

# ODN (YouTube Channel), "How the UK Public Really Felt About Brexit"

## Introduction

1) On 23rd June 2016 the UK voted to leave the European Union. You are going to watch a video about people's reactions to the result. What do you know about the following political figures, all of which are mentioned in the video?



**Margaret Thatcher,**  
Conservative  
Prime Minister  
1979 - 1990



**Jeremy Corbyn,**  
Labour Party Leader



**Nigel Farage, UK  
Independence  
Party Leader**



**Jean Claude  
Juncker,**  
President of the  
European  
Commission



**Donald Tusk,**  
President of the  
European Council

2) One of the criticisms of the referendum is that the general public does not know enough about politics to make an educated decision on something this important. Do you agree with this? Are people interested in politics in your country?

3) A criticism about the EU is that unelected people who we know nothing about control our lives in Brussels. What do you think about this view?

## Vocabulary

Look at the following vocabulary from the video and decide if the words and phrases have positive or negative meanings.

to regret    blinding(ly) brilliant    let down    proud    bitter    disappointed  
gutted    over the moon    depressed    fantastic    dreadful    concerned  
shocked    sulking    nice    fear    worried    smooth sailing

4) Is your country in the EU? If not, does it have allies or trade deals with other countries? How would you feel if your country decided to distance itself from these countries? Use some of the words above.

## Video

Watch the for the first time and decide if the following people are pleased or disappointed with the UK's vote to leave the EU.

	Happy or sad?	Quote
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		

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Read the following quotes from the video, do you remember who said what? Watch again and write the letter of the quote in the "Quote" column above.

- "...a Brexit beer...it tastes bitter..."
- "I dislike the idea of foreign officials telling this country what to do...they're not elected, they're responsible to no-one, we can't kick them out if they do wrong..."
- "I don't think there's enough room here for all these people who are coming to this country now...the housing...the jobs...I think we'll just have to wait and see how it goes, won't we?"
- "I think it's put England on the globe back again and I feel very proud."
- "I think we've let this generation down."
- "I understand that it's not going to be all smooth sailing...but I remember Great British manufacturing and I think we can do it again."
- "I was a bit concerned with the way things would go...I just think that being united with more than just the United Kingdom would make us a lot stronger."
- "It's going to be absolutely fantastic for the British fish industry, we'll have full control of our borders back."
- "Personally, I'm quite concerned that people didn't necessarily consider the economic effects, I mean we've already seen, y'know, the pound drop..."
- "We just need to look after ourselves before we look after other people."
- "We've stood on our own two feet for many, many generations, so why can't we do it again?"
- "What do I fear? The rise of the right wing, xenophobia, Nigel Farage crowing..."

### Grammar: Disappointing or Disappointed?

A lot of adjectives are made from verbs by adding either *-ed* or *-ing*. It can be very confusing when choosing which one to use.

A simplified explanation of the rule is that *-ing* adjectives generally describe other things;

*The book is boring, chess is exciting, studying maths is tiring, the result was disappointing...*

The *-ed* adjectives are normally describing the emotion in us caused by those things;

*I am bored because I'm reading a boring book, I feel so disappointed by the result...*

One way to think about this grammar is by using a passive construction;

*I am bored (by the boring book; the book bores me)*

*I was amused (by the amusing joke; the joke amused me)*

*She is depressed (by her depressing situation; her situation depresses her)*

The present participle ending *-ing*, modifies a noun that is the cause of the feeling or emotion.

The past participle ending *-ed*, modifies a noun who experiences the feeling or emotion.

### Exercise: Grammar Practice

Using the grammar above, decide which adjective is correct in the following sentences:

- a. 70% of young people are waking up disappointing/disappointed that they are no longer in the EU.
- b. It's confused/confusing why the British public would want to distance themselves from their neighbours.
- c. I would be frightened/frightening if my country did something similar.
- d. The UK now has an excited/exciting road ahead of it.
- e. Some people are not satisfied/satisfying with the result and are calling for another referendum.
- f. It was a disappointing/disappointed campaign with lots of lies being told by both sides.
- g. There has been a shocked/shocking amount of racist attacks since the result was announced.
- h. I'm bored/boring of hearing stories about Brexit.
- i. A lot more people would be interesting/interested in politics if it was taught in schools.
- j. The result is not surprising/surprised when you consider how much poverty there is in Northern England.

### Activity: Debate

You are going to have a class debate. Imagine you are from another EU country, do you want to remain in the EU or leave? Your teacher will give you a role card and you must argue as that person. Divide the class into for and against and plan your arguments beforehand.

## DEBATE ROLE CARDS (cut up)

<p>You are a single mother in a big city. You are living with your mother as you wait for socially funded housing. You are concerned that public resources are being stretched due to a large number of EU migrants in the area.</p>
<p>You are young person in the north of your country. You did an apprenticeship to be a plumber expecting high wages but are concerned that EU migrants are driving down wages with cheap labour.</p>
<p>You are a student of French and Spanish hoping to get a job in the EU when you have graduated. You have put a great deal of effort in learning foreign languages. You are concerned about finding a job connected to your studies if your country leaves the EU.</p>
<p>You are a fisherman and since your country joined the EU new limits on where and how much fishing you can do have been introduced. You have seen many people leave the business due to these limits and you are keen to go back to how things were before your country joined the EU.</p>
<p>You are a 30-something still living with your parents. You graduated into the financial crisis of 2008 and feel your opportunities have been restricted. You are now worried that leaving the EU will push your country into another financial crisis.</p>
<p>You are a 90+ year old pensioner who remembers life before your country entered the EU. You feel like life was much better then and you want to return to those golden years.</p>
<p>You are a busy GP in a big city. The number of patients registered at your practice has grown a lot over the past ten years and half of the new patients are EU migrants. A lot of your old patients complain about long waiting times. You are confused about the EU debate because you also understand that a lot of EU migrants work in the National Health Service.</p>
<p>You are a 16 year old who is frustrated that you are not allowed to vote in the referendum. You are looking into working for a big multi-national company but you are concerned that they will not continue to invest in your county if it leaves the EU.</p>
<p>You are a university economics professor who has dedicate their life to their studies. Your professional opinion is that your country will be economically much worse off if it leaves the EU. You are also worried that the EU funds 50% of your research projects.</p>
<p>You are a farmer who grows a variety of vegetables. The EU helps fund your farm and without that investment your business would fail. You are not sure if the government would help you in the same way if your country left the EU. You also employ a lot of EU migrants to pick the vegetables and fear it might be difficult to find employees if you leave the EU.</p>
<p>You own a company that makes car parts. You are confused by the EU debate. The EU has introduced lots of rules and regulations that make your life more difficult but you also sell 70% of your goods to the EU.</p>