

Should Britain leave the EU?

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The collapse in the Euro is another issue. The EU simply bails out the country in need, which then has to beg the EU for help, thus snaring it forever in 'its debt'. Clever eh? When the Euro collapses what happens then? Perhaps keeping the pound has saved Britain from the farce of the euro? Mind you, in Euro land the currency itself is really useful, so there are strong arguments for keeping the euro. Why should Britain support countries like Greece and Portugal financially that use a currency Britain does not? One answer is the UK banks, like their Eurozone partners, are up to their necks in debts owed to them by these countries, so can't escape. The *Daily Express* says Brussels is a financial disaster and that the Euro is a flawed dream.

The gravy train rolls on; hefty guaranteed pensions for Brussels arrogant bureaucrats. What a good life eh? All paid for by EU taxpayers. The newspaper asks which single law has benefited Britain. It argues Britain has supported umpteen butter and grain mountains, and wine lakes. Yet Britains continue to be denied a referendum vote on it all. The new EU Super State gets closer. The paper says Britain will be under the thumb. When will Frankfurt take over as the financial and economic hub of Europe? Britain now has a €50m trade deficit while Germany has a €70m surplus. Ancient freedoms are being stolen from ordinary people the newspaper says. It adds the EU plotters work secretly and insidiously on rules and regulations to improve our lives yet actually exert greater control!

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The question is would Britain be better off alone? Would it be better to do more trade with the Commonwealth countries of its former Empire in places like India, Africa and the Caribbean countries? Many in Britain would like to do more business with the Commonwealth. There are 54 nations in the Commonwealth. It says Britain doesn't need the EU to do trade with China and Brazil. Sport might benefit if Britain turned back to the Commonwealth and its back on the EU. Banana, sugar cane and tomato imports might improve and be cheaper from these Commonwealth countries.

Surely it is pure folly saying to people in the EU tighten your belts when Brussels is doing the opposite at people's expense. While the EU provides work to EU citizens and trade between Britain and the EU the Express argues doing business with the Commonwealth would be better as there are less trade 'rules' and much less red tape. If you think about it, Britain once ruled the waves with its Empire and many of its former colonies in the Commonwealth would welcome more trade with the UK.

If Britain left the EU it only has to look to Switzerland to see how they do business with the EU with no issues. Why should Britain bail out parts of Europe that are bankrupt? The Germans themselves are asking this very question. By leaving the EU, it might quell the huge migration issue that has been created by the EU's open interior borders. Thousands try to cross daily into the UK from France alone at Calais. Do the French stop them? Britain has been swamped with EU migrants and many other non-EU nationalities. Maybe this is payback time for it having had an Empire? These migrants do however fill a gap in the lower paid jobs that British people seem unwilling to do. So only by Britain pulling out of the EU could it regain control of its borders and stop mass immigration.

The EU is now spending millions of euros setting up its own diplomatic corp. Who is paying for this? EU citizens of course. Is it needed? No! Whilst there is a so called 'European vision', in truth, does it really work? Why does the EU now need an army? What is wrong with NATO? British courts are being strangled by EU courts taking control. Britain wastes so much money on 'potty projects' in the EU. How can the EU justify not auditing its accounts in 16 years? There is also corruption in the EU! A lot of business people in Britain think Brussels red tape is strangling UK enterprise. Many people in Britain are grateful to the *Daily Express* for printing the unprintable. This article hopefully will give you the opportunity to debate the issue.

EXERCISES

1. **EU:** Think of five things you know about the EU?

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?

6. **Let's think!** Think of five advantages of the EU. Then add five disadvantages about it. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these. What conclusion do you come to?

Advantages of EU	Disadvantages of EU
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. **Quick debate:** In pairs. Student A thinks the EU and the euro is great. Student B think otherwise. Explain why.

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

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9. **Should Britain leave the EU?** Think of five reasons Britain should leave the EU. Then add five reasons it should stay. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these. What conclusion do you come to?

Reasons to leave EU	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.

10. **Let's talk!** *In pairs/groups.* You are in the *Discussion FM* studio. One of you is the presenter; the other student(s) is/are one of the people listed below. Today's subject is **'Should Britain leave the EU?'** Try to get a balanced interview. *5 minutes.*

1	An EU bureaucrat on a nice pension	3	Yourself
2	A journalist	4	<i>Daily Express</i> Editor

The teacher will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

11. **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 newspaper.
- 2) What is the nickname for the EU?
- 3) Name the countries.
- 4) Who are up to their necks and in what?
- 5) What is the gravy train?

Student B

- 1) What type of mountains are there?
- 2) Which capital could take over from London as the financial capital of Europe?
- 3) How many countries are in the Commonwealth?
- 4) How many years have the EU accounts not been audited?
- 5) Britain has been swamped with?

12. **Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **Should Britain 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 Commonwealth _____

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Should Britain leave the EU?
- 3) Should Britain look to Switzerland for guidance? Explain.
- 4) Why should Britain bailout parts of Europe that are bankrupt?
- 5) Should Britain be free to stop the mass migration that continues to happen?
- 6) How can the EU justify not auditing its accounts for 16 years like every other company has to? What action should be taken against it?
- 7) Do the French stop the migrants at Calais leaving for Britain?
- 8) Who is paying for the new EU Diplomatic Corp? Why? Justify.
- 9) Does this 'European Vision' actually work?
- 10) Why does the EU need an army? What is wrong with using NATO?

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Do you think Britains should be allowed to vote in a referendum to leave the EU? Why? Why not?
- 3) What three 'potty EU projects' do you know about?
- 4) Do you think EU officials should go to prison for the corruption they authorise in the EU? Are they above the law?
- 5) What do you think of the term E.U.S.S.R.?
- 6) Is the EU a Big Brother state like the U.S.S.R. once was?
- 7) What happens if the euro collapses?
- 8) Why should Britain support countries like Greece and Portugal financially that use a currency Britain does not?
- 9) Would you like to join the EU gravy train?
- 10) Is there to much EU red tape?

Student C questions

- 1) Is Brussels a financial disaster?
- 2) Which single law has benefited Britain?
- 3) What do you think of the butter and grain mountains and the wine lakes?
- 4) What do you think of an EU Super State?
- 5) Will Britain soon be under the thumb and unable to leave the EU?
- 6) When will Frankfurt take over as the financial and economic hub of Europe?
- 7) What other insidious and secret laws will the EU create for its citizens next?
- 8) Is the euro a flawed currency?
- 9) Would Britain be better off alone?
- 10) Would it be better for Britain to do more trade with the Commonwealth countries of its former Empire in places like India, Africa and the Caribbean?

GAP FILL: READING:

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Should Britain leave the EU?

Should Britain leave the EU? Britain's *Daily Express* newspaper thinks so. It recently explained why and hopefully it now makes an interesting theme to discuss. The British newspaper demanded 'our country' back from the EU! They called it 'a (1)_____ for freedom'. They wish to see Britain break free from the 'EU (2)_____'. Certainly many in Europe and beyond now jokingly call the EU the 'E.U.S.S.R.'. This point definitely rings (3)_____ bells in Eastern European countries, who clearly remember the U.S.S.R. and (4)_____, and whose (5)_____ now see the EU for what it really is. Is the EU a Big Brother state like the U.S.S.R. once was? The *Daily Express* states those behind the EU have been (6)_____ on one goal: the creation of a single political and economic European state with (7)_____ sovereignty over the nations under its (8)_____.

control

intent

citizens

alarm

crusade

absolute

communism

dictatorship

The (1)_____ in the Euro is another issue. The EU simply bails out the country in need, which then has to beg the (2)_____ for help, thus (3)_____ it forever in 'its debt'. Clever eh? When the Euro collapses what happens then? Perhaps keeping the pound has saved Britain from the farce of the euro? Mind you, in Euro land the currency itself is really useful, so there are strong arguments for keeping the euro. Why should Britain support countries like Greece and Portugal (4)_____ that use a currency Britain does not? One answer is the UK banks, like their Eurozone partners, are up to their (5)_____ in debts owed to them by these countries, so can't (6)_____. The *Daily Express* says Brussels is a financial (7)_____ and that the Euro is a (8)_____ dream.

disaster

EU

flawed

collapse

snaring

escape

necks

financially

GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Should Britain leave the EU?

(1)___ Britain leave the EU? Britain's *Daily Express* newspaper thinks so. It recently explained why and hopefully it now makes an interesting theme to discuss. The British newspaper demanded '(2)___ country' back from the EU! They called it 'a crusade for freedom'. (3)___ wish to see Britain break free (4)___ the 'EU dictatorship'. Certainly (5)___ in Europe and beyond now jokingly call the EU the 'E.U.S.S.R.'. (6)___ point definitely rings alarm bells in Eastern European countries, who clearly remember the U.S.S.R. and communism, and (7)___ citizens now see the EU for (8)___ it really is. Is the EU a Big Brother state like the U.S.S.R. once was? The *Daily Express* states those behind the EU have been intent on one goal: the creation of a single political and economic European state with absolute sovereignty over the nations under its control.

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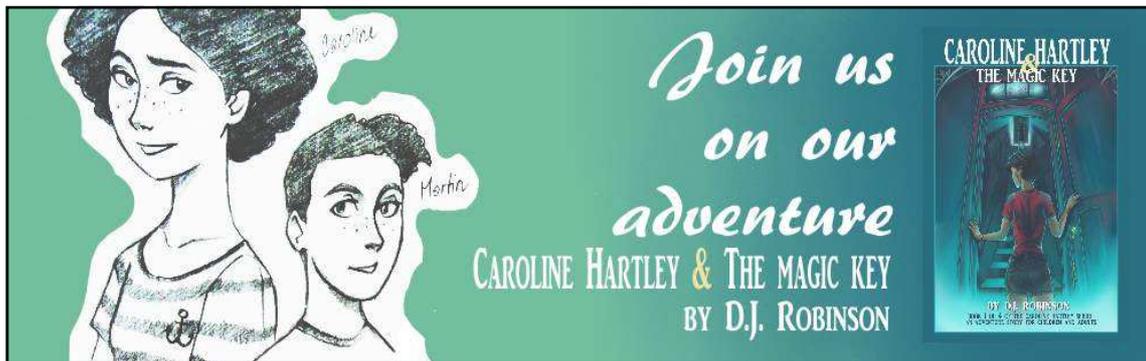
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SPELLING TEST

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	sovereignty	11	financially
2	immigration	12	bureaucrats
3	quell	13	guaranteed
4	swamped	14	snaring
5	insidiously	15	guaranteed
6	regulations	16	argues
7	crusade	17	umpteen
8	certainly	18	referendum
9	citizens	19	ancient
10	absolute	20	exert

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