

## The United Kingdom votes to leave the European Union

### Elementary

#### 1 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

remain

referendum

resign

currency

vote

1. If you \_\_\_\_\_ in a referendum, you choose a particular answer to a question. (para 1)
2. In a \_\_\_\_\_, all the people in a country can vote to make a decision about a particular question. (para 1)
3. If you \_\_\_\_\_, you continue to be in a particular situation, place or condition. (para 1)
4. If you \_\_\_\_\_, you say formally that you are leaving a job. (para 4)
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ is the system of money used in a particular country. (para 5)

#### 2 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. How many people had the right to vote in the UK referendum?
2. When did the referendum take place?
3. How many people voted Remain?
4. How many people voted Leave?
5. What percentage was for Leave?
6. How much was the British pound worth before the referendum?

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4 August, 2016

- 1 On Thursday 23 June, the people of the United Kingdom voted in a national referendum. The question in the referendum was simple – do you want the UK to remain in the European Union or do you want it to leave?
- 2 More than 46 million people had the right to vote in the referendum. In the end, just over 33 million people voted. The last opinion poll before the referendum showed that Remain had a small majority over Leave and, when the polling stations closed at 10pm on 23 June, most people expected Remain to win.
- 3 However, when people woke up on the morning of Friday 24 June, many of them were surprised to hear that 17 million people voted Leave and 16 million voted Remain. This meant that around 52% were for Leave and 48% for Remain. Thirteen million people did not vote at all.
- 4 Just after 9am, the prime minister of the UK, David Cameron, who wanted people to vote Remain, appeared outside Number 10 Downing Street and announced that he was resigning.
- 5 The result had an immediate effect on the financial markets. Before the referendum, the British pound was worth \$1.42 and €1.31. But, after the result, it fell sharply against both currencies – it lost about 10% of its value. The London Stock Exchange also fell and shares lost billions of pounds in value.
- 6 It is not certain when the UK will actually leave the European Union. Some people say that the result was too close and that there should be a second referendum. Others want the UK to leave as soon as possible. People in Scotland voted 62% to 38% for Remain and Scotland may leave the United Kingdom as a result.

### 3 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The British pound lost about 10% of its value ...      | a. ... that he was leaving his job.                         |
| 2. 62% of people in Scotland ...                          | b. ... the right to vote in the referendum.                 |
| 3. The prime minister of the United Kingdom announced ... | c. ... as a result of the vote to leave the European Union. |
| 4. The result of the referendum ...                       | d. ... voted in the referendum.                             |
| 5. More than 46 million people had ...                    | e. ... had an immediate effect on financial markets.        |
| 6. Around 33 million people ...                           | f. ... voted to remain in the European Union.               |

### 4 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. million than people more 46
2. people just million 33 over
3. people up when woke
4. them surprised to many of were hear
5. effect the had result an immediate
6. possible as as soon

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#### 5 Vocabulary focus

Match the words from the text with their meanings.

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. polling station | a. won by only a few votes  |
| 2. opinion poll    | b. a change in one thing that is caused by another thing  |
| 3. stock exchange  | c. suddenly and by a large amount   |
| 4. sharply         | d. a building where people go to vote in an election or referendum  |
| 5. effect          | e. a place where people buy and sell shares in companies  |
| 6. close           | f. an attempt to find out what people in general think about a subject by asking some people questions about it |

#### 6 Word-building

Complete the table using words from the text.

|    | noun     | adjective |
|----|----------|-----------|
| 1. | nation   |           |
| 2. | finance  |           |
| 3. | surprise |           |
| 4. |          | valuable  |
| 5. |          | major     |

#### 7 Discussion

- Do you think the European Union is a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

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#### KEY

#### 1 Key words

1. vote
2. referendum
3. remain
4. resign
5. currency

#### 2 Find the information

1. more than 46 million
2. 23 June, 2016
3. 16 million
4. 17 million
5. 52%
6. \$1.42 and €1.31

#### 3 Comprehension check

1. c
2. f
3. a
4. e
5. b
6. d

#### 4 Chunks

1. more than 46 million people
2. just over 33 million people
3. when people woke up
4. many of them were surprised to hear
5. the result had an immediate effect
6. as soon as possible

#### 5 Vocabulary focus

1. d
2. f
3. e
4. c
5. b
6. a

#### 6 Word-building

1. national
2. financial
3. surprised
4. value
5. majority