

ENGLISH LEARNING FOR CURIOUS MINDS



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Episode #205

Brexit: Part 3

26th Oct, 2021

[00:00:00] Hello, hello hello, and welcome to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:00:12] The show where you can listen to fascinating stories, and learn weird and wonderful things about the world at the same time as improving your English.

[00:00:22] I'm Alastair Budge, and today is part 3 of our three part series on Brexit.

[00:00:28] In Part One we looked at the history of relations between Britain and Europe, from the Romans invading in 55BC right up to the UK's decision to break with the European Union, over 2,000 years later.

[00:00:44] Then in Part Two we looked at the vote itself, why the UK took the decision to hold a [referendum](#)¹ in the first place, how the campaigns were fought, who voted for and against Brexit, and for what reasons.

¹ a general, public vote on a single political question



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[00:00:59] And in today's episode, Part Three and the final part of this mini-series, we are going to look at what has happened since June the 23rd 2016, the day that the UK voted to leave the European Union.

[00:01:14] We'll tell the story of what happened immediately after the vote, the kind of Brexit that actually happened, how it was different from [expectations](#)² and how it was the same, and have a think about what the long term consequences of Brexit might be.

[00:01:31] There is a lot to [cover](#)³, so let's get started.

[00:01:35] The vote to leave the European Union was a [shock](#)⁴ to the British [establishment](#)⁵.

[00:01:40] Very few people in positions of power expected the British population to have voted this way.

[00:01:48] Indeed, it was the first time in British history that a [referendum](#) had ever [gone against the preferences](#)⁶ of the government.

² things that were hoped for or looked forward to

³ deal with and take into account

⁴ a sudden and intense emotional experience

⁵ a group of people holding most of the power and influence in a society

⁶ chosen the option which was opposite to the choice



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[00:01:57] In other words, the government only ever really offered a [referendum](#) when it was fairly sure it would [go its way](#)⁷.

[00:02:05] As a result, there hadn't been great thought or preparations on either side, in the Leave or Remain [camps](#)⁸, for what would need to be done if the UK did vote for Brexit.

[00:02:18] There was no [playbook](#)⁹ for leaving the European Union; no country had ever done it before, and very few people in the UK thought it would actually happen.

[00:02:29] So the question was, the United Kingdom had voted to leave the EU, but how would it actually do this?

[00:02:37] What kind of Brexit would there be?

[00:02:40] The media and politicians soon started using the terms “hard” and “soft” Brexit to describe the two options.

⁷ be favourable to them

⁸ sides or groups of people who support the same cause

⁹ a book containing descriptions of how to deal with a situation



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[00:02:49] A hard Brexit would be a [clean break](#)¹⁰, [cutting the country off](#)¹¹ from the European Union quickly and [sharply](#)¹².

[00:02:58] It might be [painful](#)¹³ in the short term, but the British people had voted to leave, and leave they should do.

[00:03:06] A soft Brexit, on the other hand, would be [gradual](#)¹⁴ and [gentle](#)¹⁵.

[00:03:11] It would involve keeping many of the aspects of EU membership, and still being joined closely to the EU.

[00:03:19] To use the [analogy](#)¹⁶ of a relationship [breakup](#)¹⁷, a hard Brexit would be like you [slamming](#)¹⁸ the door on your partner, throwing their clothes out of the window and [changing the locks](#)¹⁹.

¹⁰ complete separation

¹¹ separating the country, breaking its connections with

¹² suddenly

¹³ causing anxiety or trouble

¹⁴ happening slowly over a period of time

¹⁵ calm

¹⁶ comparison between things that have similar features

¹⁷ end

¹⁸ shutting forcefully and loudly

¹⁹ placing new locks which will require new keys



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[00:03:31] A soft Brexit might be more like deciding that you were going to be friends, still meeting for coffee and going to the cinema together, but your relationship was now [purely²⁰ platonic²¹](#).

[00:03:44] Of course, these are the two extremes, and so it was now the job of British politicians to firstly understand what kind of Brexit the people of Britain actually wanted, and secondly to try to negotiate this with their [soon-to-be-ex²²](#) colleagues in Europe.

[00:04:05] It's here that we meet our first [hurdle²³](#) though, and you'll see how Brexit proved to be a [career-destroying²⁴](#) and [career-making²⁵](#) event for many British politicians.

[00:04:18] The British Prime Minister at the time of the Brexit vote was David Cameron.

[00:04:23] As we heard in the last episode, he was campaigning to Remain and he was the one who offered the [referendum](#) vote in the first place.

²⁰ only

²¹ not sexual

²² planned-to-be-ex

²³ problem or difficulty

²⁴ that destroyed their careers

²⁵ that created their careers



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[00:04:33] After the people of Britain had voted against his side, he couldn't stay, and he [resigned](#)²⁶ a few hours after the result.

[00:04:42] A [power struggle](#)²⁷ [ensued](#)²⁸ in the Conservative party, and eventually the former Home Secretary, a lady called Theresa May was elected Prime Minister.

[00:04:54] In order to try to [shore up](#)²⁹ support for her vision of Brexit, she called a general election in 2017, but it proved to be a terrible mistake.

[00:05:06] The Conservatives lost their majority, and had to form a [coalition](#)³⁰ with a party called the Democratic Unionist Party, the DUP, a party from Northern Ireland.

[00:05:20] Theresa May's leadership was [characterised](#)³¹ by constant [attempts](#)³² to negotiate both with the EU and with her own party, but she failed to make any significant progress.

[00:05:33] She couldn't agree to a Brexit deal that would pass the UK parliament.

²⁶ gave up his office

²⁷ competition for control

²⁸ happened as a result of the previous event

²⁹ give (support)

³⁰ the joining together of different political parties

³¹ typical or characteristic of

³² tries



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[00:05:38] Ultimately, like her predecessor³³ David Cameron, Brexit was to cost her her head³⁴, and she resigned in May of 2019.

[00:05:48] In the meantime³⁵, the de facto³⁶ leader of the pro-Brexit campaign, Vote Leave, Boris Johnson, had been waiting for his opportunity.

[00:05:59] With his political enemies out of his way³⁷, his path was clear, and he was voted in as Prime Minister of the UK in July of 2019.

[00:06:09] Like his predecessor Theresa May, he also called a general election to shore up the legitimacy³⁸ to choose the type of Brexit it was to be.

[00:06:20] But unlike Theresa May, he won, and secured³⁹ the Conservatives a large majority.

³³ the person who had the same position before her

³⁴ cost her her position, her office

³⁵ while this was happening

³⁶ actual, existing in fact

³⁷ no longer being a problem

³⁸ the quality of being legal

³⁹ made it certain, ensured



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[00:06:27] His campaign [slogan](#)⁴⁰ was to “Get Brexit Done”, and this was a message that [resonated](#)⁴¹ strongly with a nation bored of the [back and forth](#)⁴² Brexit negotiations that had been taking three and a half years.

[00:06:44] So, by Christmas of 2019 Boris Johnson had a clear majority in Parliament, and the [mandate](#)⁴³ to negotiate a Brexit [on behalf](#)⁴⁴ of the British public, to “get Brexit done”.

[00:06:58] Now, unless you have a deep interest in British politics, this might not be so interesting to you, but the reason I’m sharing it is to [underline](#)⁴⁵ how complicated these negotiations were, and how—although the UK had voted for Brexit—how [unclear](#)⁴⁶ it was what type of Brexit this should be.

[00:07:20] After Johnson’s election victory, the Brexit final negotiations were relatively [swift](#)⁴⁷, but they went [right up to the knife’s edge](#)⁴⁸, with a final agreement only being

⁴⁰ a short, easily remembered phrase which expressed its aims

⁴¹ was met with agreement by

⁴² backward and forward

⁴³ the authority given to his government

⁴⁴ representing, in the interest of

⁴⁵ stress, emphasise

⁴⁶ not obvious

⁴⁷ done quickly

⁴⁸ to a very stressful and difficult situation



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reached on Christmas Eve of 2019, and the UK officially left the EU on the 31st of January 2020, with a deal that wasn't as soft as the [hardline](#)⁴⁹ Brexiteers [feared](#)⁵⁰, but not as hard as a complete [no-deal](#)⁵¹ situation.

[00:07:50] Next up it's time to talk about the impact of Brexit, and we are going to look at six main areas: the economy, immigration, politics & laws, agriculture and British farming, [foreign policy](#)⁵² and finally The Union of the United Kingdom.

[00:08:09] So, to start with, the economy.

[00:08:12] Before Brexit, the [predictions](#)⁵³ from business leaders, economists and politicians were pretty [dire](#)⁵⁴.

[00:08:19] If the UK voted for Brexit, they said, it would make the country poorer.

[00:08:25] [The Treasury](#)⁵⁵ had even put a number on it - £4,200 per year.

⁴⁹ strict, extreme

⁵⁰ expected

⁵¹ failing to reach agreement

⁵² a government's strategy in dealing with foreign nations

⁵³ opinions about what they thought would happen in the future

⁵⁴ very serious and causing fear

⁵⁵ the department of the government responsible for financial matters



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[00:08:32] There were fears about food [shortages](#)⁵⁶, a [collapse](#)⁵⁷ in the value of the pound, goods and services becoming more expensive and a lot of economic suffering.

[00:08:43] The main reason being that the EU was the UK's largest trading partner.

Being in the EU means you benefit from the global agreements that the EU has in place with non-EU countries and you benefit from easier trade with other EU members.

[00:09:00] Leaving the EU, especially in a hard Brexit [scenario](#)⁵⁸ where the UK would [leave the Customs Union](#)⁵⁹ would mean giving this up with the hope that the UK would be able to [strike](#)⁶⁰ more [advantageous](#)⁶¹ trade deals with countries such as the United States, Australia and Japan.

[00:09:19] In the short term, directly after the vote, the economic consequences looked pretty [grim](#)⁶², pretty bad.

[00:09:27] The morning after Brexit global stock markets lost \$2 trillion of value, and the value of the pound against the dollar fell to a 31-year-low.

⁵⁶ situations in which there wouldn't be enough

⁵⁷ a sudden fall

⁵⁸ supposed situation

⁵⁹ leave the group of countries that have agreed to allow free trade

⁶⁰ reach or achieve

⁶¹ giving advantages

⁶² bad, worrying



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[00:09:40] Suddenly British holidays abroad weren't quite so great value, and [conversely](#)⁶³ for Europeans, shopping in London became not quite so expensive as it had been a few years before.

[00:09:53] However, within a few weeks the stock market had recovered, the UK hadn't been [plunged](#)⁶⁴ into a financial crisis, and things weren't actually as [apocalyptic](#)⁶⁵ as the [fear mongers](#)⁶⁶ had said.

[00:10:08] Yes, businesses would have to adapt, trade with Europe wouldn't be as easy as before, but perhaps the country would do just fine.

[00:10:18] As the UK approached the [withdrawal](#)⁶⁷ date, on 31st January 2020, there was something that nobody had [factored in](#)⁶⁸: a global pandemic.

[00:10:29] And when it comes to any [assessment](#)⁶⁹ of the impact of Brexit, especially the economic impact, it is made a lot harder thanks to the impact of COVID.

⁶³ in an opposite way

⁶⁴ fallen suddenly

⁶⁵ disastrous

⁶⁶ people who intentionally and needlessly had tried to make people afraid of Brexit

⁶⁷ the action of stopping being part of EU

⁶⁸ taken into account, predicted

⁶⁹ judgement, analysis



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[00:10:40] As you may have heard about, since the start of 2020 the UK has suffered food [shortages](#), fuel [shortages](#), worker [shortages](#), and [all round⁷⁰ disruption⁷¹](#) to the economy.

[00:10:53] Politicians have been debating the [extent⁷²](#) to which Brexit or COVID are responsible for this [disruption](#), and there is a [distinct⁷³ lack⁷⁴](#) of agreement.

[00:11:04] Naturally to the [proponents⁷⁵](#) of Brexit, to those who supported leaving the EU, it is very [convenient⁷⁶](#) to [blame⁷⁷](#) the UK's economic problems on COVID, not Brexit.

[00:11:16] And to those looking to [score political points⁷⁸](#) against the Brexit-voting leadership of the UK, it is very [convenient](#) to [blame](#) Brexit.

⁷⁰ complete

⁷¹ the action of interrupting the progress of

⁷² length, amount

⁷³ easy to see

⁷⁴ absence

⁷⁵ public supporters

⁷⁶ suitable or favorable to their purpose

⁷⁷ say that they were responsible for the situation

⁷⁸ gain more political influence



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[00:11:26] COVID certainly hasn't made the situation any easier, but it would be hard to [argue](#)⁷⁹ - indeed even the [staunchest](#)⁸⁰ Brexiteer would [struggle](#)⁸¹ to [claim](#)⁸² that Brexit has delivered many [tangible](#)⁸³ economic benefits so far.

[00:11:42] Our second category to talk about, which is actually closely related to the first, is immigration.

[00:11:50] One of the main reasons that Brits had voted for Brexit was to control immigration from the EU.

[00:11:57] The Brexit agreement certainly has made it harder for people from European countries to come and live in the UK. Now, European citizens are treated no differently to citizens from any other country, and there is now a [points-based](#)⁸⁴ immigration system.

⁷⁹ to attempt to prove that they were right

⁸⁰ most loyal

⁸¹ find difficulties in

⁸² say it's true

⁸³ able to be shown or experienced

⁸⁴ based on points



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[00:12:14] Instead of any EU-citizen being able to come to live in the UK, each applicant is **assessed**⁸⁵ individually, based on things like whether they have a job in the UK, the salary of that job, the type of job, and even their English language level.

[00:12:32] The idea behind this was to limit the arrival of **low-skilled**⁸⁶ immigrants from the EU, and instead allow more space for more **skilled**⁸⁷ immigrants from the rest of the world.

[00:12:44] As you might imagine, it has massively reduced the amount of immigration from the EU.

[00:12:51] In 2015, around 630,000 EU citizens came to live in the UK. In 2018, even before the **points-based** system **came into place**⁸⁸, this number had dropped to 418,000.

[00:13:08] Although there are significantly fewer EU immigrants, there is a large increase in non-EU immigrants, and in 2019, the last year for which statistics are readily available, there were more immigrants to the UK than at any time in history.

⁸⁵ judged, analysed

⁸⁶ not having a high level of abilities or education

⁸⁷ having abilities and a certain level of education

⁸⁸ was introduced



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[00:13:26] So, for Brexit voters who believed Brexit would simply stop immigration to the UK, they may be surprised that there has been no reduction, the immigrants just come from different countries, and are generally required to be more skilled.

[00:13:43] Although this might sound good in practice, because it leads to a more **skilled** workforce with better paid jobs, Brits have found out that those EU workers who drove delivery trucks, worked in agriculture or hospitality and generally did lower-paid work that Brits weren't so **keen**⁸⁹ on doing were actually pretty useful to the country.

[00:14:07] Over the past few months the country has experienced a **lack** of people in low-paid work, which has resulted in fuel **shortages**, so petrol stations have no petrol, and food **shortages** in British supermarkets.

[00:14:22] The government is busy **assuring**⁹⁰ the country that this is a **teething issue**⁹¹, and is mainly the fault of COVID, but at the same time has been offering **generous**⁹² bonuses for EU citizens to return to the UK to do things like drive delivery trucks and work in food processing plants.

⁸⁹ interested in

⁹⁰ making them feel sure

⁹¹ short-term problem that appears in the early stages of a new situation

⁹² willing to give money and help



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[00:14:43] Perhaps the government is right, that it will just be a **teething issue**, and leaving the EU will allow a new generation of **highly-skilled**⁹³ immigrants to come to the UK, but in the short term it certainly seems that restricting EU immigration hasn't delivered any **tangible** benefits to the people of Britain.

[00:15:03] Our third category to explore is relating to politics and laws in Britain.

[00:15:09] As you will remember from episode two, the **restoration**⁹⁴ of **sovereignty**⁹⁵ and control over UK laws was a major **aspect**⁹⁶ of the Brexit campaign.

[00:15:19] The Leave campaign had English Nationalism at its heart and played to a **populist**⁹⁷ songbook or to **populist** themes, in particular, immigration.

[00:15:31] The **evolution**⁹⁸ of the ruling Conservative party under the influence of the current Prime Minister and leader of the Tories, Boris Johnson, has been to **strengthen**⁹⁹ this English nationalist and **populist** side.

⁹³ having a lot of abilities and a high level of education

⁹⁴ the act of bringing something back

⁹⁵ the power of the country to control its own government

⁹⁶ part

⁹⁷ supporting the right and power of the people

⁹⁸ development

⁹⁹ make it stronger



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[00:15:45] In the 2019 election, the Conservatives won new electoral seats in the North of England, seats which had not been won by their party for 50 years or more, and had traditionally been a **stronghold**¹⁰⁰ of the Labour party.

[00:16:00] In these areas people voted Tory for the first time because of the **pledge**¹⁰¹ to “Get Brexit Done”, and partly because they felt that the party that they had traditionally voted for, the Labour Party, could not be trusted as being **sufficiently**¹⁰² **patriotic**¹⁰³, especially when it came to Brexit.

[00:16:20] The result of all of this on Britain's political life so far has been to lead to a much more **divisive**¹⁰⁴, **rougher**¹⁰⁵ politics with less respect for rules and promises; for

¹⁰⁰ a place that serves as the center of certain group of people

¹⁰¹ formal promise

¹⁰² to a satisfying or acceptable degree, enough

¹⁰³ showing love and loyalty to their country

¹⁰⁴ causing disagreement between people

¹⁰⁵ less smooth or harsher and unpleasant



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example, it has taken a much more [aggressive](#)¹⁰⁶, a more [hostile](#)¹⁰⁷, [approach](#)¹⁰⁸ to [asylum seekers](#)¹⁰⁹ and it looks for opportunities to please its [political base](#)¹¹⁰.

[00:16:45] Much like Donald Trump knew he could treat immigrants to the US with a certain [disdain](#)¹¹¹ and it would please [his political base](#)¹¹², Boris Johnson and his Tory government have been increasingly [hostile](#) towards migrants to the UK, knowing [full well](#)¹¹³ that this behaviour [resonates](#)¹¹⁴ with many of their voters.

[00:17:06] Although the [strength](#)¹¹⁵ of the UK's laws has [restrained](#)¹¹⁶ the Government from some of its greatest [excesses](#)¹¹⁷, there are uncomfortable signs that the Government is prepared to challenge institutions which have historically been [neutral](#)

¹⁰⁶ behaving in an angry and violent way

¹⁰⁷ unfriendly

¹⁰⁸ way of dealing with a situation

¹⁰⁹ people who have left their home country as political refugees and look for help and protection in another

¹¹⁰ voters

¹¹¹ a feeling that they were unworthy

¹¹² his voters

¹¹³ without a doubt

¹¹⁴ is met with agreement by

¹¹⁵ influence or power

¹¹⁶ prevented, kept under control

¹¹⁷ actions that go beyond the accepted limits



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¹¹⁸ or **unbiased**¹¹⁹ politically, such as the BBC and cultural institutions, such as museums.

[00:17:29] The fourth area has to do with the countryside and British farming.

[00:17:34] This has had very little publicity, but will probably become more significant as people become more **aware**¹²⁰ of its **gradual** impact on the land.

[00:17:43] Leaving the EU means leaving the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, otherwise known as the CAP.

[00:17:50] Many **blame** that policy for the **gradual** environmental **degradation**¹²¹ of Britain's countryside, as the CAP's **subsidies**¹²² **encouraged**¹²³ productive agricultural production at all costs, with environmental support coming a very poor second.

¹¹⁸ not taking sides

¹¹⁹ fair, showing no favouritism

¹²⁰ having knowledge

¹²¹ the process in which the quality of something is becoming worse

¹²² money given by the state to help an industry

¹²³ gave support to or reasons for



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[00:18:07] Now freed of the CAP, there is an opportunity for a more enlightened policy to shape the British countryside in a way that leads to more sustainable farming, better [biodiversity](#)¹²⁴ and the [restoration](#) of [endangered](#)¹²⁵ local habitats.

[00:18:24] I [suspect](#)¹²⁶ that one reason why there has been so little publicity about this area, is because it is relatively [uncontroversial](#)¹²⁷ and also because its effects will be so [gradual](#) and difficult to notice.

[00:18:37] However, the changes may make one of the UK's most [precious](#)¹²⁸ [assets](#)¹²⁹, its varied and attractive countryside yet more so and better appreciated by citizens and tourists alike.

[00:18:51] Our [penultimate](#)¹³⁰ element of exploration today will be [Foreign Policy](#) and Britain's [global standing](#)¹³¹.

¹²⁴ variety of animal and plant life

¹²⁵ at risk of extinction

¹²⁶ consider something to be true or probable

¹²⁷ not leading to public disagreement

¹²⁸ of great value

¹²⁹ useful and valuable resources

¹³⁰ next to last or second last

¹³¹ the position in the world



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[00:18:58] The phrase Global Britain was used a lot by the Brexit campaigners – without any real explanation of what it meant.

[00:19:06] What is it?

[00:19:07] A nostalgic¹³² desire¹³³ to return to the imaginary former¹³⁴ glory days of the empire?

[00:19:14] Well, some indication¹³⁵ of what is in the current government's mind was illustrated¹³⁶ recently with the announcement by the USA, Australia and UK of an agreement to share technology for nuclear-powered¹³⁷ submarines between the three nations.

[00:19:31] The so-called AUKUS agreement between these three Anglophone countries means that Australia, which will gain nuclear-powered submarines through it, had to

¹³² feeling desire or longing for situations of the past

¹³³ a strong feeling of wanting to have something

¹³⁴ of the past

¹³⁵ a sign or information that suggests something

¹³⁶ presented

¹³⁷ using power that is generated by a nuclear reactor



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abandon¹³⁸ or **give up**¹³⁹ its submarine deal with France and to **transfer**¹⁴⁰ the **lucrative**¹⁴¹ work to Britain.

[00:19:48] Although President Macron protested **in the strongest terms**¹⁴² to the countries involved, especially the USA and Australia, the move was a reminder that the UK is not now **bound**¹⁴³ to Europe in the way in which it was before.

[00:20:03] The pull of **fellow**¹⁴⁴ Commonwealth or, in the case of the USA, **Anglophone**¹⁴⁵ countries will be at least as strong.

[00:20:11] Now, our final element to explore is relating to the United Kingdom itself, a collection of four unique countries joined together for mutual benefit.

[00:20:23] Without a doubt, Brexit has **weakened**¹⁴⁶ the Union.

¹³⁸ stop something before completion

¹³⁹ stop something before completion

¹⁴⁰ move from one place to another

¹⁴¹ producing great profit

¹⁴² expressing strong disapproval

¹⁴³ tied, connected

¹⁴⁴ sharing a particular condition or activity

¹⁴⁵ English-speaking

¹⁴⁶ made weaker



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[00:20:27] Scotland voted to remain in the EU by a significant margin– 62% [compared to England’s 48%].

[00:20:36] Brexit is powered by English nationalism and Boris Johnson continues to be a highly **divisive** – some would say **toxic**¹⁴⁷ – figure for the Scots.

[00:20:48] Although Scottish independence was meant to have been **settled**¹⁴⁸ for a generation by the 2014 Independence vote, Brexit has changed the argument.

[00:20:58] Scotland has **reemerged**¹⁴⁹ with the Scottish National Party now **dominant**¹⁵⁰ and calling for a second independence **referendum**.

[00:21:07] The situation in Northern Ireland is yet more dangerous and difficult.

[00:21:12] In the Brexit campaign, the **complexities**¹⁵¹ of Northern Ireland's situation simply were not **considered**¹⁵².

[00:21:19] If you aren’t familiar with these **complexities**, here’s a brief summary.

¹⁴⁷ very unpleasant

¹⁴⁸ agreed to, resolved

¹⁴⁹ appeared again

¹⁵⁰ being most powerful

¹⁵¹ difficulties

¹⁵² thought about, taken into consideration



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[00:21:24] The Republic of Ireland, otherwise known as Ireland is in the EU. Northern Ireland is part of the UK, and therefore now isn't in the EU.

[00:21:35] They share a border, and before the Brexit vote there was free movement between the two countries.

[00:21:42] The Northern Irish Protestants are passionately pro the Union with Britain, and many Catholics want to be part of the Republic of Ireland.

[00:21:52] There were years of **bloody**¹⁵³ violence between the two parties, and it was very important to avoid **reinstating**¹⁵⁴ a land border between the two countries.

[00:22:04] There is no hard border between the two, making a **de-facto**¹⁵⁵ border between the United Kingdom and Europe in the Irish Sea, which many Northern Irish Unionists take as a **betrayal**¹⁵⁶ by Britain.

[00:22:19] To state the obvious, Brexit is a huge complication to the Northern Irish situation, and there are genuine fears that this might lead to violence in Northern Ireland, and an eventual unification of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

¹⁵³ involving bloodshed and cruelty

¹⁵⁴ introducing again

¹⁵⁵ existing whether by right or not

¹⁵⁶ disloyalty or deception



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[00:22:36] There are, of course, tens, hundreds, thousands of other [implications](#)¹⁵⁷ of Brexit, and many important ones we haven't had the chance to talk about today.

[00:22:47] British people living in Europe, for example, is an important subject that I know a lot about, as I am one of the 1.2 million British people living in the European Union.

[00:22:59] And there are the EU citizens living in the UK, like many of my friends, who are suddenly questioning their relationship with a country they had come to call home.

[00:23:10] Then there's the scientific funding, the ERASMUS programme, the impact on British cultural life, the impact on English language schools in Europe, because it's simply far harder for British people to come and work in Europe, fishing, sport, driving licenses, air travel, Gibraltar, Brexit is something that has affected almost every aspect of British life and many aspects of life in Europe.

[00:23:36] So, what will the long term consequences be?

[00:23:40] As Zhou Enlai said, in fact about the Parisian student protests of 1968 instead of the French Revolution of 1789, perhaps it is still too early to tell.

[00:23:54] OK then, that is it for today's episode on the [aftermath](#)¹⁵⁸ of Brexit, and with that comes the end of this mini-series.

¹⁵⁷ consequences

¹⁵⁸ the period after an important event and its effects



[00:24:02] To state the obvious¹⁵⁹, it is a huge and complicated subject, and one we could talk for hours on end¹⁶⁰ about. I hope at least that you've found this mini-series to be an interesting introduction to the past, present, and future of Brexit, and that it has given you a little insight into some of the peculiarities¹⁶¹ of Britain's relationship with Europe.

[00:24:26] As always, I would love to know what you thought of this episode, and of this mini-series.

[00:24:31] The majority of our listeners come from EU countries, and no doubt you have an opinion, or perhaps questions about Brexit.

[00:24:39] So, let's get this Brexit discussion started then.

[00:24:42] The place to go to for that is our community forum, which is at community.leonardoenglish.com.

[00:24:49] You've been listening to English Learning for Curious Minds, by Leonardo English.

[00:24:55] I'm Alastair Budge, you stay safe, and I'll catch you in the next episode.

¹⁵⁹ to say what can be seen clearly

¹⁶⁰ for a long time

¹⁶¹ unusual and strange things



[END OF EPISODE]



Key vocabulary

Word	Definition
Referendum	a general, public vote on a single political question
Expectations	things that were hoped for or looked forward to
Cover	deal with and take into account
Shock	a sudden and intense emotional experience
Establishment	a group of people holding most of the power and influence in a society
Gone against the preferences	chosen the option which was opposite to the choice
Go its way	be favourable to them
Camps	sides or groups of people who support the same cause
Playbook	a book containing descriptions of how to deal with a situation
Clean break	complete separation
Cutting the country off	separating the country, breaking its connections with



Brexit: Part 3

Sharply	suddenly
Painful	causing anxiety or trouble
Gradual	happening slowly over a period of time
Gentle	calm
Analogy	comparison between things that have similar features
Breakup	end
Slamming	shutting forcefully and loudly
Changing the locks	placing new locks which will require new keys
Purely	only
Platonic	not sexual
Soon-to-be-ex	planned-to-be-ex
Hurdle	problem or difficulty
Career-destroying	that destroyed their careers
Career-making	that created their careers
Resigned	gave up his office



Brexit: Part 3

Power struggle	competition for control
Ensued	happened as a result of the previous event
Shore up	give (support)
Coalition	the joining together of different political parties
Characterised	typical or characteristic of
Attempts	tries
Predecessor	the person who had the same position before her
Cost her her head	cost her her position, her office
In the meantime	while this was happening
De facto	actual, existing in fact
Out of his way	no longer being a problem
Legitimacy	the quality of being legal
Secured	made it certain, ensured
Slogan	a short, easily remembered phrase which expressed its aims
Resonated	was met with agreement by



Brexit: Part 3

Back and forth	backward and forward
Mandate	the authority given to his government
On behalf	representing, in the interest of
Underline	stress, emphasise
Unclear	not obvious
Swift	done quickly
Right up to the knife's edge	to a very stressful and difficult situation
Hardline	strict, extreme
Feared	expected
No-deal	failing to reach agreement
Foreign policy	a government's strategy in dealing with foreign nations
Predictions	opinions about what they thought would happen in the future
Dire	very serious and causing fear
The treasury	the department of the government responsible for financial matters
Shortages	situations in which there wouldn't be enough



Brexit: Part 3

Collapse	a sudden fall
Scenario	supposed situation
Leave the customs union	leave the group of countries that have agreed to allow free trade
Strike	reach or achieve
Advantageous	giving advantages
Grim	bad, worrying
Conversely	in an opposite way
Plunged	fallen suddenly
Apocalyptic	disastrous
Fear mongers	people who intentionally and needlessly had tried to make people afraid of Brexit
Withdrawal	the action of stopping being part of EU
Factored in	taken into account, predicted
Assessment	judgement, analysis
All round	complete



Brexit: Part 3

Disruption	the action of interrupting the progress of
Extent	length, amount
Distinct	easy to see
Lack	absence
Proponents	public supporters
Convenient	suitable or favorable to their purpose
Blame	say that they were responsible for the situation
Score political points	gain more political influence
Argue	to attempt to prove that they were right
Staunchest	most loyal
Struggle	find difficulties in
Claim	say it's true
Tangible	able to be shown or experienced
Points-based	based on points
Assessed	judged, analysed



Brexit: Part 3

Low-skilled	not having a high level of abilities or education
Skilled	having abilities and a certain level of education
Came into place	was introduced
Keen	interested in
Assuring	making them feel sure
Teething issue	short-term problem that appears in the early stages of a new situation
Generous	willing to give money and help
Highly-skilled	having a lot of abilities and a high level of education
Restoration	the act of bringing something back
Sovereignty	the power of the country to control its own government
Aspect	part
Populist	supporting the right and power of the people
Evolution	development
Strengthen	make something stronger
Stronghold	a place that serves as the center of certain group of people



Pledge	formal promise
Sufficiently	to a satisfying or acceptable degree, enough
Patriotic	showing love and loyalty to their country
Divisive	causing disagreement between people
Rougher	less smooth or harsher and unpleasant
Aggressive	behaving in an angry and violent way
Hostile	unfriendly
Approach	way of dealing with a situation
Asylum seekers	people who have left their home country as political refugees and look for help and protection in another
Political base	voters
Disdain	a feeling that they were unworthy
His political base	his voters
Full well	without a doubt
Resonates	is met with agreement by
Strength	influence or power



Brexit: Part 3

Restrained	prevented, kept under control
Excesses	actions that go beyond the accepted limits
Neutral	not taking sides
Unbiased	fair, showing no favouritism
Aware	having knowledge
Degradation	the process in which the quality of something is becoming worse
Subsidies	money given by the state to help an industry
Encouraged	gave support to or reasons for
Biodiversity	variety of animal and plant life
Endangered	at risk of extinction
Suspect	consider something to be true or probable
Uncontroversial	not leading to public disagreement
Precious	of great value
Assets	useful and valuable resources
Penultimate	next to last or second last



Global standing	the position of something in the world
Nostalgic	feeling desire or longing for situations of the past
Desire	a strong feeling of wanting to have something
Former	of the past
Indication	a sign or information that suggests something
Illustrated	presented
Nuclear-powered	using power that is generated by a nuclear reactor
Abandon	stop something before completion
Give up	stop something before completion
Transfer	move from one place to another
Lucrative	producing great profit
In the strongest terms	expressing strong disapproval
Bound	tied, connected
Fellow	sharing a particular condition or activity
Anglophone	English-speaking



Brexit: Part 3

Weakened	made weaker
Toxic	very unpleasant
Settled	agreed to, resolved
Reemerged	appeared again
Dominant	being most powerful
Complexities	difficulties
Considered	thought about, taken into consideration
Bloody	involving bloodshed and cruelty
Reinstating	introducing again
De-facto	existing whether by right or not
Betrayal	disloyalty or deception
Implications	consequences
Aftermath	the period after an important event and its effects
To state the obvious	to say what can be seen clearly
For hours on end	for a long time



Peculiarities

unusual and strange things

We'd love to get your feedback on this episode.

What did you like? What could we do better?

What did you struggle to understand?

Let us know in the forum community.leonardoenglish.com

