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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 20/02/16

Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?

Today, the question is: Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?

During the 2015 General Election British Prime Minister David Cameron promised British voters a referendum about the UK membership of the EU no later than the end of 2017. The referendum will take place on Thursday 23 June 2016.

The "Brexit" vote is likely to affect everyone living in the EU, as a vote to leave could mark the breakup or even the end of the EU. "Brexit" is a term commonly-used for the British exit from the EU.

The vote to leave campaign has been rapidly increasing because the migration crisis has spiralled out of control. The British don't like the benefits paid to Europeans. Most don't like the arrogance of Brussels and its unelected leaders. The people of Britain want to regain full control of their borders and to be able to stop the flow of illegal migrants.

*There are two sides in this campaign – those that support staying in the EU and those that do not.*

Many British people wish to remain in the EU. If Britain left it would have a lot less influence in Europe and would still be bound by Brussels rules when trading with Europe.

Millions of jobs could be lost as global manufacturers could move production to mainland Europe. Two million UK citizens might themselves not be able to work and live in the EU.

Many people in Britain wish to leave the EU. The United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) under its leader Nigel Farage want Britain to leave the EU but to trade with Europe. **Continued on page 4...**

## SPEAKING – WARM UP

Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the EU? 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) When is the British referendum likely to take place?
- 2) What does 'Brexit' mean?
- 3) What does 'UKIP' stand for?
- 4) Name the British Prime Minister.
- 5) What is the referendum question in full?

### Student B questions

- 1) What happened in 1973?
- 2) Who is Jean Claude Juncker?
- 3) Name the German Chancellor.
- 4) Who is Donald Tusk?
- 5) What is Plan A and Plan B – explain both.

**Note:** EEC = European Economic Community

**Category: European Union / Referendum / Brexit**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Should the United Kingdom... – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### WRITING / SPEAKING

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

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* think of three advantages and disadvantages for Britain staying in the EU. Think of three advantages and disadvantages for EU countries of Britain staying in the EU.

### READING / SPEAKING

Consider the following business arguments:-

*Britain should stay in the EU because:*

- 1) London could lose 1,000+ banking jobs to Paris.
- 2) Business needs a strong and competitive EU.
- 3) Brexit could hit sterling by 20%.
- 4) The uncertainty could slow down banking.

*Britain should leave the EU because:*

- 1) The EU causes profit-reducing regulations
- 2) Brexit could lift the burden of bureaucracy on UK business.
- 3) Britain's exit from the EU would have no long term negative impact on the UK economy.
- 4) The EU renegotiations are an opportunity to rediscover Britain's global trade.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Should Britain leave the EU or should it remain in the EU?
- 3) Why is this referendum so important?
- 4) Could the EU fall apart if Britain leaves the EU?
- 5) Would the EU actually allow Britain to leave if it voted to?
- 6) Could the EU demand a second vote in case the British got it wrong?
- 7) Will the EU take retaliation if Britain decides to leave the EU?
- 8) What will the other EU countries do if Britain decides to leave the EU?
- 9) What will really happen if Britain votes to leave the EU?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*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: *Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the EU or leave the EU? 10 mins.*

- 1) A British person living in the UK.
- 2) A British person living in Spain.
- 3) A European citizen living in the UK.
- 4) A European citizen living in the EU but not in the UK.

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

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs - Student A* is an EU citizen living in the UK. *Student B* is English and wants to leave the UK. *3 mins.*

### SPEAKING - PRESENTATION

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class.*

*Prepare a 3-5 minute presentation on*

**Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?**

*Google it if necessary!*

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Would you vote for Britain to remain or stay in the EU?
- 3) Would jobs be lost in the UK if Britain left the EU?
- 4) If Britain left the EU would it do more trade with the rest of the world?
- 5) What would Britain's relationship with the EU be like after a split?
- 6) If Britain left the EU what will happen to the Commonwealth?
- 7) Will the EU veto the British referendum vote?
- 8) Who will feed the EU cash cow that Britain feeds if it leaves the EU?
- 9) How will the referendum affect the Euro and the pound?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?**

Today, the question is: Should the United Kingdom remain a (1)\_\_\_ of the European Union or leave the European Union?

During the 2015 General Election British Prime Minister David Cameron promised British (2)\_\_\_ a referendum about the UK membership of the EU no later than the end of 2017. The (3)\_\_\_ will take place on Thursday 23 June 2016.

The "Brexit" vote is likely to affect everyone living in the EU, as a vote to leave could mark the (4)\_\_\_ or even the end of the EU. "(5)\_\_\_" is a term commonly-used for the British exit from the EU.

The vote to leave (6)\_\_\_ has been rapidly increasing because the (7)\_\_\_ crisis has spiralled out of control. The British don't like the (8)\_\_\_ paid to Europeans.

**campaign / referendum / migration / member / breakup / Brexit / benefits / voters**

Most don't like the (1)\_\_\_ of Brussels and its unelected leaders. The people of Britain want to regain full control of their (2)\_\_\_ and to be able to stop the flow of illegal migrants.

*There are two sides in this campaign – those that support staying in the EU and those that do not.*

Many British people wish to (3)\_\_\_ in the EU. If Britain left it would have a lot less influence in Europe and would still be bound by Brussels (4)\_\_\_ when trading with Europe. Millions of (5)\_\_\_ could be lost as (6)\_\_\_ manufacturers could move production to (7)\_\_\_ Europe. Two million UK citizens might themselves not be able to work and live in the EU.

Many people in Britain wish to leave the EU. The United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) under its leader Nigel Farage want Britain to leave the EU but to (8)\_\_\_ with Europe.

**trade / global / borders / jobs / remain / mainland / rules / arrogance**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?**

Today, the question is: (1)\_\_\_ the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave (2)\_\_\_ European Union?

During the 2015 General Election British Prime Minister David Cameron promised British voters (3)\_\_\_ referendum about the UK membership of the EU no later than the end of 2017. The referendum will take place (4)\_\_\_ Thursday 23 June 2016.

The "Brexit" vote is likely to affect everyone living (5)\_\_\_ the EU, (6)\_\_\_ a vote to leave could mark the breakup (7)\_\_\_ even the end (8)\_\_\_ the EU. "Brexit" is a term commonly-used for the British exit from the EU.

The vote to leave campaign has been rapidly increasing because the migration crisis has spiralled out of control. The British don't like the benefits paid to Europeans.

**of / or / a / the / on / as / in / should**

(1)\_\_\_ don't like the arrogance of Brussels and its unelected leaders. The people of Britain want to regain full control of their borders and to be able to stop the flow of illegal migrants.

*There are two sides in this campaign – (2)\_\_\_ (3)\_\_\_ support staying in the EU and those that do not.*

Many British people wish to remain in the EU. If Britain left it (4)\_\_\_ have a lot less influence in Europe and would (5)\_\_\_ be bound by Brussels rules (6)\_\_\_ trading with Europe. Millions of jobs (7)\_\_\_ be lost as global manufacturers could move production to mainland Europe. Two million UK citizens might themselves not be able to work and live in the EU.

(8)\_\_\_ people in Britain wish to leave the EU. The United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) under its leader Nigel Farage want Britain to leave the EU but to trade with Europe.

**many / would / could / when / most / that / those / still**



**GAP FILL: LISTENING**

**ARTICLE – continued from page 1**

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The \_\_\_\_\_ has been rapidly increasing because the migration crisis has spiralled out of control. The British don't like the benefits paid to Europeans. Most don't like \_\_\_\_\_ and its unelected leaders. The people of Britain want to regain full control of their borders and to be able to stop the flow of illegal migrants.

*There are two sides \_\_\_\_\_ – those that support staying in the EU and those that do not.*

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This is what Great Britain originally signed up for in 1973 when it joined the EEC. Norway and Switzerland seem to thrive outside it. By leaving the EU Britain could make trade deals with other countries in the world – like it used to do.

Britain also has its Commonwealth that is tragically much overlooked today. There could be a jobs boom in the UK if small and medium sized firms were freed from EU regulation. Britain would also save a whopping £65.7bn per year. This money could build many hospitals and roads.

The EU is now very worried that Britain might actually leave. According to President of the EU Jean Claude Juncker, there is only Plan A - for Britain to remain in the EU. There is no Plan B for Britain to leave. Whether the EU would actually allow Britain to leave is another question. Repercussions from the EU are likely to follow if Britain did leave the EU.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel wants Britain to stay in, as it would be in Germany's and the EU's interest for Britain to stay in. However, there is still no guarantee that a new EU deal for Britain will be reached, and even if it is, the EU can veto Britain's referendum vote after it has taken place if it doesn't like the outcome.

David Cameron wants a ban on work benefits for four years and no child benefit export. He is likely to get a staggered ban and to have to pay benefits in line with the home country. European Council President Donald Tusk has said it is "a crucial moment for the unity of our Union." He is probably right.

Should the United Kingdom... – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016