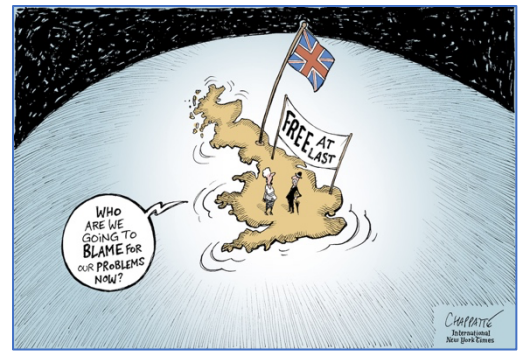


## Séance 3 – BREXIT : 10 years on

1. Describe and analyse the cartoon
2. Watch the two videos.

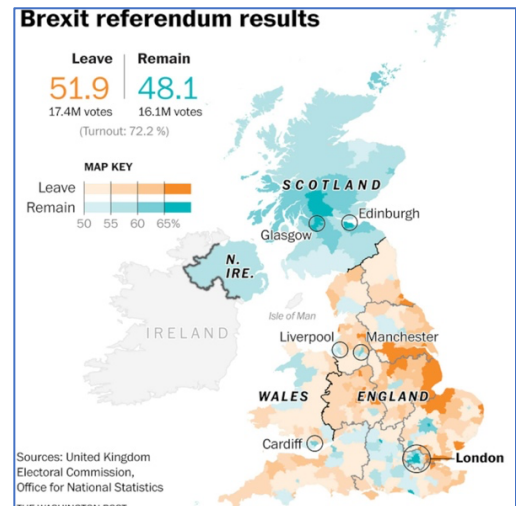
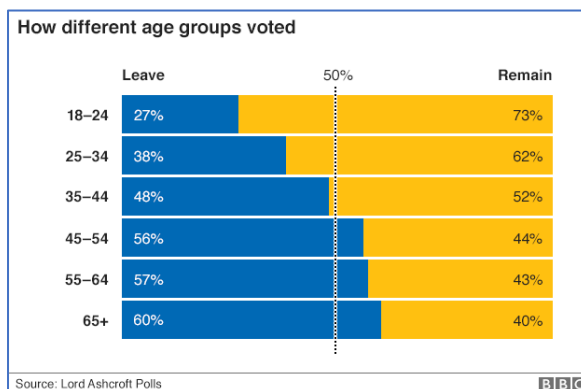
**Group 1 :** pick out the dates – **Group 2:** pick out key words from the LEAVE camp – **Group 3:** pick out pick out key words from the REMAIN camp – **Group 4:** pick out key words about the consequences of Brexit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThlUp-2FGKA>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H9Z4sn8csA>



Chappatte in *The International New York Times* – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

3. Analyse the age and map results.



4. What is Brexit? Recap

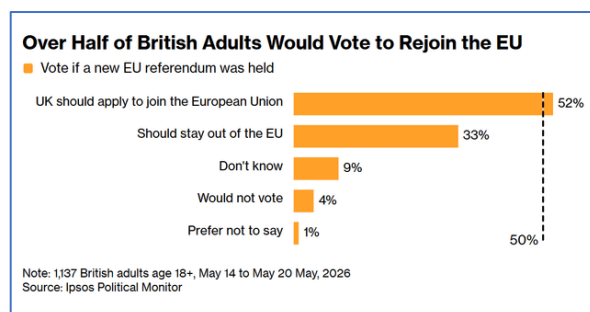
**Brexit** is the name given to the United Kingdom's decision to leave the ..... The term combines the words "....." and ".....".

In a referendum held on ....., 51.9% of voters chose to leave the EU, while 48.1% voted to remain. Following several years of negotiations, the UK officially left the EU on .....

Supporters of Brexit argued that it would allow the UK to regain ..... over its laws, borders, and trade policies. Opponents feared it would weaken the ....., reduce international ....., and create political ..... within the UK.

Brexit remains one of the most significant political events in modern British history because it has transformed the UK's relationship with Europe and sparked debates about ....., and .....

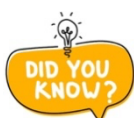
5. Analyse this graph



6. Watch this video from Bloomberg TV and create two cloud words : REASONS + CONSEQUENCES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uly62CT6Y2k>

7. In one sentence, do you believe was Brexit a good idea?



Brexit involved several **Conservative UK Prime Ministers**. The referendum in 2016 was called by **David Cameron**, who resigned after the Leave result and was replaced by **Theresa May**. She negotiated the withdrawal agreement but failed to pass it through Parliament, so she resigned and was succeeded by **Boris Johnson**, who ultimately delivered Brexit on 31 January 2020.

## The Brexit timeline



### Useful ready-made sentences

- Brexit is a highly divisive issue.
- It reflects deep social and political divisions.
- The consequences are still unfolding.
- It is difficult to assess whether it has been a success or a failure.
- The UK has regained sovereignty, but at a cost.
- The main issue is the balance between sovereignty and integration.
- EU membership implies cooperation but limits autonomy.
- Brexit represents a shift towards national control.
- The consequences are still debated and evolving.
- It is a trade-off rather than a clear success or failure.

## **Bresignation: British people are ready to turn a page on the EU referendum vote**

Adapted from *The Conversation*, November 19th, 2024

Much is made of the alleged state of Bregret – the idea that even those who voted for Brexit now regret their decision. It is true that a majority (54%) now think Britain was wrong to vote to leave the EU. According to a YouGov poll, 62% of people think Brexit has been more of a failure than a success. We even know that 18% of leave voters would now vote remain if they could

But conjuring up the past is a logical impossibility. A “rejoin” option would not be the same as the “remain” option. The European Union would have understandable hesitations about readmitting the UK without greater commitments than in the past – and might, for example, expect the UK to join the euro.

When studying attitudes towards rejoining the EU, it quickly becomes apparent that voters see this clearly. The feeling of having made one’s bed and now having to lie in it is quite widespread. When polled about a potential referendum on rejoining the EU, only 48% of the UK public solidly supported it.

Both leavers and remainers are in an impossible bind. They recognise that the process of leaving the EU was very far from the pipe dream sold by the Leave campaign but neither can do anything about it.

For leavers, the idea that Brexit was a mistake triggers discomfort. They are in what behavioural scientists call a state of cognitive dissonance. When we cannot change a past action, we often decide to change how we see and interpret new evidence about that action in order to avoid the cognitive inconsistency and the psychological discomfort of being wrong about it. For leavers, this means joining the 47% who think that Brexit is not done, or the nearly 30% who think it could have been a success if the UK had better politicians and negotiators.

To overcome this state of “bresignation” and truly trigger a reset in UK-EU relations, the UK government first needs to gather information on how the current arrangement - the Trade and Cooperation Agreement - is going, and to communicate this evidence in a unifying way.

Public opinion is still very much in favour of retaining control over UK regulations and trade deals. But there is significant support for a closer relationship with the EU and for the removal of most – if not all – trade barriers on goods and services. There is, therefore, scope to sell regulatory alignment by focusing on its flexible, conditional nature and on the perks of easing trade with the world’s largest trading block.

People are also less fussed about conditional freedom of movement than the government thinks. They favour flexible immigration quotas to dynamically deal with sectoral shortages, such as in the NHS, or for high-skilled talent.

A reset is in the realms of possibility, therefore. But the UK government first needs to break us free from the state of bresignation.

**QUESTIONS** - REMEMBER: Recap the key dates of Brexit. Choose the right answer and then discuss with your partner.

**1. According to recent polls mentioned in the article, how do most Britons now view Brexit ?**

- A. Most Britons still support Brexit, and only 5% of Leave voters regret their choice
- B. A majority believe Brexit was a success, and 10% of Leave voters would now vote Remain
- C. Most people think Brexit was a mistake, and 18% of Leave voters would now vote Remain
- D. Support for Brexit has grown, with 62% saying it has been successful

**2. Why is a "rejoin" option not seen as equivalent to the original "remain" vote, and what might the EU expect from the UK if it wanted to rejoin?**

- A. The EU would insist on a trade deal before rejoining
- B. The EU might expect the UK to adopt new commitments, such as joining the euro
- C. The UK would automatically regain its previous membership conditions
- D. The UK would have to leave NATO before rejoining the EU

**3. What is meant by the term "bresignation," and what steps does the article suggest the UK government should take to move past this state and reset relations with the EU?**

- A. Bresignation means giving up on politics entirely;
- B. It refers to regret over Boris Johnson's resignation; the government should call for elections
- C. It's a state of passive acceptance of Brexit; the government should gather evidence and communicate clearly about current UK-EU relations
- D. Bresignation is a movement to rejoin the EU immediately; the UK should apply for membership now

**Translation challenge** - Find the equivalent in French in the article to :

an impossible bind (line 14) a pipe dream (line 15) to make your bed and lie in it (line 11)  
there is scope (line 28) the perks (line 29)

## **ESSAYS**

**1. According to the journalist, why are British people resigned over Brexit? (150 words, ±10%)**  
Answer the question in your own words.

**2. In your opinion, is freedom of movement an essential element of European agreements ? (250 words, ±10%)** Illustrate your answer with relevant examples.