

AROUND THE WORLD



ALISTAIR UNDERSTANDS BREXIT



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Published by PragerU

15021 Ventura Boulevard #552

Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

A vibrant street scene in London. In the foreground, a white taxi with a 'TAXI' sign on its roof and license plate 'AX16 OCO' is driving. Behind it, a red double-decker bus is visible, with 'Bentford Bridge' and the number '458' on its destination sign. The background shows historic buildings with arched windows and doorways, and several Union Jack flags are strung across the street. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

WELCOME TO LONDON

ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST GREAT CITIES



Seated on the Thames River in southeast England, London has been a center for commerce, culture, government, and international affairs for close to a thousand years.

London started as a Roman settlement with city walls and endured centuries of Viking raids before effectively becoming England's capital in the 11th century. Many of London's historic landmarks still stand in their original location. The Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Trafalgar Square, the Houses of Parliament, and a rebuilt replica of William Shakespeare's Globe Theater are a few examples.



Along with its rich history, London is also a busy, globally connected metropolis. The region's 32 **boroughs** are home to nearly nine million people, notable museums and universities, and many international companies. As the capital of the former British Empire, London has been a destination for immigrants from India, Africa, the Caribbean, and many other countries around the world. With the city's population speaking over 300 different languages, it's one of the most linguistically diverse cities on earth. Many cultures living side by side brings challenges, but sports like cricket and soccer (or rather, "football") and sights like London's iconic **underground** stations create shared feelings of national pride. Traditionally, immigrants have shared this pride, become citizens, and adopted English customs as their own.



Borough
A local geographic area with its own government.

Underground
The subway system (also called the "Tube") that uses trains to move 1.3 billion people around London every year.



But more recently, London has seen a high number of foreigners arriving to live, work, and receive free services like education and healthcare, but with no desire to become citizens. This is due to the **United Kingdom's** membership with the **European Union**, which lets people move freely between its member states. Between March of 2015 and 2016, in the midst of a **refugee** crisis impacting Europe, a record 280,000 people migrated to the UK islands from the EU countries on the continent. Around that time, some of London's residents joined their countrymen in calling for the UK to cancel its membership with the EU.

A nationwide vote on "British Exit," or "**Brexit**," was scheduled for June of 2016, bringing questions of sovereignty, national identity, and immigration to a head.

United Kingdom (UK)

An island nation made up of England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

European Union (EU)

A political union of 27 (as of 2023) European countries. Member countries share a currency, along with rules for trade, immigration, and traveling between countries.

Refugee

Someone who flees their country to escape war or persecution.

Brexit

("British Exit") A political movement resulting in a 2016 vote in which the UK decided whether or not to leave the European Union.

West End
the heart of central London
theater, museums, restaurants,
professional theaters.

Posh
British slang for fancy or expensive

London vs. Greater London

When most people refer to London, they really mean "Greater London." The actual City of London (also known as "the square mile" or just "the city") is a small, historic borough that served as a financial center for many centuries.

Population size:
8.8 million



Seven ravens
guard the
Tower of London.



LONDON

London's Underground
is the oldest subway system in the world.
It opened to the public in January 1863.

Size:
606 square miles



London is home to over

190
museums.



Of the more than **250 languages** spoken, the most popular (after English) are: Bengali, Polish, Turkish, Gujarati, and Punjabi.

During World War II,
London was a temporary capital for five countries conquered by Nazi Germany: Norway, Poland, Belgium, France, and the Netherlands.

London is the largest city

and cultural capital of the United Kingdom, a country made up of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.



London has almost as many trees (**8.3 million**) as people.





Meet Alistair

This is Alistair. He's 16 and lives with his parents, Jonathan and Lani, in Hanwell, a quiet suburb in the western part of Greater London. Alistair's grandmother, Rosemary, lives in a **flat** just down the road, right beside the old Hanwell clock tower.

When he's not at school, Alistair's life revolves around **cricket**. He's played cricket since he was eight, and the tryouts for his school's high-ranked cricket team went very well. It's 2016, and summer is about to start. Next fall, he'll take the field and play against other teams in the competitive Performance League. With afternoon practice, weekend matches, and the first of his two **A-Level** exams coming up, Alistair's school year will be very full. While he sometimes plays pick-up games with his friend Manraj in nearby **Southall**, Alistair's focus is on training and playing his best for his school's team.



Flat

A home inside a larger building, similar to an apartment, with rooms like a kitchen and bedroom all usually located on one floor.

Cricket

A sport played with bats, a ball, and teams of 11 players. Though not common in the United States, cricket is popular in England, Ireland, India, Pakistan, and South Africa.

A-Levels

Exams that British students take during their final two years of high school. Colleges require students who will study math or history to take exams in those subjects.

Southall

A west London suburb with a prominent Indian population. Sometimes it is called "Little Punjab."

Alistair's Parents

Jonathan and Lani are proud of how hard Alistair trained to make the team. As owners and managers of a food distribution company, they know persistence and responsibility when they see them.

Jonathan saved for many years and took many risks before he started a company that ships British foods to countries around the world. He loves running his own company, but it's also stressful and demanding. Because the UK is an EU member, his business is subject to EU rules, even when it's not shipping products to European countries. That means his biggest headache is paying EU taxes on supplies he needs and keeping up with the strict, sometimes laughable guidelines he has to follow. Fortunately, Alistair's mom Lani helps with that. She works part-time at the family company, and she also volunteers at a local history society.

Living in an expensive city like London is not easy, but Jonathan and Lani both work very hard. When Alistair told them about the high fee required to join the school's cricket team, they were glad to pay it. Playing on the team is a great opportunity, and he certainly worked hard for it.



Baseball vs. Cricket



At a glance, cricket and baseball look similar. Both sports have a field with a patch of dirt (in baseball, a “diamond,” and in cricket, a “pitch”). In both sports, a player from one team pitches a ball to someone from the other team, and points (or “runs”) are scored by hitting the ball and running around the patch of dirt.

But both sports and their terminology are quite different.

Baseball



Cricket

Nine positions needed for a team.

11 positions needed for a team.

Games are divided into nine innings.

Matches can be divided into two-four innings, with the match spread over several days.

Points or “runs” are scored when a player advances around all four bases to home plate.

Points or “runs” are scored when a player advances between two wickets.

A baseball bat is long and skinny with a handle on the end.

A cricket bat is a wide rectangle, flat on one side with curves on the other.

The ball is made of cork or rubber and covered with white leather and red stitches.

The ball is made of cork and covered with red leather.

A pitcher pitches the ball to a batter.

A bowler delivers the ball to a batsman.

If someone from the other team catches the ball mid-air or gets the ball while touching a base before the batter reaches that base, the batter is out.

The batsman defends the “wicket,” which consists of three vertical sticks. If the ball is caught without bouncing after the batsman hits it, or if it hits the wicket directly, the batsman is out.

Three outs end the inning.

Six deliveries make an over. Innings can be 20 or 50 overs, depending on the game. If ten out of a team’s eleven batsmen are out, the inning ends.

A ball hit outside the diamond and into the stands is a home run. All runners on base get to score a run.

A ball hit outside the field’s boundary adds six runs to the batsman’s team.

Baseball is popular in the United States, Japan, Korea, and Latin America.

Cricket is popular in England, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, and South Africa.

Holidays with Grandmother Rosemary

Guy Fawkes Day

An English day of remembrance for the thwarting of a plan to blow up parliament and assassinate King James I with buried gunpowder.

Toad in the Hole

Sausage cooked into a pudding batter and served with gravy.

After

British word for “dessert.”

Every holiday, Alistair’s family spends time with Rosemary. That means **Guy Fawkes Day** in November, Christmas and Boxing Day in December, and St. George’s Day in April, to name a few. Even though she’ll be 90 this year, Rosemary is active and healthy. Every day, she walks to the canals through Hanwell’s town center. Since losing her husband eight years ago, she’s been spending more time with her family. Once in a while, she even comes to watch one of Alistair’s cricket matches.

Whenever they gather, Rosemary surprises them with traditional English food. Yorkshire pudding, a **toad in the hole**, Irish stew pie, or a cornish pasty, whatever she serves is followed by delicious **afters**—licorice, mints, Victoria sponge cake, or locally made chocolate. While they eat, Rosemary shares stories from her past. With her sharp memory, she remembers Nazi Germany’s bombing of Great Britain and how defending the nation gave everyone a sense of national purpose. During that time, Rosemary helped British servicemen as a volunteer.

Rosemary’s favorite stories involve her very first boyfriend. Out of respect to her late husband, she never shares his name, but Alistair knows he was a Royal Air Force pilot who lived nearby. When she talks about how he brought her flowers and walked with her beside the canals, Rosemary’s eyes grow misty.

Before they could get engaged, he disappeared while flying a dangerous mission over occupied Europe.

“He gave me my first kiss,” Rosemary recalls. “Right in front of that old clock tower.”





Changing Britain

Before Alistair and his parents leave Grandmother Rosemary's flat, the conversation often turns to politics. Recently, they've been discussing the economy and Britain's complicated membership in the EU. With a sigh, Rosemary laments that **patriotism** and national identity have deteriorated since the war. She remembers when England sealed its membership by signing the 1992 Maastricht **Treaty**, which formalized the EU's political alliance, single currency (the euro), and central bank in Europe. Even though the UK kept its own currency (the pound), its government handed over sovereignty on issues like trade, security, immigration, and even fishing rights to the EU's government.

Along with Jonathan and Lani, who deal with the EU's strict business guidelines every day at their company, Rosemary supports the idea of Brexit. When she *really* gets going on how the UK would be stronger, freer, and better off by itself, Alistair chuckles. With so many peaceful countries together in one place, doesn't it make sense to let people travel between them, use a single currency, and make some decisions together? All the same, Rosemary's stories remind him of how hard the UK fought to liberate occupied countries and restore their **sovereignty**. Shouldn't its people and government have sovereignty of their own?

Patriotism

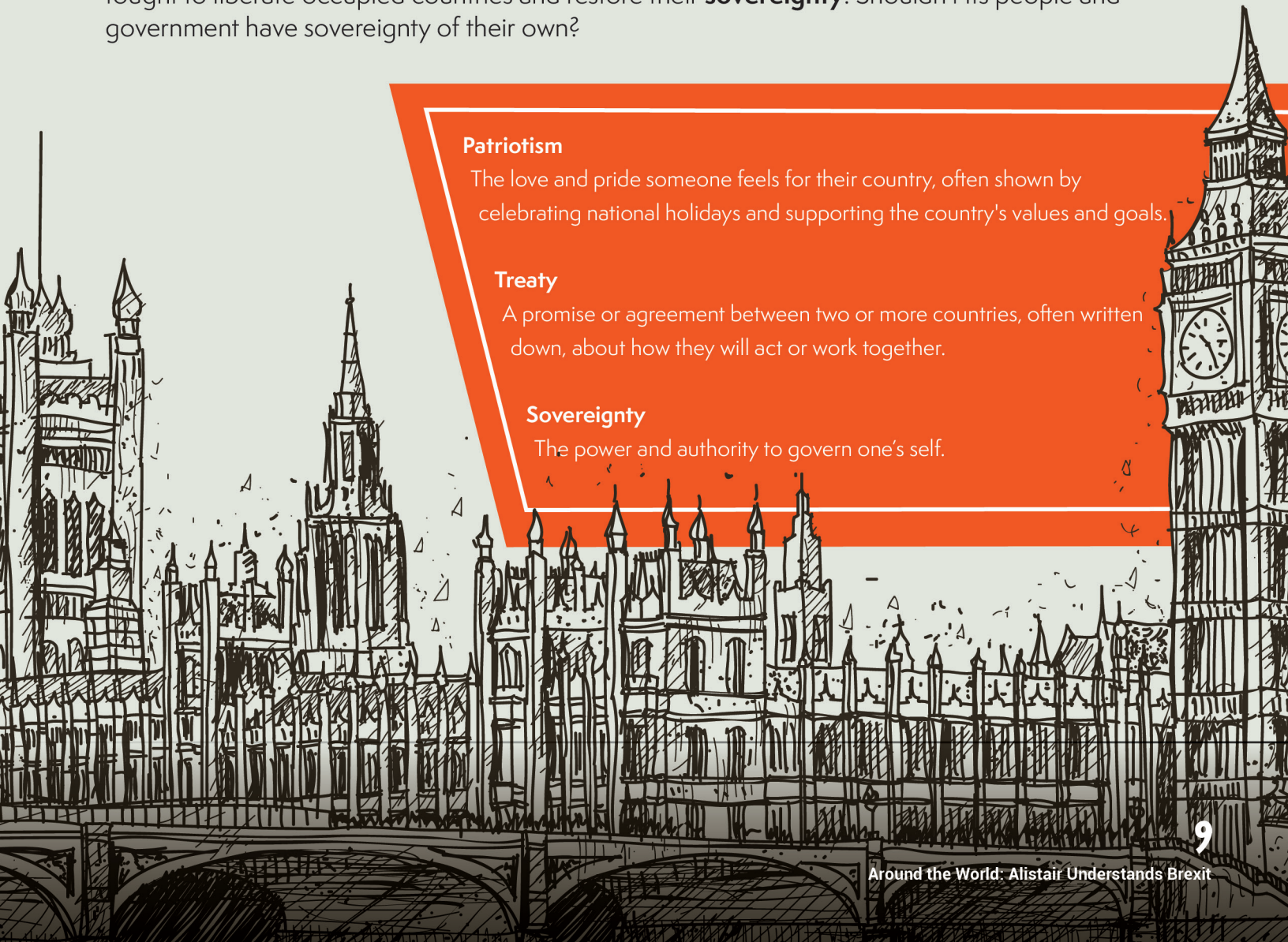
The love and pride someone feels for their country, often shown by celebrating national holidays and supporting the country's values and goals.

Treaty

A promise or agreement between two or more countries, often written down, about how they will act or work together.

Sovereignty

The power and authority to govern one's self.





Entitlement or Assimilation?

These days, Britain's immigration numbers are a hot topic—and not just for Rosemary. Because the EU lets people travel freely between its member states, it's easy for people from all over Europe to come over and stay without needing to adapt. They can live in England and get a "settled" status after five years. Like the British population, they can receive free education, healthcare, and in some cases, an income allowance. Having valuable skills, speaking English, or pursuing British citizenship are not required.

Hearing about this makes Alistair wonder. How can the UK serve its people or maintain its culture and traditions in the future? In the past, most immigrants who came to England **assimilated**. While retaining their own religion, identity, and culture, they *also* learned English and adopted British culture as their own. These older communities have a reputation for being productive citizens and even cultural influencers in their own right. British Sikhs—like Manraj and his family—who came mostly from the Punjab region of India, have even won political office.

More than anyone, it upsets Rosemary that foreign citizens come to England and expect free services—provided in *their* language.

"We have a wonderful country," she says. "Of course, we should welcome newcomers. But **entitlements** can lead to a lot of bad things."

In last year's history class, Alistair always stayed out of discussions about immigration. Knowing his teacher's disapproval of England's culture and colonial past, Alistair sensed that sharing his views would get him labeled as anti-immigrant. Or even worse, a racist.

Assimilation

When individuals from a different culture or background adapt to and embrace the habits, language, and customs of a new culture.

Entitlement

Government programs that guarantee certain benefits to specific groups, which usually strain the country's budget and discourage productive behavior.



London Fun

After an exciting day watching London's Marylebone Cricket Club play at Lord's Cricket Ground, Alistair and his teammates are waiting at the platform for the Underground train to take them to London's **West End**, where the school made a restaurant reservation. Later that night, a chartered bus will pick them up. But before the train arrives, Alistair feels a hand on his shoulder.

"Alistair! You okay, mate?"

Alistair turns, and then he smiles. "Raj! What are you doing here?"

Alistair introduces Manraj to the rest of his team just as the train pulls up. They all hop on—everyone's going the same direction—and the two friends sit next to each other.

"Where are you off to?" Manraj asks.

"Team dinner," Alistair says. "My school made a reservation for the whole team."

"Sounds **posh**."

Alistair shrugs. He wishes he could invite Manraj to tag along.

"I'm going to Brick Lane," Manraj says. "My uncle just opened his cafe there, and some friends are coming out. You fancy meeting up with us after?"

Alistair smiles. He's heard about Brick Lane, a street in East London filled with Indian shops and restaurants. He looks at his cricket team—it's been a great day with them so far. They'll understand, right?

"I'll do better than that," he says finally.

When the train stops, Alistair says goodbye to his puzzled teammates and steps off with Manraj.



West End

A busy district of Central London known for museums, restaurants, and professional theaters.

Posh

British slang for "fancy" or "expensive."



Tomorrow's Vote

The train home screeches and sways. When Manraj cracks another joke, Alistair laughs even though it hurts. His stomach is full, and it's been quite a night. The taste of naan and spicy curry still lingers on his taste buds.

Without thinking, Alistair picks up a newspaper. The headline reads: "**Referendum** Vote Tomorrow—Leave or Remain?" When he reads it out loud, the laughing dies down.

"So," Alistair says, "how would you vote?"





When Manraj and his friends say “leave” Alistair is astonished. From what he’s heard, everyone in London thinks leaving the EU would be backward, counterproductive, and even anti-immigrant. When Alistair brings this up, everyone laughs again.

Over the next few stops, they talk about the Brexit vote, the UK’s past, and what it means to be British. After reminding everyone that he and his dad were born in England, Manraj takes things further.

“Britain’s a unique place,” he says. “Without the traditions, the language, and the national sovereignty we once had, it’s just not Britain.”

“You sure?” Alistair prods, thinking of his old history teacher and **playing devil’s advocate**. “Most people don’t like what we did when we *had* our sovereignty. We forced China to trade with us, and we colonized India.”

“Have most people *been* to India?” Manraj fires back. “Wonderful place, but it owes a lot to the UK. Railroads, schools, health-care, elected government—sure, we came for profit and brought trouble, but we brought all those things around the world. Now why are we taking orders from people in Belgium?”

“You sound like my grandmum,” Alistair says. “Peas in a pod, you two.”

When they reach Hanwell station, Manraj hops out to walk Alistair home.

“Hey, listen.” Manraj says. “My school has no cricket team, so we’re making a club team of our own. We’ll be practicing all summer. If you’re ever—”

“Sounds fun, mate,” Alistair interjects regretfully. “Don’t think I’ll have the time, though.”

Over a few more jokes and banter about their favorite cricket teams, Alistair forgets all about the Brexit vote.

Referendum

A direct vote on a political issue.

Playing Devil’s Advocate

Arguing a side of the issue you might not hold, in order to challenge someone or have a deeper debate.





Britain's Choice

A few days later, Alistair and his family are astonished. In a surprise upset, the British population voted to *leave* the European Union. In the near future, or at the most a few years, "Brexit" will be a reality! Everyone is talking about the vote, the consequences, and the UK's next steps.

While Jonathan and Lani are excited about the news, they're both nervous. After dealing with the EU's strict policies for selling their products around the world, they hope that a British exit will make day-to-day business easier and cheaper. But with all of London's news pundits predicting economic disaster, and with celebrities and politicians standing up in protest, they're a little cautious.

Now that it's been decided, Alistair wonders if Brexit will really happen. If it does happen, will it really be better for Britain's people, small businesses, and economy, as Rosemary believes? Or will the consequences (and pushback) be as terrible as everyone's predicting?





Facts On the Brexit Vote

THE VOTE HAPPENED ON JUNE 23RD, 2016.

People across the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland), and Gibraltar voted "Leave" or "Remain."

Among the electorate, **voter turnout** was **72%.**

Voter Turnout: The percentage of eligible voters who show up and vote in an election.

51.9% voted "Leave," while 48.1% voted "Remain."
Out of London's 32 boroughs, only four boroughs voted "Leave."

Broken down by country, **England (53.4%)** and **Wales (52.5%)** voted "Leave." **Scotland (62%)** and **Northern Ireland (55.8%)** both voted "Remain."

In 1975, British Prime Minister Harold Wilson, also held a referendum vote on the "European Economic Community" (a forerunner of the EU). **British people voted to "stay" by 67%.**

Rural areas across England and Wales overwhelmingly voted "**Leave.**" Cities like London, Manchester, Liverpool, and Brighton, overwhelmingly voted "**Remain.**"

Brextremist?



It's September now, a few months after the referendum. School started a week ago, and Alistair is busy with new classes, cricket practice, and catching up with friends. He has a new history teacher named Mr. Wiles, and he hopes that he'll be more even-handed on sensitive topics than his last teacher. Or maybe, and with everyone so divided over "Brexit," he'll focus more on history and less on political topics.

"Right, class," Mr. Wiles says. "Our country just made a huge, historic decision. Why do you think it happened?"

Alistair is quiet, and so is the entire class.

Well, so much for *that*.

"History isn't just dates and battles," Mr. Wiles explains with a smile, seemingly not bothered. "Sure, we'll cover those things... but we're talking about the ongoing story of a people and their choices. A few months ago, half of your countrymen voted 'Leave.' You may not agree with them, but why do you think they did that?"

For a second, Alistair *almost* raises his hand. He knows five or eight reasons why his parents voted "Leave," and he could recite them anytime. But it's the first week of school. If he speaks up now, what will everyone think of him?

"Right," Mr. Wiles says, pointing to the classroom's walls. "This side is 'Leave' and this side is 'Remain.' Stand up and pick a side—while we talk, you can switch sides anytime."

In a few moments, everyone in class is standing on the "Remain" side.

"So... no one has questions? No one's curious?"

With his heart racing and his stomach doing somersaults, Alistair slowly crosses the room and stands on the "Leave" side. *Someone* has to, he thinks.

Mr. Wiles crosses his arms and smiles. Then, to Alistair's surprise, his classmates begin to murmur and three or four come over to join him. But the rest of the class is one solid glare.

"*Brextremist*," someone sneers.

With a deep breath, Alistair raises his hand to speak. *If not now, when?* he thinks. The debate begins. It's scary, but the more Alistair explains his position, the braver he feels. For once, he's really engaged in history class.





Why Brexit?

Alistair's teacher asked a great question. With benefits like easy travel, cooperation on security, subsidies for farmers, and direct access to a large trading area with its own bank and currency, why did almost 52% vote for Brexit?

After the many conversations he'd had recently with Manraj and with Grandmother Rosemary, Alistair was able to give a few specific reasons for supporting Brexit:



Saving Money

Prior to the Brexit vote, England and the rest of the UK paid a membership fee to be part of the EU. In 2018, that estimated fee was £13 billion, or around £250 million a week.



Trading With Fewer Restrictions

As Alistair's parents Jonathan and Lani know, small businesses in an EU country have guidelines for selling goods or services to other countries. These rules often change, and not following them can lead to heavy fines. Even if someone in the UK is doing business with a country that's not an EU member, they still have to follow certain regulations.

With a British exit, England will deal directly with non-EU countries and cut out the middleman. "Leave" voters think this will help British businesses trade easily and more efficiently with people around the world.

Vet

To check or inspect.

Bureaucracy

A government system or organization in which decisions are often made by career government employees, rather than by representatives elected by the people.

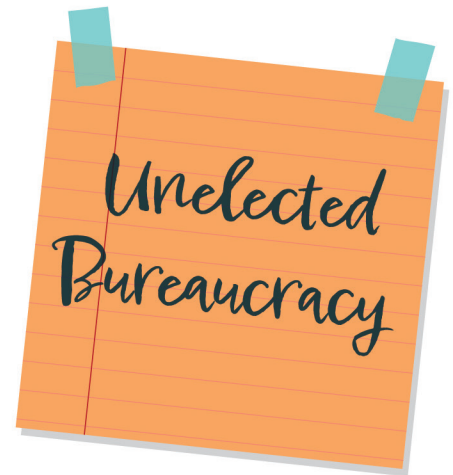


In 2015, Germany accepted a record one million migrant refugees from the Syrian Civil War.

Accepting enormous numbers of migrants in a short period of time creates problems. With the EU struggling to **vet** those coming into countries like Germany, Greece, and Italy to prevent potential crime and terrorism, many “Leave” voters wondered why England should be cooperating so closely with Europe on issues of national security.



The EU is its own separate government. Both the European Council, (which is made up of heads of government, like the UK’s prime minister) and the EU parliament are elected. However, the large European Commission and its staff are not elected by the people. Without accountability to voters, critics argue that the European Commission and its large **bureaucracy** are wasteful. Over time, bureaucracies focus on securing power for themselves, not protecting the rights and liberties of ordinary citizens. By leaving, the UK stops contributing to an external governing body that may have other priorities or agendas unrelated to the United Kingdom’s well-being.



In governments (including the UK’s) and all bureaucracies, waste and inefficiency are a problem. But for unelected EU bureaucrats whose rules affect people in 28 countries, waste and inefficiency become enormous problems.

In one example, the European Commission employs 1,750 linguists and 600 full-time interpreters to translate all of its documents into every member state’s language.

In another, the EU parliament moves its headquarters from Brussels in Belgium to Strasbourg in France for part of every year. Critics call this the “traveling circus” and point out that it wastes time and money while serving no purpose.



Remainers Strike Back

It's a few months into the busy school year. Alistair has been to every single team practice and outing, with the exception of the team dinner he skipped over the summer. So far, he's been on the field a few times during matches, and he's hoping he'll be put in the batting lineup soon.

Meanwhile, the national debate about "Brexit" and how (or even *if*) it will really happen is growing angrier. Alistair and his parents are seeing friends and even families split into "Leave" or "Remain" camps. In an act of **vandalism**, someone tore down the **Union Jack** flag that Jonathan and Lani hang outside their company's small warehouse. Graffiti on the walls spelled out "Leave voter," "racist," and even profanities. This was shocking—and expensive to clean up.

Beyond Rosemary, the family is now careful whom they discuss their views with. After Lani's history society published a statement ranting about Brexit and pledging to help stop it, she quit volunteering there. All around greater London, where most people voted "Remain," hostility against those who voted "Leave" keeps rearing its head.



Vandalism

Deliberate destruction or property damage.

Union Jack

A nickname for the flag of the United Kingdom.

Incident on the Pitch

At cricket practice, Alistair is taking the pitch with another batsman. *Finally!* He thinks, *a chance to get some runs on the board.* With the batsman taking the closest wicket, Alistair runs to the other one—but on his way there, he feels the curved bat tap his shoulder.

“Not you,” the batsman says.

The batsman, the bowler, and his teammates across the field all look serious, but Alistair is puzzled.

“C’mon,” he says. “What are we waiting for?”

“You’re not running with me, mate. **Remainers** only.”

With a cold feeling inside, Alistair realizes what it’s about. Word has spread that he took the “Leave” side in history class. One or two teachers, and even some of his old friends, have been acting differently around him. But now, the *cricket team*?

“Go on. We haven’t got all day.”

When a few of his teammates step closer, Alistair turns toward the benches where the head coach sits. *Is he seeing this?*

“Yeah, that’s right,” the batsman sneers, looking in the coach’s direction. “Go on and cry to Dad. ‘**Rule Britannia!**’ right?”

Before he can say anything, the batsman whistles, and another teammate takes the pitch. With the team muttering insults, Alistair jogs over to the coach—but the coach just gives him a tired look.

“Best sit this one out, Alistair.”

Remainer

Slang for someone who voted “Remain” during the Brexit referendum, or supports the “Remain” position.

“Rule, Britannia!”

A famous British song from the 1740s that expresses pride in Britain and its naval strength. It’s often sung to celebrate British history and culture.



Learning From History

Getting rejected by his teammates is hard for Alistair. They all used to like him, and they've certainly seen his skills during practice. It seems crazy that they'd exclude him and label him a "Brextremist" simply because of his views on England's identity.

Trying not to think about it, and trying not to worry about the expensive fee his parents paid for him to be on the team, Alistair is focusing on Mr. Wiles's history class. Unlike last year's teacher, Mr. Wiles pushes students to examine different sides of every topic they discuss. Rather than labeling events in the UK's long history "racist" or "colonialist," he nudges students to consider context, make reasonable judgments, and see themes and trends that contribute to a British national identity. Alistair is enjoying history so much that he stays during lunch to chat with Mr. Wiles. Even though he's busy, Mr. Wiles makes time to match Alistair's interest.

"That's uncalled for," Mr. Wiles says one afternoon after Alistair tells him about the cricket team. "And sad. Taking the 'Leave' side was brave, you know. And I think we both agree that leaving the continent fits right in with English history."

"How so?"

With a smile, Mr. Wiles answers with a classic *you tell me*. Over the next 30 minutes, Alistair talks with him about the Magna Carta, the English Civil War, and even World War II. As they talk, Alistair starts to see a common theme.



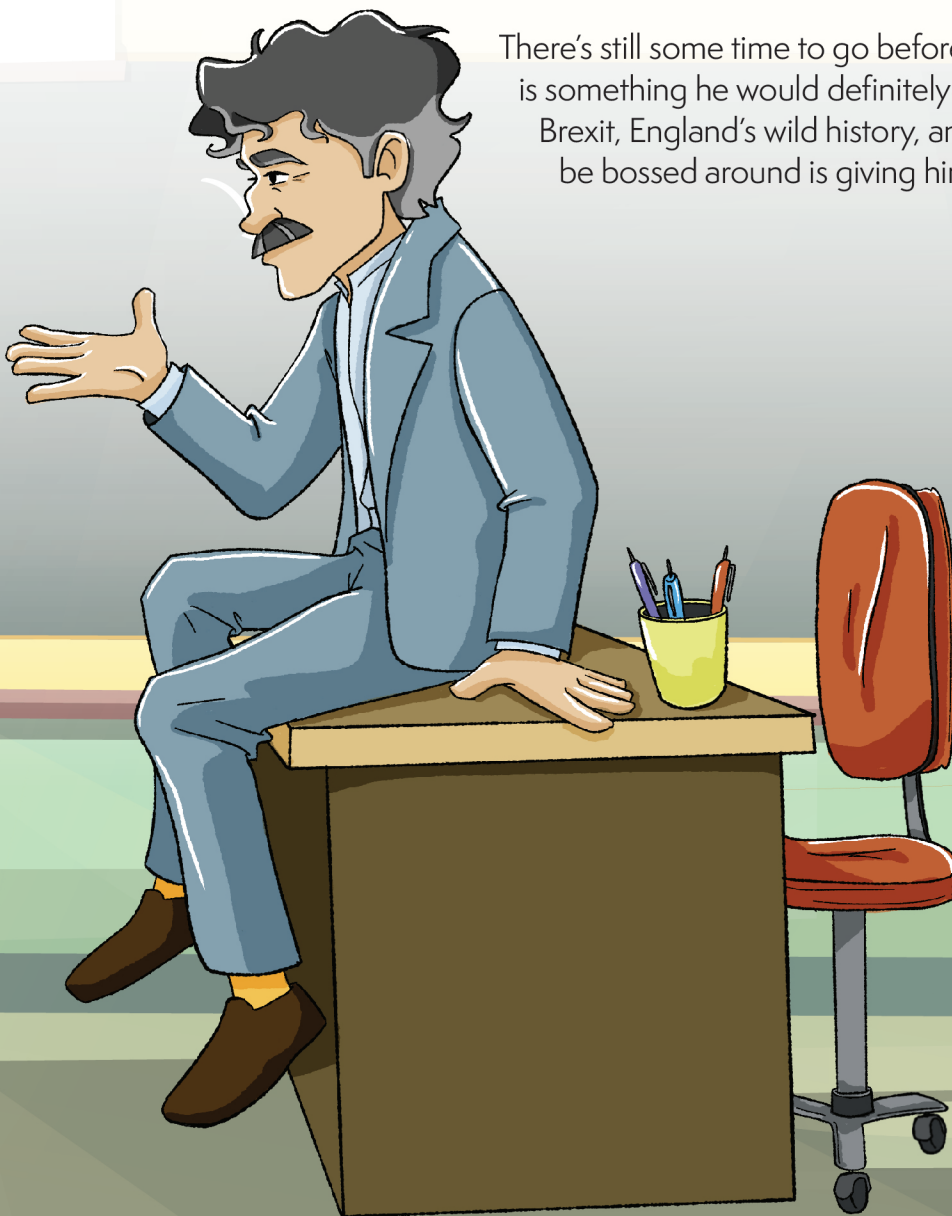


"We like to say *'you're not the boss of me,'*" he notes with a grin. "First, we fought off invaders, then we limited the church's power, then the King's. We established rule of law and started electing our own parliament. We did this hundreds of years before anyone else—even before the American Revolution."

"We sure did," Mr. Wiles replies. "Now what are you going to do? Aside from switching your A-Level to history, of course."

Alistair smiles.

There's still some time to go before the exam. Switching to history is something he would definitely enjoy. But all this talk about Brexit, England's wild history, and paying a price for refusing to be bossed around is giving him another idea.





Dad's Defense of Brexit

Alistair has been discussing the changes at school and on the cricket team with his dad and wonders if Brexit will be worth all the social consequences of being on the "Leave" side. Jonathan believes that the benefits of leaving the EU are worth sacrificing for, and he reminds his son of a few more reasons for supporting Brexit.



Not Paying for Others Mistakes

In late 2015, Greece, an EU member state, defaulted on its national debt. After mismanaging its finances for years and using its EU membership to borrow money, Greece's inability to pay its enormous debt created a crisis. Since then, the EU has given three **bailout** packages to Greece's government, something citizens in hardworking, prosperous countries like the UK and Germany find unfair.

But by leaving the EU, the UK leaves its obligation to clean up other country's messes.

Taking Control Over Citizenship and Immigration

EU citizens can travel freely between member states, living and working wherever they like with few restrictions. European citizens who live in the UK and meet certain qualifications receive entitlements, like education, medical care, and income allowance.

By leaving the EU, Britain's government takes full control over immigration and can implement its own **visa** system to determine who lives and works in the UK.



Sovereignty

As it turns out, immigration and trade were not as important for many “Leave” voters as the issue of national sovereignty. As a broad summary of many other reasons for leaving the EU, restoring the UK’s national sovereignty is a vote of confidence in the country’s ability to make its own decisions.

As Alistair is starting to think, why should England, the home of an elected parliament, the former British Empire, and the Magna Carta—the first, and most famous constitutional document in the world—submit to bureaucrats in Belgium?

Bailout

When the government gives money to a struggling business or industry to help it keep going and prevent it from failing.

Visa

A document from a country’s government that gives a foreign citizen permission to travel, work, or live in that country.

Game Day

In the glaring sun, the field is greener than ever. With his cricket bat in hand and the wire of a protective mask over his face, Alistair jogs to the pitch. It's match day, and he's finally up to bat—but he's no longer playing for his school's elite, expensive cricket team. He's on the Southall cricket grounds, a few miles away. The batsman jogging out to him is his best friend Manraj!

Of course, Jonathan and Lani are watching from the stands. When Alistair announced that he was quitting the school's cricket team, they were shocked and a little sad for him. But since joining Manraj's new club team, they've watched a bold choice blossom into even more independence.

Without the perks of fancy dinners and prestigious tournaments, Alistair is getting what he really wanted: the chance to get off the bench and simply *play* cricket!

"Think of it like Brexit," Alistair explained at home, laughing when his parents tried to persuade him to stay with the school's team. "Instead of paying to be part of a group that doesn't like me and offers things I don't really need, I'll play more and get better, which is what I really want. Plus, Manraj is an amazing team captain!"

Alistair and Manraj take the pitch on opposite sides. Jonathan and Lani cheer along with the small crowd of Polish, Sikh, English, and Turkish parents.

POP! With a swing, Alistair knocks the ball clean through the air and sprints toward the wicket while Manraj runs towards him. In the background, the crowd roars.

Lani looks around, a little worried despite all the excitement. Grandmother Rosemary, who insisted on coming to see Alistair play, has wandered off somewhere.



Rosemary's Surprise

After the game, Manraj finally spots Rosemary by the Hanwell clock tower.

"Yeah, that's her all right," Alistair says, swaying as Jonathan pulls the car over. "But who is that man she's with?"

When everyone gets a good look at what's happening, their mouths hang open. With a broad smile, and with her small hand holding the hand of an elderly Sikh gentleman, Rosemary waves to them.

"I'm sorry!" she says. "Aman and I had so much to catch up on that I forgot to introduce you."

Alistair gives his parents a puzzled look. Who is Aman?

For a moment, he's surprised that Rosemary—who's very critical of immigration—is spending time with someone who was probably born in another country.

"Pleased to meet you," Aman says, shaking everyone's hand.

But when he comes to Manraj, the two hug.

"He's my great uncle," Manraj explains. "He must have paired off with your grandmum when they met at the match."

Suddenly, Jonathan and Lani start laughing. For a moment, Alistair wonders what they're on about... but then he notices the old man's jacket and the patch with the initials R.A.F.

"Alistair," Rosemary says—but Alistair already knows what's coming next. "I'd like you to meet my first love, my long lost boyfriend, Aman."



A Toast to the Future

Over tea and snacks at Rosemary's flat, Aman tells his side of the story. He fell in love with Rosemary, and even though she was outside of his close-knit Sikh community, he was ready to propose. But after getting shot down over Germany, he was lucky to survive as a **P.O.W.** and see America liberate the continent. With an invitation from friends in the States, and assuming that Rosemary had probably moved on from him, he decided to get a visa. He built a career as an airline pilot and even became an American citizen. But he never married. About five or six years ago, he retired to London to spend time with Manraj's family.

What a story! Alistair still cannot believe it—and he's never seen his grandmother this delighted. When the conversation turns to Brexit, everyone claps, and Rosemary raises a toast.

"To the UK!"

The whole room toasts with her, and Alistair smiles. While he doesn't know how Brexit will play out just yet, celebrating with family fills him with hope. For him, the new club team, the entire country—and for Rosemary and her long-lost love—a new journey is just beginning.

P.O.W.

A member of the armed forces that is captured and held by an enemy country during a war. P.O.W. stands for "Prisoner of War."



Rosemary's Dorset Apple Cake!

Prep Time: 35-40 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 6-8 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 1 apple (peeled, cored and diced)
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 egg (beaten)
- 2/3 cup dried fruit

Preparation:

With your **parent's help**, heat the oven to 320°F. Grease and line a 1 lb (15 cm) loaf tin with butter or cooking spray and baking paper.

Step one - Sift the flour into a bowl, then mix in the cinnamon and baking powder.

Step two - Cut the butter into small cubes and add to the flour. Rub with your fingertips for a few minutes, until the mixture feels a bit like damp sand.

Step three - Stir in the sugar.

Step four - Beat the egg lightly. Gently fold eggs and milk into the mixture until you have a thick batter.

Step five - Peel and chop the apple into cubes. Add it to the batter along with the dried fruit, and fold in.

Step six - Pour the mixture into the loaf tin and flatten it with a spatula. Sprinkle the top with sugar or flaked almonds.

Step seven - With your parent's help, bake for 40–45 minutes. Your Dorset apple cake should be ready when it's golden brown on top and a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean.

Step eight - Let it cool for five minutes before taking it out (the cake will crumble if it's still warm). Enjoy with some afternoon tea!

Because the cake has fresh fruit inside, eat within two days or keep it in the fridge for up to four.



Match & Connect

Draw a line connecting each British slang word to its American English meaning. Here's your list:

British Slang Words:

"Lorry"
"Lift"
"Biscuit"
"Chips"
"Flat"
"Fizzy Drink"
"Sweets"
"Jumper"
"Wellies"
"Rubber"
"Boot"
"Bonnet"
"Nappy"
"Pram"
"Torch"
"Loo"
"Zebra Crossing"
"Petrol Station"
"Football"
"Crisps"

American English Meanings:

"Soda"
"Trunk (of a car)"
"Cookie"
"Sweater"
"Fries"
"Pedestrian Crosswalk"
"Stroller"
"Rain Boots"
"Gas Station"
"Elevator"
"Apartment"
"Candy"
"Truck"
"Chips"
"Eraser"
"Hood (of a car)"
"Diaper"
"Flashlight"
"Bathroom"
"Soccer"

After you've connected all the pairs, check your answers at the end of the book.
Count how many you got right.

Fun Fact:

Did you know the English language can vary greatly depending on where you are in the world? Some words that are everyday language in Britain might be totally unfamiliar in the United States, even though they mean the same thing!

Design Your Own Cricket Jersey

Use your imagination to color and design your own cricket jersey.
Write your name and choose a number to put on the jersey.



Choose Your Position:

Look at the list of cricket field positions provided, and decide where you would play:

Batsman: Hits the ball to score runs.

Bowler: Throws the ball to dismiss batsmen.

Wicketkeeper: Catches balls, stumps out batsmen.

Slip: Catches balls behind the batsman.

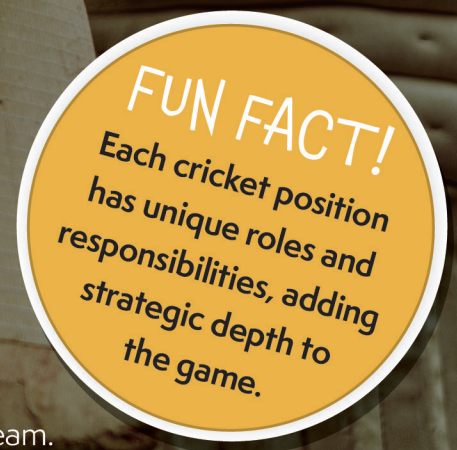
Gully: Catches close, beside the slip.

Square Leg: Fields behind the batsman on leg side.

Mid-on: Fields near the bowler, on leg side.

Mid-off: Fields near the bowler, off side.

Circle the position you would like to play if you were part of a cricket team.





Writing Activity

Imagine being the Prime Minister of the UK at the time of Brexit.
Write a speech addressing the nation, explaining the pros and cons
and the vision for the country's future.



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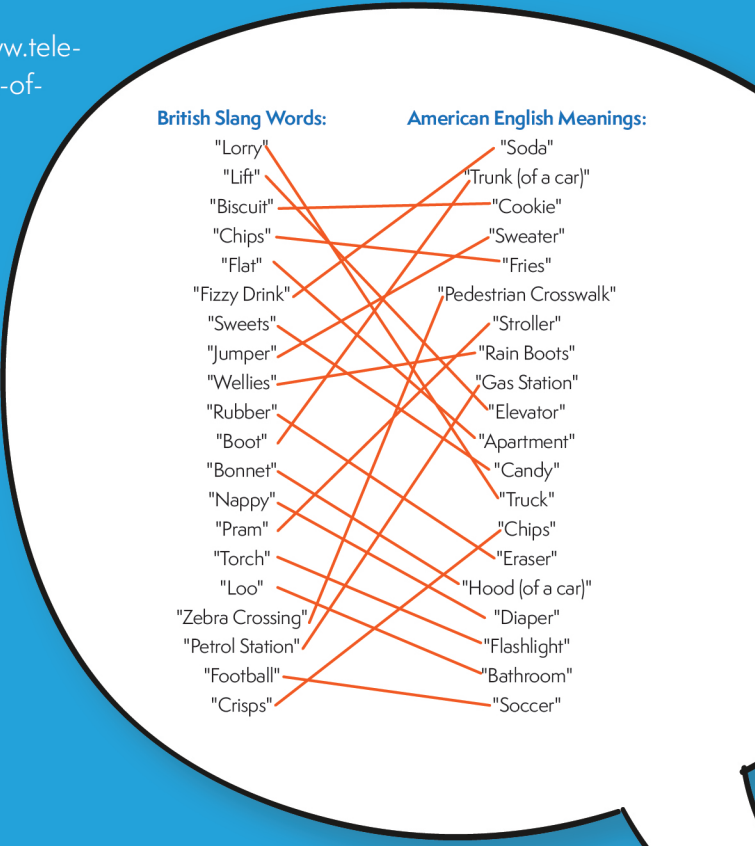
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The image features five diverse cartoon characters standing in a row against a blue background with a white outline of a world map. From left to right: a man in a dark military uniform with a peaked cap and medals; a boy in a blue and white soccer jersey with the number 30; a girl with long brown hair in a blue top and yellow skirt; a girl with dark skin and braided hair in a yellow top and patterned skirt; and a boy in an orange t-shirt and dark shorts. The title 'AROUND THE WORLD' is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image, with 'ANIMATED SERIES' in smaller, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters below it.

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