?
- 4) In the last 40 years what has grown significantly?
- 5) Who is the head of the Church of England?

Student B questions

- 1) Who have lost their taste for worship?
- 2) What will replace what?
- 3) Name three religions.
- 4) What is social media?
- 5) What is Islam?

Category: Religion / Church of England / Britain
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 '**Religion**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs choose three religions from the article'. Write them below.

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

Now add three things you know about each of them. Discuss together.

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

SPEAKING – HENRY VIII

As a class – Who was Henry VIII? Why would he turn in his grave if he discovered how religion is changing in Britain today? Talk about it. *Google it! 3-5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

The future of religion in *Britain / My country*

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Why don't women run the church? Is this right? Explain!
- 2) Do you go to church every week? Why? Why not?
- 3) Why does the future of the Church of England in Britain look bleak?
- 4) What is the main religion in your country? Why?
- 5) Should white British people who are members of the Church of England be worried that their faith will soon be in the minority in their own country?
- 6) Why has there been a massive growth in Roman Catholicism in Britain?
- 7) Do you go to church for weddings, funerals and other occasions? Explain!
- 8) Have you learnt anything today?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the Radio London studio. Today's interview is about: *Religion in Britain and its future.*

- 1) Someone who is a Muslim.
- 2) Someone who is a member of the Church of England.
- 3) Someone who is a Catholic.
- 4) Someone from another religion.

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

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY - GAME

In groups in a circle - Play the following game:

"I went into a church and I saw..."

Students repeat what was previously said then add one more suggestion.

Forget a previously said word and you are eliminated! Good luck! *10 mins max.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

10 different religions

Which one is thriving? Which ones are declining? Why?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Why will religion in Britain in the future be predominantly black and Islam?
- 3) What has social media got to do with religion?
- 4) Why is the Church of England declining?
- 5) Do you think the other religions in England are also declining? Explain.
- 6) What advice would you give to the head of the Church of England?
- 7) What are the biggest threats to your churches in your country?
- 8) Is going to church old hat? Explain!
- 9) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Religion in Britain and its future

Today, let's talk about (1)___ in Britain. We will discuss how it is today and how it will be in the future. The (2)___ religion in England and Wales is Anglican Christianity, as preached by the Church of England. It is a (3)___ of Christianity that is headed by The Queen.

Britain is multi-(4)___. This includes Catholics, Methodists and Baptists. Other religions in Britain include: Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and (5)___.

There is also the Elim Pentecostal Church, the Church of Scotland, the Free Presbyterian Church, the United Reform Church and the Methodist Church.

The (6)___ of religion in Britain looks (7)___. White British people will become the (8)___. It is already happening.

minority / bleak / faith / Islam / future / denomination / main / religion

Church populations continue to (1)___ rapidly. Young people don't want to go to (2)___ on a Sunday morning. Social media and lifestyles in Britain today mean youngsters lead an (3)___ different lifestyle to that of their grandparents, who more than likely did go to church. In a nutshell white Britons today have lost their taste for (4)___. The Church of England is declining!

"The future of religion in Britain is to be found in Islam and black majority churches." This is according to Professor David Voas, who specialises in population studies at Essex University. He adds, "Muslims already (5)___ to 10% of British (6)___. Within several decades people of Muslim heritage will form 10% of the population, even if immigration came to an abrupt halt tomorrow."

In the last 40 years Roman Catholicism has also grown significantly. It will continue to do so due to the (7)___ (8)___ of European migrants.

influx / contribute / massive / worship / church / shrink / births / entirely

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Religion in Britain and its future

Today, let's talk about religion in Britain. (1)___ will discuss (2)___ it is today and how it will be (3)___ the future. The main religion in England and Wales is Anglican Christianity, as preached by the Church of England. (4)___ is a denomination of Christianity that is headed (5)___ The Queen.

Britain is multi-faith. This includes Catholics, Methodists and Baptists. Other religions in Britain include: Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam.

There is also (6)___ Elim Pentecostal Church, the Church of Scotland, the Free Presbyterian Church, the United Reform Church (7)___ the Methodist Church.

The future (8)___ religion in Britain looks bleak. White British people will become the minority. It is already happening.

of / in / it / the / we / by / and / how /

Church populations continue to shrink rapidly. Young people don't want to go to church on a Sunday morning. Social media and lifestyles in Britain today mean youngsters lead an entirely different lifestyle to (1)___ of (2)___ grandparents, who (3)___ than likely did go to church. In a nutshell white Britons today have lost their taste for worship. The Church of England is declining!

"The future of religion in Britain is to be found in Islam and black majority churches." (4)___ is according to Professor David Voas, (5)___ specialises in population studies at Essex University. He adds, "Muslims already contribute to 10% of British births. Within several decades people of Muslim heritage will form 10% of the population, (6)___ if immigration came to an abrupt halt tomorrow."

In the last 40 years Roman Catholicism has (7)___ grown significantly. It will continue to do so (8)___ to the massive influx of European migrants.

that / more / their / even / also / due / who / this /

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Religion in Britain and its future

Today, let's talk about _____. We will discuss how it is today and how it will be in the future. The main religion in _____ Anglican Christianity, as preached by the Church of England. It is a denomination of Christianity that is headed by The Queen.

Britain is multi-faith. This includes Catholics, _____. Other religions in Britain include: Buddhism, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam.

There is also the Elim Pentecostal Church, the Church of Scotland, the Free Presbyterian Church, the _____ and the Methodist Church.

The future of religion in Britain looks bleak. White British people will become the minority. It is _____.

Church populations continue to shrink rapidly. Young people don't want to go to church on a Sunday morning. Social media and lifestyles in Britain today mean youngsters lead an _____ lifestyle to that of their grandparents, who more than likely did go to church. _____ Britons today have lost their taste for worship. The Church of England is declining!

"The future of religion in Britain is to be found in Islam and _____." This is according to Professor David Voas, who specialises in population studies at Essex University. He adds, "Muslims already contribute to 10% of British births. Within several decades people of Muslim heritage will form 10% of the population, even if immigration came to an _____."

In the last 40 years Roman Catholicism has also grown significantly. It will continue to do so due to the massive influx _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - *In pairs*, list 20 things you know about the Church of England. *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) Religion _____
- 2) The future of religion _____
- 3) I am a _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Religion in Britain and its future**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) religion
- 2) main
- 3) denomination
- 4) faith
- 5) Islam
- 6) future
- 7) bleak
- 8) minority

ANSWERS

- 1) shrink
- 2) church
- 3) entirely
- 4) worship
- 5) contribute
- 6) births
- 7) massive
- 8) influx

SPELLING

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

- 1) religion
- 2) discuss
- 3) denomination
- 4) Christianity
- 5) faiths
- 6) Christian
- 7) Presbyterian
- 8) Buddhism
- 9) Judaism
- 10) Sikhism

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) minority
- 12) faith
- 13) shrink
- 14) rapidly
- 15) entirely
- 16) majority
- 17) immigration
- 18) contribute
- 19) abrupt
- 20) significantly

Religion in Britain and its future – *5th July 2015*