

## **English at tea time**

### **Episode 1: Brexit. A case study.**

Hi everyone, and welcome to *English at tea-time*. On our first show we've got two stories which revolve around the recent experience of our new language assistant. Our colleagues Carmen and Patricia, got the opportunity to interview Josh, who faced the struggles to move from the UK to Spain, after Brexit became part of our lives 2 years ago. Has Brexit really changed the rules of the game? Is it a struggle for travelers, businesses...? Let's find out! Carmen, Patricia good afternoon! You two had the chance to talk to Josh. What can you tell us about Brexit and the current situation?

Hi! First, let us give you a little bit of context.

For geographical reasons, the UK is bound to Europe, but it has always been unenthusiastic about the EU. Britain did not sign the Treaty of Rome in 1957 by means of which the EU was created. The UK stayed outside basically for two reasons: concern about Commonwealth relationships and dislike of common Imports tariffs and the agricultural policy. The situation changed in 1960, and from this moment on Britain

made different attempts to join the union, although they were vetoed by the French president De Gaulle, who wasn't sure about their commitment to Europe. Eventually in 1973, together with Ireland, Britain joined the EU. Since its entry, it has been one of the most argumentative members, always questioning and discussing its role in the EC and the benefits it gets from the Union. In fact, they have often opted out of some agreements, mainly the economic ones. The euro, which they didn't accept, would be a good example. Finally, on the 1st of February 2020, the UK left the EU thanks to the conservative government of Theresa May.

Let's say first that Brexit is a portmanteau, or a mix of two words. It means British plus exit. We interviewed our school language assistant, Josh, about this hot topic so we could inform ourselves about the consequences of Brexit in British everyday life. His testimony gave light to some of the most pressing issues. When the UK decided to cut ties with the EU, most British citizens voted in favor of Brexit. Young people couldn't participate in the polls, so they couldn't express themselves. The young citizens are the most impacted by this issue. Just as an example, take the case of Josh's experience: he had to face the red tape when he accepted the job in Spain. He needed two different translators for the criminal records only! One to translate the document and another to

verify it. He needed to make an appointment in the London consulate and the process took him ages. Apart from that, he had to open a bank account. It turns out that he needed a temporary foreign ID number if he wanted to get a permanent address. Strange as it looks, he needed a permanent address in order to get a temporary foreign number as well. This resulted in a catch-22 situation.

Moving on, we're also going to talk about another of Brexit's huge side effects. Like the thing is if we already have the lands needed, why don't we have the necessary produce? What's the reason behind this lack of goods? Our colleagues, had a talk with some British Farmers to find out some answers to these questions:

The answer to this question maybe is nothing but the lack of human resources, skilled workers who would come year after year from eastern Europe countries like Poland and Romania so they became experienced, valuable workers who not only knew what they were doing, but also the language and British customs.

A few years ago it was easy for them to go to the UK, but since 2017 their whole scenario changed for the worse due to Brexit, and it began to be more and more complex to enter the country. So in order to address the issue the companies started trying to replace the former ones with workers from out of the EU like Russia and Ukraine. But their unstable political situation makes them unreliable.

Apart from that, we don't need to say they don't have any experience in the field, something that makes it impossible to fulfill agriculture deadlines. As a result sadly 25 percent of the production has been thrown away and some companies are starting to think in downsizing

That's all for today's show. Did you enjoy the topic? If so, let us know in the comments and thanks for listening! Hope to have you all with us on the next episode of *English at tea-time!*