

Boris Johnson



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Who is Boris Johnson?
2. Why was Boris Johnson in the news in 2019?
3. What is Brexit?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. citizenship | a) the UK's plan to leave the European Union (EU) |
| _____ 2. back and forth | b) related to the government and its decisions |
| _____ 3. journalist | c) the minister responsible for international affairs |
| _____ 4. political | d) the legal status of being an official member of a country |
| _____ 5. column | e) an article in a newspaper or magazine on a specific subject (e.g., politics) |
| _____ 6. controversial | f) to and from a location (repeatedly) |
| _____ 7. Brexit | g) to work in an organized manner to achieve a political goal |
| _____ 8. European Union | h) a person who writes news or magazine articles |
| _____ 9. foreign secretary | i) causing disagreement |
| _____ 10. campaign (<i>verb</i>) | j) a group of countries that allows the free flow of trade and people between its borders |

Reading

1. Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson was born on June 19, 1964, in New York City. His parents were British, and he received American and British **citizenship** at birth.* For the first five years of his life, “Boris” and his wealthy family moved **back and forth** between the US and the UK. In 1969, the Johnson family settled in England .
2. Boris Johnson was a good student. He attended England’s best schools and studied classics. After graduation, he worked as a **journalist** and **political** columnist. He held jobs at *The Times*, *The Spectator*, and the *The Daily Telegraph*. His **columns** were popular, yet sometimes untruthful.
3. In 2001, Boris Johnson became a member of Parliament (MP). Seven years later, he became the mayor of London. Johnson served two terms in this position. In 2010, the mayor helped launch the bicycle-share program, known as “Boris Bikes.” During the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, people around the world began to recognize him as a colourful, **controversial** figure. He earned the nickname “BoJo,” and headlines focused on his love affairs, lies, and racist remarks. He was often compared to Donald Trump.
4. Johnson is best known for his strong support of **Brexit**, the UK’s plan to leave the **European Union** (EU). In 2016, Prime Minister Theresa May chose Johnson as her **foreign secretary**. Johnson resigned from this post two years later, saying May’s Brexit plan was too weak. At this time, Jeremy Hunt took Johnson’s place as foreign secretary.
5. When Prime Minister May stepped down after failing to get Brexit done, Boris Johnson **campaigned** to become leader of the Conservative Party. On July 23, 2019, members of the Conservative Party chose Johnson over Jeremy Hunt. Boris Johnson became prime minister of the UK one day later. In his acceptance speech, Johnson promised to get Brexit done by October 31, 2019, with or without a deal.

“My chances of being PM are about as good as the chances of finding Elvis on Mars...”

—Boris Johnson

***Note:**

Boris Johnson gave up his US citizenship in 2016. He no longer has dual citizenship.

Paraphrasing

MY KNOWLEDGE

Find one sentence about Boris Johnson from the reading under each category. Rewrite the sentence in your own words.

1. Citizenship

2. Career

3. Politics

4. Brexit

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below. Write T if the statement is true. Write F if the statement is false and correct the information in your notebook.

- _____ 1. Boris Johnson was born in the UK.
- _____ 2. Boris Johnson worked for a few different newspapers.
- _____ 3. Johnson became the mayor of New York City.
- _____ 4. Johnson competed in the Summer Olympics in London.
- _____ 5. Johnson and May worked together in government for a few years.
- _____ 6. Boris Johnson was a strong supporter of Brexit.

B. Forming Questions

Work with a partner. Here are the answers. What are the questions? More than one question is possible.

1. _____

No, Boris Johnson was born in New York City.

2. _____

After graduation, Boris Johnson became a journalist.

3. _____

During the 2012 Summer Olympics, Boris Johnson was the mayor of London.

4. _____

He promised to get Brexit done by October 31, 2019.

Vocabulary Review

A. Odd One Out

Circle the word or phrase that does NOT belong in each group.

1. a) journalist
b) secretary
c) columnist
2. a) debatable
b) political
c) controversial
3. a) campaign
b) election
c) journalist
4. a) back and forth
b) to and from
c) live or die
5. a) Brexit
b) EU
c) royalty

B. Complete the Sentences

Circle the correct word or phrase to complete each sentence.

1. Boris Johnson gave up his US _____ for tax reasons.
a) citizenship
b) columnist
c) foreign secretary
2. His comments about foreign affairs are often _____. Some call his remarks racist.
a) back and forth
b) controversial
c) popular
3. Did you support _____? Or did you vote to remain in the EU?
a) campaign
b) foreigners
c) Brexit
4. I don't read his _____. I prefer the writing of other journalists.
a) call
b) column
c) columnist
5. I don't know who to vote for. I don't follow _____ news.
a) political
b) critical
c) colourful
6. The _____ is a political and economic union.
a) Brexit
b) European Union
c) campaign
7. He _____ all over England before the election.
a) settled
b) back and forth
c) campaigned
8. How often do you go _____ between Ireland and England?
a) here or there
b) back and forth
c) to and from
9. As a _____, he had to meet with other world leaders.
a) politics
b) journalism
c) foreign secretary

Research

A. Make Predictions

In 2016, the UK held a referendum about leaving or remaining in the European Union. The Leave vote won, but Prime Minister May was unable to get Brexit done.

With a partner, look at the political figures listed in the chart below. If you think the figure supported Brexit in 2016, put a check mark (✓) in the Leave column. If you think they did NOT support Brexit, put a ✓ in the Remain column.

#	Political Figures	Leave	Remain
1	Theresa May		
2	Boris Johnson		
3	Jeremy Hunt		
4	Donald Trump		
5	Jean-Claude Juncker (EU President)		
6	The Queen of England		

B. Research

Now do some research to find out the correct answers.

Discussion

1. Do you think journalism is a good career to have before becoming a world leader?
2. In your opinion, is Brexit a good idea or a bad idea for the UK?
3. Do you think Boris Johnson will be a popular leader? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think many people compare Boris Johnson to Donald Trump?