



# BREXIT

# The EU



Brexit

The EU was created in the aftermath of the Second World War. The first steps were to foster economic cooperation; the idea being that countries who trade with one another become economically interdependent and so more likely to avoid conflict.

# The EU



Brexit

Great Britain joined the EU along with Ireland and Denmark in 1973. At present, there are 28 member countries in the EU. The Euro currency was introduced in 2002. Countries who adopted the Euro were known as “Eurozone” countries. Great Britain was one of those countries that did not join the Eurozone.



# Single Market



One of the benefits of being a member country of the EU is being part of a “Single Market”. This means that countries can trade with one another and people can move around freely, almost as if it was one large country.

# Brexit



Brexit

The word “Brexit” comes from a combination of the words “Britain” and “Exit”.

**BRITAIN** + **EXIT** =  
**BREXIT**

# Brexit



Brexit

On June 23rd 2016, the people of the UK voted by a majority in a referendum to leave the EU. More than 30 million people voted in the referendum.

# Brexit



This will be the first time a country has left the EU. The UK was originally scheduled to leave the EU on Friday March 29th, 2019.



# Article 50



After the referendum result, the new British Prime Minister, Theresa May, had to trigger Article 50. This was a way of formally telling the EU that Great Britain was going to leave.



# Article 50



Article 50 was triggered by Theresa May on March 29th 2017, giving the EU two years notice of its intention to leave.

# Negotiations



The UK government then entered into negotiations with the EU as to how the split between the UK and EU should happen. All of the remaining 27 countries have to agree to this deal.

# Brexit Day



The UK was due to leave the EU on March 29th 2019. This was known as "Brexit Day". If this took place, then there would be a transition period, after which the UK would officially leave the EU on December 31st 2020.



# Hard Brexit



“Hard Brexit” is the term used to describe a situation whereby, after the UK leaves the EU, it also leaves the EU’s customs union and single market.

# Soft Brexit



“Soft Brexit” is the term used to describe a situation whereby, after the UK leaves the EU, it somehow remains in the EU’s customs union and single market.

# UK & Ireland



If the UK leaves the EU, the Republic of Ireland (ROI) will be in the unusual position of being the only EU country with a land border with the UK, situated along the ROI/Northern Ireland (NI) border.



# Hard Border



Most people agree that if the UK leaves the EU, they do not want a “Hard Border” between ROI/NI. A Hard Border would mean having border posts and customs checks at the point of entry. However, it remains unsure how this can be achieved.

# Backstop



One of the stumbling points in the negotiations has been the idea of a “Backstop”. The Backstop was intended to be a sort of “safety net” in the event of Brexit happening.

# Backstop



The backstop is meant to ensure that no matter what happens with the rest of the negotiations, there won't be a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. So, even if the rest of the UK leaves the EU with no trade or security arrangements, there won't suddenly be border checks and restrictions on the island of Ireland.



# Backstop



However, the idea of a Backstop is controversial as it would see Northern Ireland staying aligned to some rules of the EU single market, if another solution cannot be reached before the end of the transition period (end of 2020). Some politicians do not want to agree to this.

# New Brexit Day



After failing to get political support in the House of Commons for the planned exit from the EU, Prime Minister Theresa May finally agreed a six month extension to Article 50 with the EU. This means that the UK will remain a member state of the EU until October 31st 2019.

# May Resigns



Because of her continued failure to receive backing from the House of Commons and her own party for the Brexit process, Theresa May finally announced her resignation as leader of the Conservative Party and as Prime Minister. She had spent just three years as Prime Minister.



# New UK PM



Brexit

In July 2019, after a vote in the Conservative Party, Boris Johnson became the new UK Prime Minister. He has promised that he will take the UK out of the EU on October 31st, the new Brexit Day, with or without a withdrawal deal.



Brexit

So, What  
Happens  
Next?

# What Next?



## Option 1:

Great Britain postpones  
leaving the EU until a later  
date.



# What Next?



## Option 2:

Great Britain holds another referendum to ask the people again about leaving the EU.

# What Next?



## Option 3:

Great Britain decides to stay  
in the EU.

# What Next?



## Option 4:

Great Britain leaves the EU on  
October 31st 2019 without an  
agreement with the other 27  
countries.



# What Next?



## Option 5:

Great Britain leaves the EU on  
October 31st 2019 with an  
agreement with the other 27  
countries.

# What Next?



## Option 6:

A General Election takes place  
in Britain to elect a new  
Government to decide on the  
Brexit issue.

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