

Lesson format and purpose:

Each of these English lessons are based on a number of different subjects from politics to history to famous people or social issues. The philosophy of the lesson format is to introduce advanced second language English speakers to new vocabulary and to allow and aid students to have the necessary vocabulary in English to simply hold a conversation with others. As well as introducing new vocabulary I will incorporate the new words into a text and a series of questions.

All text, questions and answers can be found by visiting this link. You can also download the pdf document.

Introduction:

Welcome to this advanced English lesson. This lesson includes the following components:

1. A number of questions to answer.
2. An introductory text about our lesson subject.
3. Vocabulary list of new words.
4. Then a reading text.
5. Then a set of further questions regarding the text.
6. And finally, a research question where you will be asked to Google search the answer in English.

Video Lesson One

Area of study: **Politics**

English level: **Advanced**

Subject: **The Commonwealth of Nations**

The Commonwealth of Nations

Initial questions

1. Do you know what **The Commonwealth of Nations** is?
2. Is your country a member of The Commonwealth of Nations?
3. Do you know how many countries are members of the organisation?

Let's answer these three questions and many more by looking at the new vocabulary and reading through the text together.

Introduction:

So what is The Commonwealth of Nations? The Commonwealth of Nations is a group of 56 countries that are **former** members of the British Empire. The difference between The Commonwealth and The British Empire is that The Commonwealth is **purely** a **voluntary** organisation. That is, that members join because they want to and are free to leave at any time. However, there are a number of **criteria** that have to be met before a country is **admitted** into the organisation. This is because the Commonwealth has a number of standards and **principles** they **uphold**.

List of members:

56 Independent countries make up the Commonwealth in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific.

Text Vocabulary: There are fifteen new words to remember.

1. Vast
2. Former
3. Voluntary
4. Island nations
5. Shared goals
6. Roots
7. Gained
8. Dominions
9. Allegiance
10. The head
11. Resemblance
12. Entirely
13. Conception
14. Partnership
15. Cooperation

So let's put these new words into context. Follow the text on screen while listening to the teacher reading.

Main Text:

The Commonwealth of Nations, simply referred to as the Commonwealth, is a political association of 56 member states, the **vast** majority of which are **former** territories of the British Empire. Thirty-two of the world's 42 small states are Commonwealth members.

The Commonwealth is a **voluntary** association of 56 independent and equal countries.

It is home to 2.5 billion people, and includes both advanced economies and developing countries. 32 of our members are small states, including many **island nations**.

Our member governments have agreed to **shared goals** like development, democracy and peace. Our values and principles are expressed in the Commonwealth Charter.

The Commonwealth's **roots** go back to the British Empire. But today any country can join the modern Commonwealth. The last two countries to join the Commonwealth were Gabon and Togo in 2022.

The Commonwealth is one of the world's oldest political associations of states. Its roots go back to the British Empire, when countries around the world were ruled by Britain.

The early Commonwealth

Over time different countries of the British Empire **gained** different levels of freedom from Britain. Semi-independent countries were called **Dominions**. Leaders of the Dominions attended conferences with Britain from 1887.

The 1926 Imperial Conference was attended by the leaders of Australia, Canada, India, the Irish Free State, Newfoundland, New Zealand and South Africa.

At the 1926 conference Britain and the Dominions agreed that they were all equal members of a community within the British Empire. They all owed **allegiance** to the British king or queen, but the United Kingdom did not rule over them. This community was called the British Commonwealth of Nations or just the Commonwealth.

Birth of the modern Commonwealth

The Dominions and other territories of the British Empire gradually became fully independent of the United Kingdom.

India became independent in 1947. India wanted to become a republic which didn't owe allegiance to the British king or queen, but it also wanted to stay a member of the Commonwealth.

At a Commonwealth Prime Ministers meeting in London in 1949, the London Declaration said that republics and other countries could be part of the Commonwealth. The modern Commonwealth of Nations was born.

King George VI was the first **Head** of the Commonwealth, and Queen Elizabeth II became Head when he died. But the British king or queen is not automatically Head of the Commonwealth. Commonwealth member countries choose who becomes Head of the Commonwealth.

Speaking on this new association in 1953 Her Majesty the Queen said: "Thus formed, the Commonwealth bears no **resemblance** to the Empires of the past. It is an **entirely** new **conception**, built on the highest qualities of the spirit of man: friendship, loyalty and the desire for freedom and peace. To that new conception of an equal **partnership** of nations and races I shall give myself heart and soul every day of my life."

The modern Commonwealth

Since 1949 independent countries from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Pacific have joined the Commonwealth. Membership today is based on free and equal voluntary **co-operation**.

The last four countries to join the Commonwealth - Rwanda, Mozambique, Gabon and Togo - have no historical ties to the British Empire.

Questions:

True or False Questions?

Answer these three questions with a **TRUE** or **FALSE** answer.

1. The commonwealth of Nations member states have a legal obligation to each other?
2. King Charles III is the head of The Commonwealth of Nations.
3. Approximately half of the world's population is a member of The Commonwealth.

Vocabulary Review Questions

Read the sentence and insert the correct word. You may need to change the word form.

1. What you said to me this morning about what the Prime Minister said during the 2022 election wasn't _____ true. **Resemblance, Roots, Gained, Entirely.**
2. I saw your brother this morning on the bus. When I saw him I realised how much he _____ you. **Saw, Resemblance, Former, Volunteer.**
3. My sister and I are going to start a new business. I don't normally like _____ but this time I feel I can trust my sister. **Shared goals, Dominions, Agreements, Partnerships.**

Answers:

True or False Questions?

Answer these three questions with a **TRUE** or **FALSE** answer.

1. The commonwealth of Nations member states have a legal obligation to each other?
2. King Charles III is the head of The Commonwealth of Nations. **TRUE**
3. Approximately half of the world's population is a member of The Commonwealth. **FALSE**

Vocabulary Review Questions

Read the sentence and insert the correct word. You may need to change the word form.

1. What you said to me this morning about what the Prime Minister said during the 2022 election wasn't _____entirely_____ true. **Resemblance, Roots, Gained, Entirely.**
2. I saw your brother this morning on the bus. When I saw him I realised how much he _____resembled_____ you. **Saw, Resemblance, Former, Volunteer.**
3. My sister and I are going to start a new business. I don't normally like _____partnerships_____ but this time I feel I can trust my sister. **Shared goals, Dominions, Agreements, Partnerships.**