

EDITION 53 FEB. 2019

The UK prepares to leave the EU

In June 2016 the British public voted by a narrow margin to leave the European Union (EU). Once they said that they were leaving, they were given two years to work out a deal with the EU known as an exit agreement. The two years are up on March 29. So far the UK has not reached a deal with the EU.

All 28 member countries of the EU pay for membership and in return they can work together in a special way. The single market allows citizens to move freely between countries without border checks. Goods can be imported and exported without any difficulty making it easier and cheaper to buy and sell products in this single market. After Brexit the UK and its people will no longer have these benefits. It was hoped that an agreement would have been reached to allow the UK, for a period of time, to continue to have free movement between them and the other EU members. This is known as a **soft** Brexit. So far this has not been agreed.

The biggest problem for Ireland is that it could now mean that there will be a border between the north of Ireland and the south of Ireland. Up until the 1998 peace agreement there were customs checks along this 499 km border for many years. If this happens again it is feared that it may affect relations between Ireland and the UK and threaten the peace agreement.

The Irish government is hoping for what is known as a **“Backstop Agreement”** which means that Northern Ireland will remain in the single market so that border controls will not be needed. The President of the EU Jean Claude Juncker has said that the EU supports Ireland in this, but the Unionist Party in the North are opposed to this.

Britain is the largest market for Irish products. Without a free trade deal, all of our lorries and ships going to Britain will have to go through border checks. Many of our lorries going to mainland Europe go through the UK.

Custom checks at the border will mean that travel will become slower and more expensive. It is likely that lorries bringing goods to Europe that travel through the UK will face long delays.

The British Prime Minister Theresa May is not only finding it difficult to agree a deal with the EU but is also not getting the full support of her own party in the British Parliament – the House of Commons.



Theresa May and Leo Varadkar meeting in Dublin

She has been travelling between Brussels, Dublin and Belfast in an effort to get a deal before the March 29 deadline, but so far she has failed to do so.

Farmers Picket Food Plant

Poultry farmers and members of the IFA (the Irish Farmers Association), recently held protests outside a food producing factory in Co. Wicklow. The reason for this is due they say to incorrect information on the food packets. The packets which contained cooked chicken were labelled “Made in Wicklow” when in fact the chicken used was not Irish. The farmers insist that this is misleading for customers who believe they are buying Irish meat.

The food company involved claim that because they are preparing and packaging the chicken, they are correct in putting Wicklow as where it is made. Shoppers are reminded that if they want to be certain they are buying food using Irish ingredients and produced in Ireland then they should look out for the Irish logos on the packaging.



Homophones

These are words that sound the same, but have a different spelling and meaning.

buy / by / bye	hear / here	pair / pear	thought/taught	dear /deer
write / right	there/their	break / brake	hair / hare	know /no
wait / weight	knot / not	meet /meat	week /weak	waste /waist
one / won	plane/plain	close / clothes	Sent / scent /cent	To /two/ too

There are 22 errors in the letter below. Try to spot the incorrect homophones and replace them with the correct ones.

Dear Sarah,

I had to right and thank you for the close and the lovely pear of shoes you scent to me for my birthday. I really taught it was so kind of you to by them for me.

Did you here the good news? We one a brake away, three weeks in Spain next June, I can't weight! I don't really like travelling on a plain and feel week just thinking about it, but hopefully it won't be two bad.

Would you like to meat for a chat this weak? I am getting my hare cut on Tuesday at 11am and we could go for lunch in the café which is write next door. Let me no if this does knot suit you.

Good buy for now! Amy

Choose the correct word for each sentence

1. Blue/ blew

- My favourite colour is _____.
- The wind _____.

2. Our/ hour

- _____ car has broken down.
- I will be home in an _____.

3. Hole/ whole

- There is a _____ in my shoe.
- I spent the _____ day cleaning.

4. See/ sea

- Did you _____ what I saw?
- I like to swim in the _____.

5. Sail/ sale

- I saved €100 by buying it in the _____.
- The ship will _____ across the ocean.

6. Steel/ steal

- The robber tried to _____ my bag.
- My frying pan is made of _____.

7. peace/ piece

- Would you like a _____ of cake?
- When the war ended, we had _____.

8. Some/ sum

- Would you like to try _____ of this?
- What is the total _____ I owe you?

Maths

- Mary's pay is twice as much as John's.
Anne's pay is $\frac{2}{3}$ of Mary's.
If Mary's pay is €630

- What is John's pay?
- What is Anne's pay?

- If it takes me 30 minutes to drive 40 km
 - How far will I travel in 15 minutes?
 - How far will I travel in 45 minutes?
 - How far will I travel in one hour?

- A cinema ticket for an adult costs €12.
A child's ticket is 50% less.
A ticket for a person over 65 is 25% less
 - How much does each ticket cost?
 - If I buy tickets for 2 adults under 65, 3 children and 1 person over 65, how much will I have to pay?

Answers

1. A) €315 b) 420
2. A) 20 b) 60 c) 80
3. A) child €6 over 65 €9 b) €51