

Starting up

- Which country would you most like to live and work in, apart from your own? Give your reasons.
- Read through the whole article. Then do the exercise below.

Reading 1

Read the article again to find these words and expressions, and answer the questions about them.

- a) an adjective to describe someone from Britain; is it possible to use this as a noun too?
- b) an adjective for someone from Europe; underline the syllable with the main stress.
- c) a noun for people from the UK, used mostly in newspapers; what is the shorter form of this that is used more widely?
- d) a compound adjective for someone from France; find a similar, related adjective plus noun combination to refer to a citizen of France.
- e) a single word adjective to describe someone from France, as well as the noun for language spoken there; is it sometimes possible to use a small letter at the beginning of this word?
- f) an adjective to describe someone from a particular capital city; can this adjective also be used as a noun?
- g) a noun for someone from a particular capital city; can this noun also be used as an adjective?
- h) a compound adjective to describe someone from Uganda; what is the parallel expression for someone from Italy?
- i) an adjective to identify someone from a particular European country; give the two alternative names of the country, and the name of the language spoken there.

Brexit and the declining value of Britishness

I moved to Paris in 2002 and, like most British migrants through the ages, I didn't think of myself as a migrant. I took it for granted that I could move wherever I wanted. But after Brexit happens on January 31, I'll cease to be European. My long journey sorting out my legal status has shown me the declining value of Britishness. There are 784,900 Britons living in the EU (excluding Ireland), according to the government's figures. But the real number "could be 1 million to 2.2 million", says Michaela Benson, a sociologist at Goldsmiths, University of London. Many of these people (like me) never bothered to register with their host countries' authorities — an EU passport was enough. The estimate also omits dual nationals and those living abroad for under a year, such as exchange students and contract workers.

Most Britons in Europe aren't sunburnt pensioners drinking in pubs on the Costa del Sol. That cohort dominates media reports only because it's the easiest one to find. "British citizens in the EU27 are one of the success stories of European integration," says Benson. "They work in local labour markets, have binational relationships and dual-national children." Many have, in effect, become invisible Britons. We were locals and Europeans, until Brexit happened. Especially while a no-deal Brexit threatened, I didn't know whether I could keep living in my flat with my French-nationality wife and kids. So I set about becoming French.

I never saw this as an agonising issue of identity. I'm with the philosopher Amartya Sen, who says we all have multiple identities. I'm British, Parisian, a Londoner, Ugandan-born, a Dutch football fan, etc. I would be honoured to add French, especially as it's the world's most valuable passport. It took me about three years of my spare time, but I finally submitted my dossier for French citizenship. Then, while waiting to attain Frenchness, I went to Paris's prefecture of police to request a residence permit. I was missing some key documents, mostly because the prefecture, cunningly, hadn't put them on its list. But the person I saw consulted her boss, then instantly granted me a five-year permit.

Future Britons might not be allowed to move to Europe, let alone with guaranteed healthcare, portable pensions and recognition of their qualifications. Some might have to immigrate illegally. British students risk being excluded from Europe's Erasmus scheme. Moving inside the Commonwealth will be tricky too: Australia's trade minister Simon Birmingham says he "can't imagine" negotiations with the UK about "unfettered free movement". Australia isn't keen on low-skilled Brits.

Today's young Britons, who are overwhelmingly Europhile and globally minded, won't have the luxury of taking migration for granted. They won't have our life choices, unless they are rich. Benson predicts that Britons with jobs and healthy bank accounts will find themselves well-equipped to keep moving internationally. Boris Johnson himself (raised in Brussels, adventured in Australia), his adviser Dominic Cummings (created a failed airline in Russia), the Brexiters Iain Duncan Smith (studied in Perugia) and Nigel Farage (two of whose children are German citizens) know what a privilege that is.



Vocabulary – definitions

Complete these statements by using appropriate forms of words and expressions from the article, with the number of letters shown in brackets.

Paragraph 1

- 1 _____ can refer to people leaving a country, or arriving there. (8)
- 2 If something ends, it _____. (6)
- 3 If something falls in value, it _____. (8)
- 4 If you don't make the effort to do something, you can't be _____ to do it. (8)

Paragraph 2

- 5 A group of people with similar characteristics such as age is a _____. (6)
- 6 Two prefixes meaning 'two' are _____ - and _____ - . (2, 4)
- 7 Someone that cannot be seen is _____. (9)
- 8 Someone who starts to do something with a particular aim _____ doing it. (4, 5)

Paragraph 3

- 9 If something causes a lot of pain, it is _____. (9)
- 10 A collection of related documents is a _____. (7)
- 11 If you reach a particular state, level etc, you _____ it. (6)
- 12 A suffix referring to the state of something is - _____. (4)

Paragraph 4

- 13 If you can take something from one place to another, it is _____. (8)
- 14 If authorities agree that something is valid, they _____ it. (9)
- 15 Something that is difficult is _____. (6)
- 16 Something that is not limited is _____. (10)

Paragraph 5

- 17 If most people support an idea etc strongly, their support is _____. (12)
- 18 If someone says something will happen, they _____ it. (7)
- 19 Someone brought up in a particular place was _____ there. (6)
- 20 People with an advantage not shared by others are _____. (10)

Grammar 1 – first conditional to replace *unless*

Rewrite these sentences, using the first conditional.

- 1 Young Britons won't have our life choices, unless they are rich.
Young Britons won't have our life choice if they are not rich.
- 2 Unless they have dual nationality, Brits won't be able to live and work freely in EU countries.
- 3 You won't get Spanish citizenship unless you show the authorities a large number of documents.
- 4 British people won't get an Irish passport unless they have one Irish grandparent.
- 5 You can't work for Ryanair unless you have the right to live and work in an EU country.
- 6 Unless you speak French, you won't find it easy to live in France.

Grammar 2 – second conditional

Now change the sentences you wrote above, this time using the second conditional.

- 1 *Young Britons wouldn't have our life choices if they were not rich.*

Reading 2

Which is/are the correct 'takeaway/s' from the final paragraph of the article?

The writer thinks that ...

- a) the people mentioned have considered their earlier lives in supporting Brexit.
- b) ordinary British people will find it just as easy to live in the EU as before.
- c) young British people like Europe and travelling in general.
- d) Russia will one day become a member of the EU, thanks to Dominic Cummings.

Further discussion / Group work

- 1 How has Brexit changed the ways you think about the UK? Give examples and discuss them.
- 2 Will Brexit be reversed one day? If so, how long will it take? Give your reasoning.

ANSWER KEY

Reading 1

- | | |
|--|---|
| a) British; no | f) Parisian; yes |
| b) European | g) Londoner; no |
| c) Britons; Brits | h) Ugandan-born; Italian-born |
| d) French-nationality; French national | i) Dutch; the Netherlands, Holland, Dutch |
| e) French; no | |

Vocabulary

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1 Migrants | 6 bi-, dual- | 11 attain | 16 unfettered |
| 2 ceases | 7 invisible | 12 -ness | 17 overwhelming |
| 3 declines | 8 sets about | 13 portable | 18 predict |
| 4 bothered | 9 agonising | 14 recognise | 19 raised |
| 5 cohort | 10 dossier | 15 tricky | 20 privileged |

Grammar 1

- 2 If they don't have dual nationality, Brits won't be able to live and work freely in EU countries.
- 3 You won't get Spanish citizenship if you don't show the authorities a large number of documents.
- 4 British people won't get an Irish passport if they don't have one Irish grandparent.
- 5 You can't work for Ryanair if you don't have the right to live and work in an EU country.
- 6 If you don't speak French, you won't find it easy to live in France.

Grammar 2

- 2 If they didn't have dual nationality, Brits wouldn't be able to live and work freely in EU countries.
- 3 You wouldn't get Spanish citizenship if you didn't show the authorities a large number of documents.
- 4 British people wouldn't get an Irish passport if they didn't have one Irish grandparent.
- 5 You couldn't work for Ryanair if you didn't have the right to live and work in an EU country.
- 6 If you didn't speak French, you wouldn't find it easy to live in France.

Reading 2

- c)

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