

THE EUROPEAN UNION – EXERCISES

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. How many nations are in the European Union today? _____

2. What was the official aim of the European Union at first? _____

3. What was the European Coal and Steel Community? When and why was it founded? _____

4. Where was the EEC treaty signed? _____

5. Which 6 countries were the original members? _____

6. When did the first enlargement take place? Which countries joined? _____

7. When did Spain and Portugal become members? _____

8. When was the Maastricht Treaty signed? What were its objectives? _____

9. When did the biggest enlargement take place? Which countries joined and why was this so important? _____

10. What are the tasks of the European Council? _____

11. Which organ is the law-making body of the EU? _____

12. Who is the current head of the European Commission? _____

13. Which is the only institution that is elected by the people? What tasks must it fulfil? _____

14. Where are the headquarters of the European Central Bank? _____

15. Name a few advantages of the euro? _____

16. Name a few problems that are currently blocking Turkish EU membership? _____

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2

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What does the term "single market" mean? _____

2. When did the euro become a currency in 12 EU states? _____
3. Why are euro coins not the same in all countries? _____
4. Which EU countries have chosen not to have the euro as its currency? _____
5. What happened at the UK referendum in 2016? _____
6. What were the arguments in favor of leaving the EU? _____

7. What was the main problem in the Brexit negotiations? _____
8. How do goods travel across the Irish border? Which solution has been reached? _____

9. Which country was the last to become an EU member? _____
10. How many members are there in the European Commission and where do they come from? _____
11. What does the Court of Justice do? _____
12. Which military organization is Turkey a member of? _____
13. How has crossing national borders been made easier? _____
14. How has the EU made mobile phone use easier when travelling? _____
15. What is the Erasmus programme? _____
16. Which country was hit hardest during the 2008 recession? How did the EU help? _____

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3

TRUE or FALSE – Put a check into the correct box.

	T	F
The ECSC was founded because European countries didn't want Germany to become so powerful again.		
In the Maastricht Treaty member countries decided to let eastern European nations join the EU.		
All European countries introduced the euro in 2002.		
Citizens in France and the Netherlands rejected the new constitution.		
The Council of Ministers makes the laws in the EU.		
In the European Parliament all states have the same number of representatives.		
The European Commission tries to keep the euro a strong currency.		
When you drive into a "Schengen" country you don't have to show your passport.		
EU citizens can work and live anywhere they want to in the union.		
Budget airlines emerged because buying airplanes has become cheaper.		
Some food names in the EU are protected by law.		
The biggest enlargement took place in 2004.		
Greek citizens live in the northern part of Cyprus.		
The Kurds make up 20% of the Turkish population.		
Every year a different country serves as president of the EU.		
There is one commissioner from each EU country.		
The European Parliament has great powers concerning budget issues.		
More than 80% of the UK's population voted to leave the EU in 2016.		
There are no more roaming phone costs for EU citizens.		
One of the advantages of the euro is that consumers can compare prices in EU countries more easily.		
The EU still controls immigration to the UK.		

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4

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

A	expand			promise
B	found			line that separates two countries
C	cooperate			difficult time when there is less trade and people buy fewer products
D	collapse			when people are asked to vote on an important topic
E	vow			a problem that comes up and is difficult to solve
F	sign			to become larger
G	currency			to fall apart; break down
H	referendum			set of rules that a country has
I	economy			the organ that has the power to make decisions
J	constitution			when all the people of a country vote for members of parliament and a government
K	agreement			the official money that a country has
L	border			to be officially allowed and legal
M	general election			to treat a group of people badly or in an unfair way
N	executive branch			to start something new; create
O	challenge			system by which a country's goods and services are produced
P	valid			two or more countries want to do something together
Q	unify			to put your name on a document
R	recession			bring together, make stronger
S	oppress			to work together

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5

**Match the beginnings of the sentences with the sentence endings.
There are TWO endings you will not need.**

A	The European Union is a community		to prevent one country's industry from becoming too powerful.
B	In a 2016 referendum a majority of the British population		to join the EU.
C	The European Coal and Steel Community was founded		that the country could control immigration better.
D	The European Economic Community was founded		to enlarge the EEC.
E	In 1973 the UK, Ireland and Denmark became the first countries		was rejected by a few member countries.
F	The collapse of Communism and the Iron Curtain		to leave the union.
G	In Maastricht, the EU leaders promised		that was founded to secure peace in post-war Europe.
H	The newly written constitution of the EU		that agreements are carried out.
I	In 2013 Croatia became the last country		couldn't find a way to pass the withdrawal treaty.
J	The Council of Ministers passes laws and makes sure		to allow goods to travel freely between countries.
K	British citizens in favor of leaving the EU thought		that are preventing Turkey from becoming a member state.
L	For a long time, British parliament		brought West and East Germany together.
M	There are many problems		that decisions are unanimous.
			to create a political union and introduce a single currency.
			decided to leave the EU.

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6

Put the events below into the order in which they happened.

	The Maastricht Treaty is signed.
	The UK, Ireland and Denmark join the EEC.
	The biggest enlargement in history takes place when 8 former Communist countries join the EU.
1	The European Coal and Steel Community is founded by six nations.
	The euro becomes the single currency in 12 member states.
	East and West Germany unite to become the largest EU country.
	The European Economic Community is founded in Rome.
	In a referendum, the United Kingdom decides to leave the European Union.
	Austria, Sweden and Finland join the EU.
	The southern European nations Spain, Portugal and Greece become members of the union.

7

Explain the following terms and phrases in your own words.

free trade zone _____

Iron Curtain _____

Schengen country _____

referendum _____

monopoly _____

recession _____

withdrawal agreement _____

single currency _____

MEP _____

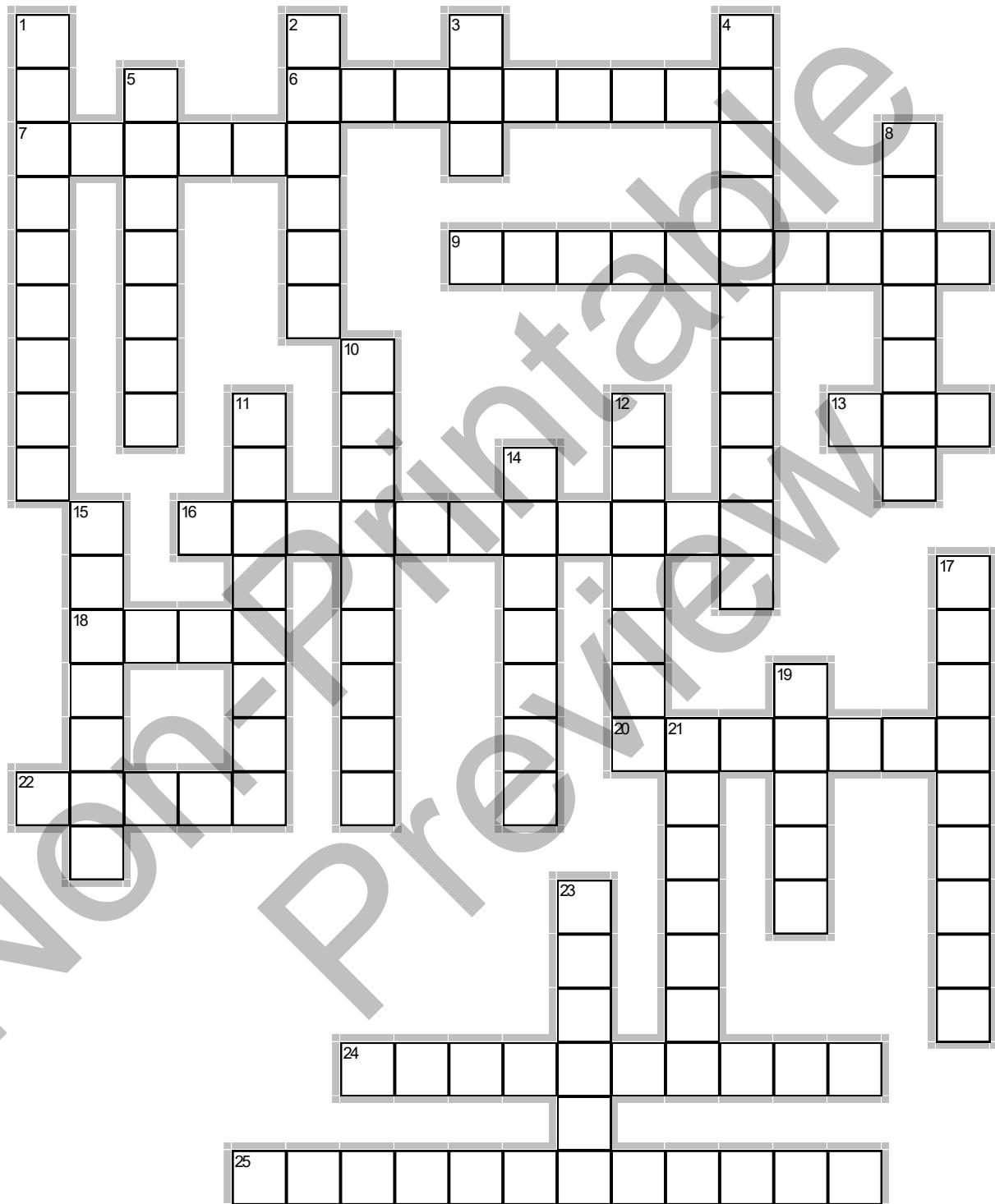
8

Find 12 EU countries in the grid below (→ ← ↘ ↙ ↖ ↗) and mark them.

S	E	S	W	E	D	E	N	F	F
V	G	B	E	L	G	I	U	M	R
I	E	G	Q	L	A	T	V	I	A
C	R	O	A	T	I	A	M	S	N
O	M	E	Q	W	O	L	A	C	C
B	A	Y	L	U	Y	L	Y	E	
E	N	S	P	A	I	N	T	P	U
U	Y	M	D	E	N	M	A	R	K
N	Q	M	T	E	F	D	B	U	L
T	A	A	A	W	M	C	E	S	F

9

Crossword



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Across

6. time during which the economy is in a bad state and people don't have very much money
7. country that joined the EU in the 1980s
9. Dutch city in which an important political agreement was signed
13. to promise
16. dividing border between free western Europe and Communist eastern Europe
18. city in which the first treaty was signed
20. one of the founding fathers of the European Coal and Steel Community (last name)
22. to bring together and make stronger
24. when people in a country are asked to vote on a certain topic
25. high official who is responsible for a certain area in the EU, like farming or energy

Down

1. to discuss something in order to reach an agreement
2. short word for the UK leaving the EU
3. member of the European parliament (short word)
4. when more and more countries join a community
5. one of the founding member states of the EEC
8. British Prime Minister during withdrawal talks (last name)
10. headquarters of the European Central Bank
11. the money that a country uses
12. exchange programme for EU students
14. last country to join the EU
15. country with the most representatives in the European Parliament
17. if everyone in a group agrees or says yes
19. group of people who live in Turkey but don't have their own country (plural)
21. person who lives in a place and has rights there
23. divided island in the Mediterranean Sea

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10

Organs of the European Union - Complete the text with the words from the box. There are TWO words you will not need.

Heads of (1) _____ get together at least twice a year to discuss the main problems that the EU has. Every six months a different (2) _____ is a host to these talks. The Council of (3) _____ makes (4) _____ in the EU and has one representative from each nation. It works together with the European (5) _____, which is the (6) _____ branch. It makes sure that rules are followed, and laws carried out. 27 commissioners from each of the member nations (7) _____ for 5 years and are (8) _____ for certain areas, for example energy, transportation or farming.

The European (9) _____ is the only organization of the EU that is (10) _____ by the people every five years. It does not have the same powers as (11) _____ parliaments do but works closely together with the Council of Ministers and the Commission. Countries with a larger population, like Germany or the France have more (12) _____ than countries with a smaller population. The European Council of (13) _____ is made up of 27 judges who decide (14) _____ and quarrels in court. Their decisions are final, and everyone must follow them. The European (15) _____ Bank was founded in 1998 and controls the (16) _____ of the euro and the amount of money in the union.

arguments
Central
Commission
country
elected
executive
Justice
laws
legislative
Ministers
national
Parliament
population
representatives
responsible
serve
state
value

11

The European Union – Decades of Rivalry - Complete the text by filling in the correct word for each blank.

Relationships between European countries have not always been (1) _____. In the 1960s the EEC was dominated by France's powerful president Charles de Gaulle and his (2) _____ to lead the way to Europe's future. He also wanted France to receive a large part of the organization's budget. He hated Great Britain and (3) _____ British membership until 1973.

The 1980s were dominated by Great Britain's "Iron Lady" Margaret Thatcher, who turned out to be everyone's enemy (4) _____ everyone's darling. There was hardly a meeting in which she didn't start (5) _____ with one of her fellow heads of state.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of Communism the EU gained (6) _____ in the last decade of the millennium. Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany and President Francois Mitterrand of France became the engines of European (7) _____. They wrote history by paving the way for the euro and signing the Maastricht treaty which is the basis of today's European Union. Not in all countries, however, were these new (8) _____ welcomed. Britain and Denmark were very skeptical and didn't want to give up national power to Brussels.

When Poland, Hungary and other eastern European countries joined the EU the post-World War II division of the continent had finally become (9) _____. Not all Europeans welcomed these new states. Many thought that richer countries would have to (10) _____ more money to the east to get these economies moving.

After the 2005 crisis over the new European constitution, which was to define the EU structures and (11) _____ for the future, Jean Claude Juncker Prime Minister of Luxembourg, said that Europe's citizens had stopped believing in the European dream.

This became (12) _____ in the United Kingdom when on June 23, 2016 more than 17 million voters declared that after four decades they wanted to leave the European Union and take (13) _____ into their own hands.

1	familiar	thick	helpful	friendly
2	want	desire	need	liking
3	blocked	banned	closed	avoided
4	instead of	despite	rather	nevertheless
5	a difference	a struggle	an agreement	a quarrel
6	time	activity	speed	fast
7	combination	integration	segregation	negotiation
8	reactions	results	developments	additions
9	history	ancient	past	yesterday
10	add	share	deliver	contribute
11	political	politics	policies	politicians
12	truth	reality	certainly	actual
13	matters	fields	doings	sales

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12

Fill in the names of the countries on the map.

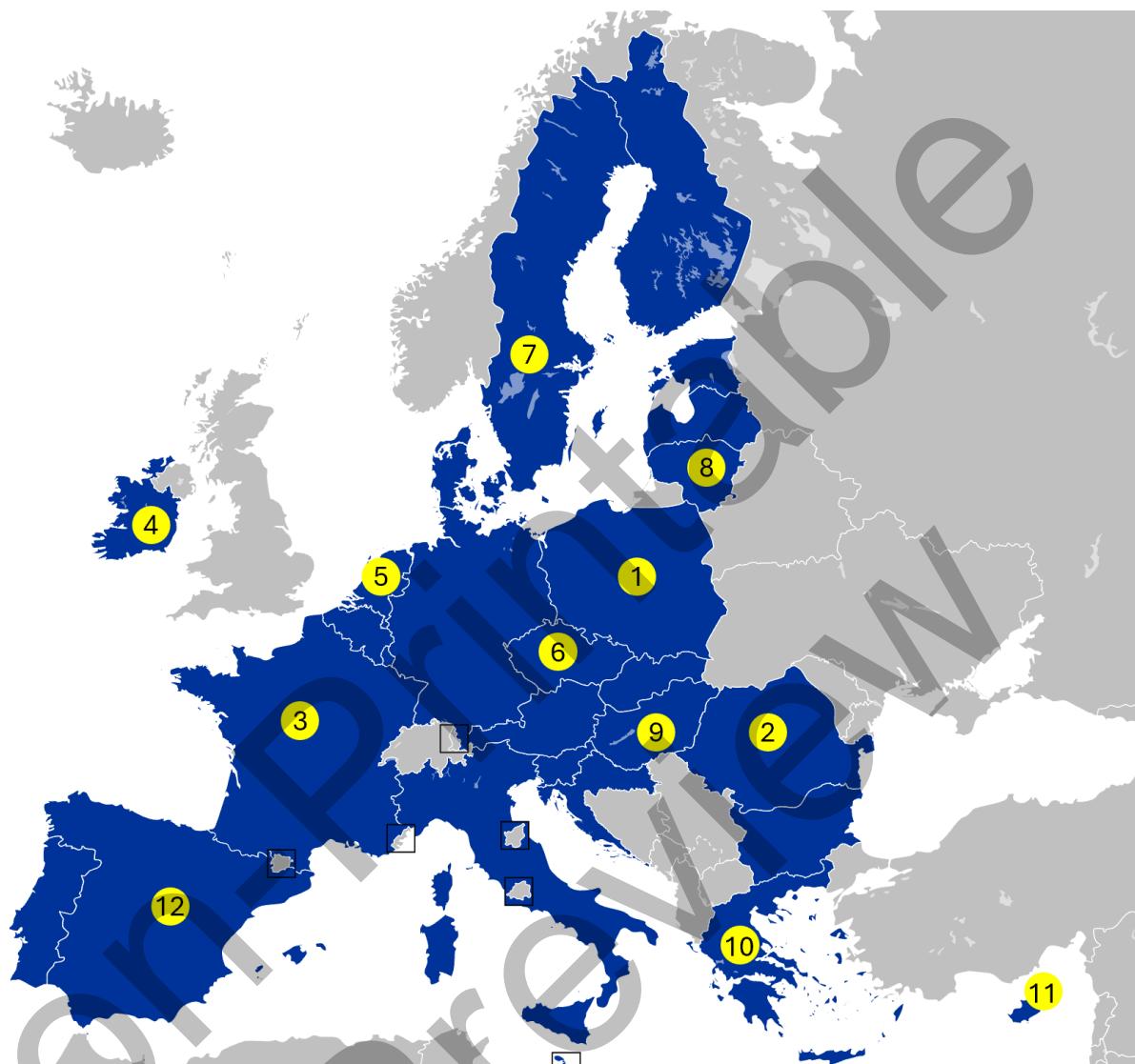


Image: [Kolja21, CC BY 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13

Writing

Europe's Youth, a magazine for 15 to 19-year-olds wants to find out what teenagers think about being a European. The best articles will be published in the next edition.

You have decided to take part and send in an article . In your article (about 300 words) you should

- explain what being a European means to you.
- give your opinion on why people are critical of the EU.
- state why or why not joining the EU was a good idea.

