

## EAT SLEEP DREAM ENGLISH - **TEACHER**



**Do you remember the 13 terms / expressions used by Tom?**

1. Brexit
2. the EU
3. article 50
4. Brexit means Brexit
5. a Brexiteer
6. the transition period
7. the single market
8. the customs union
9. the hard Brexit
10. the soft Brexit
11. no deal
12. backstop
13. second referendum

**Match terms and their definitions**

a political and economic union between 28 countries = **the EU**

an insurance policy demanded by the EU, that there is a soft border remaining between Ireland, and Northern Ireland = **the backstop**

depending on the negotiations and the agreement, Britain could remain in some institutions = **soft Brexit**

it allows free movement within the EU of people, goods, services, and money = **the single market**

it allows members of the EU to trade together, without any tariffs or taxes = **the customs union**

it will see Britain cut its ties completely with the European Union = **hard Brexit**

someone that is in favour of leaving the European Union = **a Brexiteer**

the clause in the 2007 Lisbon Treaty that says that any member state can withdraw from the EU = **Article 50**

the option that nobody wants, where we can't reach an agreement = **no deal**

the period of time between the day Britain officially leaves the EU and ... = **transition period**

the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU = **Brexit**

Theresa May's famous phrase = **Brexit means Brexit**

we should go back to the people and decide whether we still want to leave the European Union, or not = **second referendum**

**EAT SLEEP DREAM ENGLISH**



**Do you remember the 13 terms / expressions used by Tom?**

- |    |     |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 8.  |
| 2. | 9.  |
| 3. | 10. |
| 4. | 11. |
| 5. | 12. |
| 6. | 13. |
| 7. |     |

**Match terms and their definitions**

a political and economic union between 28 countries =

an insurance policy demanded by the EU, that there is a soft border remaining between Ireland, and Northern Ireland =

depending on the negotiations and the agreement, Britain could remain in some institutions =

it allows free movement within the EU of people, goods, services, and money =

it allows members of the EU to trade together, without any tariffs or taxes =

it will see Britain cut its ties completely with the European Union =

someone that is in favour of leaving the European Union =

the clause in the 2007 Lisbon Treaty that says that any member state can withdraw from the EU =

the option that nobody wants, where we can't reach an agreement =

the period of time between the day Britain officially leaves the EU and ... =

the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU =

Theresa May's famous phrase =

we should go back to the people and decide whether we still want to leave the European Union, or not =

## Transcript

Brexit, it's all anyone in the UK is talking about right now. But what on earth is it, and how does it work? Do you know what, I think it was best summed up (= *résumé*) by British actor Danny Dyer, when he said this :

DD : Who knows about Brexit? No one's got a f\*\*\*\* clue what Brexit is, yeah? You watch question time, it's comedy!

Presenter : Were you no clearer when Jeremy Corbyn explained?

DD : No, I ain't got a clue! (= *j'y pige rien* ) No one knows what it is. It's like this mad riddle (= *énigme*) that no one knows what it is.

So here it is guys, Brexit explained, in 13 words. Welcome to Eat Sleep Dream English. If you haven't met me before, my name is Tom, and I teach fresh, modern British English so that you can take your English to the next level, and achieve your life goals (= *atteindre vos buts dans la vie*), whatever they may be. Today, we're looking at Brexit, I'm gonna try and keep it short and simple, so that we can understand it together.

**Brexit** is a portmanteau (= *un mot-valise*). Which is when two words combine to make one word. So we have Britain and exit (= *la sortie*), you put them together, Brexit. So Brexit is the withdrawal (= *le retrait*) of the United Kingdom from the EU. On the 23rd of June 2016, we had a referendum. 51.9% voted to leave (= *quitter*) the EU, and 48.1% voted to remain (= *rester*). There was a turnout (= *participation*) of over 70%, which equates (= *équivalent à*) to about 30 million people. Now let's just back up (= *revenons en arrière*) really quickly, Britain is England, Scotland and Wales. And the United Kingdom is England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Now when we say Brexit, Britain exit, we really are talking about the United Kingdom.

**The EU, or European Union**, is a political and economic union. Between 28 countries, that collectively decide policies on trade (= *commerce*), migration and security. Other countries in the EU, are Germany, France, Spain, Italy, etc.

**Article 50** is the clause in the 2007 Lisbon Treaty that says that any member state can withdraw (= *se retirer*) from the EU. Now article 50 was triggered (= *déclenché*) by Britain when it had its referendum in June 2016. Soon after the referendum, Theresa May, the British Prime Minister coined (= *a trouvé*) this phrase : 'Brexit means Brexit'.

**Brexit means Brexit**, but what does that mean? It was her way of showing her determination and pledge (= *engagement*) to the British people, that she would indeed take Britain out of the EU. Brexit means Brexit.

A **Brexit**er, brexiteer, this is a noun. This is someone that is in favour of leaving the European Union. High-profile (= *médiatisés*) examples are Boris Johnson, Jacob Rees-Mogg, and Sir James Dyson.

**The transition period**, is the period of time between the day that Britain officially leaves the EU, which is scheduled (= *programmé, prévu*) to be the 29th of March, 2019, although that could change. Until all the agreements kick in (= *entrent en vigueur*). So that's expected to be about two years, so December 2020. Now this timeline (= *chronologie, calendrier*) may change, depending on negotiations between the British government and the European Union.

**The single market** (= *le marché unique*) allows free movement within the EU of people, goods (= *les biens de consommation*), services, and money. It's as if the EU is like one country. There are no obstacles, you can move freely within its border (= *à l'intérieur de ses frontières*).

**The customs union** allows members of the EU, plus Turkey, San Marino, Andorra, and Monaco to trade

together, without any tariffs (= *droits de douane*) or taxes. And at the same time, they all collectively have to charge (= *faire payer*) the same tariffs on imports (= *les produits importés*) from outside the EU.

The British government and the European Union have been negotiating this agreement (= *un accord*), for two years now. It's almost like a divorce. If you imagine a couple divorcing, and they have to agree on how it works. Who gets to keep the house, who gets to keep the car, etc. It's kind of like that.

There are different types of Brexit. We have a hard Brexit, soft Brexit, and no deal Brexit. Now let's go through those.

So let's start with **the hard Brexit** (= *Brexit dur*). What does that mean? A hard Brexit will see Britain cut its ties (= *couper ses liens*) completely with the European Union. That means leaving the customs union (= *l'union douanière*) and the single market, as well as many other things. It will therefore (= *par conséquent*) give Britain control of its own borders (= *ses propres frontières*), and its own trade agreement. And this is what Brexiteers call taking back control.

**A soft Brexit** (= *Brexit mou*) is slightly different. Now it doesn't have an official definition, and it can come in different shapes and sizes. But, depending on the negotiations and the agreement, Britain could remain in some institutions. Like the customs union or the single market. Now the idea of a soft Brexit is obviously not very popular with Brexiteers who see this as a betrayal (= *une trahison*) of the referendum, and as essentially, not really leaving the EU.

Now a **no deal** is perhaps the option that nobody wants. This is of course, as it says, where we can't reach an agreement (= *aboutir à un accord*). Britain, the British government and the European Union cannot reach an agreement, and so Britain immediately leaves the European Union. There's no transition period, there are hard borders (= *des frontières en dur*) that go up immediately, and new trade agreements will have to be arranged (= *conclus*)

Now as it stands (= *à l'heure actuelle*), EU citizens that are living in Britain, are free to remain here, but, it's not so clear about Britons who are living abroad (= *les Britanniques qui vivent à l'étranger*). Will they be allowed to remain (= *autorisés à rester*)? We don't know yet.

Ah, **the backstop**. This is the slightly complicated one. The backstop is essentially an insurance policy (= *une police d'assurance*), demanded (= *exigée*) by the EU, that there is a soft border remaining between Ireland, and Northern Ireland.

Now, let's back up a little bit here. Northern Ireland is a part of the United Kingdom, and Ireland is an independent country. There is a 300 mile border between the two countries that's been open for the last 20 years, thanks to the Good Friday agreement (= *traité de paix entre les gouvernements britanniques et irlandais en 1998*). There are no checks (= *contrôles*), there are no police, it's open. Now that's only able to exist, because both Ireland and Britain are in the EU. So you can have free movement of people and goods. But when Britain leaves the EU, there will need to be a hard border to control the movement of people and goods. A hard border involves security checks, police, things like that. Now this would be a huge (= *énorme*) problem if there was a hard border, between Ireland and Northern Ireland. There are many historical and social reasons for this. So, the backstop is a safety net (= *un filet de sécurité*), it's a temporary solution until a better solution, or a deal (= *un accord*) can be agreed. Now it is a little bit more complicated than that, now if you want to go into depth, on this issue (= *cette question*) just type in 'what is the backstop', into Google, or into YouTube, and you'll find political commentators who can give a much better definition than I can.

Okay, and the last term, **the second referendum**. Now of course we had the first referendum in June 2016. And there are calls (= *des demandes*) from some people to have a second referendum. The idea

here is that it's been so difficult to find an agreement (= *trouver un accord*), to agree on a Brexit that everyone is happy with, that perhaps we should have a second referendum, that we should go back to the people (= *le peuple*), and decide whether we still want to leave the European Union, or not. Now of course, this is popular in some quarters (= *groupes, cercles*). Not so popular in other places.

It's controversial, just like this whole thing is controversial. Brexiteers will tell you that the people voted. In 2016, they chose to leave the EU, that was democracy in action. People who support the second referendum would say well, we didn't really understand what we were voting for. No one knew what Brexit looked like (= *à quoi cela ressemblait*). They didn't know, how it would affect us (= *nous toucherait*) economically, or socially, so now we know much more about Brexit we need another vote to determine if we still want to leave. It's complicated guys.

I would love you guys to share your thoughts, your opinions, in the comments below. What do you think of Brexit? Please keep it respectful, of course, at all times. But yeah, let me know in the comments below, what do you think? Have you heard of all these terms? Are some of them new to you?

I have to say, it's been a very confusing time here in Britain, I've definitely noticed a big division in the country. People that want to remain in the EU, people that want to leave, and it feels to me (= *j'ai le sentiment*), that everyone is just shouting at each other (= *crier, s'invectiver*). No one is really listening. And that's one of the sad parts (= *un des côtés tristes*) of this whole thing. But hopefully, we can find our way through this, and resolve it one way or the other.

Thank you so much guys, this is Tom, the chief dreamer. Saying goodbye.