



# BREAKING THE UNION



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:  
1A5P-31LA-HRRB



1

## Warm up

Discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

1. Do you know any countries that have gained independence?
2. Has your country ever held a referendum?
3. Who should decide if a country is allowed to become independent or not?





## 2 Focus on vocabulary

**Part A: Match the vocabulary with the correct definition.**

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>establishment</u> (n)    | a. to delay an event, process, or person  |
| 2. <u>consent</u> (n)          | b. a vote in which all the people in a country or an area are asked to give their opinion about or decide an important political or social question |
| 3. <u>referendum</u> (n)       | c. make or enact laws   |
| 4. <u>unionist</u> (n)         | d. the people who have most of the power within government or society   |
| 5. <u>legislate</u> (v)        | e. permission or agreement  |
| 6. <u>set back</u> (phr. verb) | f. a person who supports the policy that the countries of the UK should remain together   |

**Part B: Now complete the sentences with appropriate words from Part A. You may need to change the form of the word.**

1. They held a \_\_\_\_\_ in the UK to decide whether to leave the EU.
2. He was under 18 and therefore could not give legal \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The decision \_\_\_\_\_ the project by three months.
4. She has many friends in other parts of the UK so she became a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ in London wants to hold on to its power.
6. The strict new rules were \_\_\_\_\_ by parliament.

**Part C: Personalise the vocabulary: share your opinions with your classmates using the questions below.**

1. What new laws would you like your government to legislate?
2. Have you ever been set back by something?
3. Do you think there should be more referendums to decide on new laws?
4. Do powerful establishments have too much power?





## 3

**Listening comprehension**

Listen to the news report about a new Supreme Court ruling on Scottish independence. Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

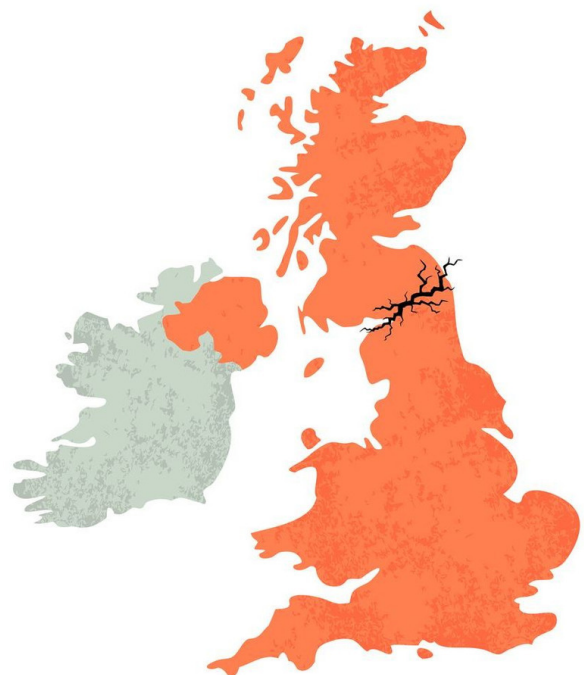
1. The court ruled that Scotland requires permission from the UK to hold a referendum. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Currently, Scotland cannot make any decisions for itself. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Nicola Sturgeon does not believe belonging to the UK is optional. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Nicola Sturgeon is supported by unionists. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Scottish independence campaigners will now stop fighting for their cause. \_\_\_\_\_

## 4

**Listening discussion**

Listen to the conversation again and, with a partner, discuss the following questions.

1. Do you think that politicians in England should be allowed to decide whether Scotland should be allowed to be independent?
2. Why do you think independence is so important to some Scottish people?
3. What do you think are the benefits of being part of the UK?



**5 Reading: scanning**

**Part A:** You are going to read an article about a ruling that has blocked Scotland's route to a referendum (page five). Find words or phrases which mean the same as the following.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ a strong feeling of disliking and having no respect for someone or something (n., paragraph A)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ a belief or idea (n., paragraph B)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ lasting a short time (adj., paragraph C)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ evoking interest, attention, or admiration (adj., paragraph C)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ total, or expressed in a clear and certain way (adj., paragraph D)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ following each other continuously (adj., paragraph E)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ a public meeting of a large group of people, especially supporters of a particular opinion (n., paragraph F)

**Part B:** Look at the following extracts from the article. Decide which gaps (1–5) the extracts should go in.

- Reed rejected arguments put by the SNP based on the Scottish parliament's right to self-determination under international law.
- The First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, said immediately after the ruling, "Scottish democracy will not be denied."
- Rishi Sunak welcomed the "clear and definitive ruling" from the Supreme Court.
- Should there be a second referendum, polls suggest voters remain evenly split and a vote would be too close to call.
- She said she would ask the SNP's national executive to hold a special party conference in the new year to discuss details of the de facto referendum plan.





# Supreme Court rules against Scotland gaining independence

## Scottish leader says 'democracy will not be denied' after court blocks route to referendum

- A. The Scottish parliament cannot hold a second independence referendum without Westminster approval, the UK Supreme Court has ruled, in a unanimous judgment likely to anger Scottish nationalists who say the country's future is for Scottish voters to decide. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> Today's ruling blocks one route to Scotland's voice being heard on independence - but in a democracy, our voice cannot and will not be silenced." Sturgeon said she respected the ruling but accused Westminster of showing contempt for Scotland's democratic will.
- B. "This ruling confirms that the notion of the UK as a voluntary partnership of nations, if it ever was a reality, is no longer a reality," she told a news conference. Sturgeon said her government would look to use the next general election as a "de facto referendum" on separating from the rest of the UK after more than 300 years. Insisting that the SNP "is not abandoning the referendum route, Westminster is blocking it", she said: "We must and we will find another democratic, lawful and constitutional means by which the Scottish people can express their will. In my view, that can only be an election."
- C. Acknowledging the "frustration and disappointment" felt by the SNP and the wider independence supporters following the judgment, Sturgeon said this must be short-lived. "The fact is, we have work to do. The case for Scotland becoming independent is more compelling and urgent than ever." \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> In the meantime, the party will launch "a major campaign in defence of Scottish democracy".
- D. Delivering the unequivocal judgment, the Supreme Court president, Lord Reed, said the Scottish parliament did not have the power to legislate for a referendum on independence because such a bill would relate to the future of the union of the UK, a matter reserved to Westminster. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> He said that in the absence of an agreement between the two governments, as happened in advance of the 2014 vote, the Scottish parliament did not have the power to legislate for a referendum. The 1998 Scotland Act, which created the Scottish parliament and devolved some powers from Westminster, states all matters relating to the Union of the Kingdoms of Scotland and England are to be decided by the UK parliament.
- E. Four consecutive Prime Ministers have refused Sturgeon's requests for self-determination. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> At Prime Minister's questions, he told MPs: "The people of Scotland want us to be working on fixing the major challenges that we collectively face, whether that's the economy, supporting the NHS or indeed supporting Ukraine. Now is the time for politicians to work together and that's what this government will do."
- F. More than a dozen pro-independence rallies are planned across Scotland and parts of Europe on Wednesday with the largest expected outside the Scottish parliament in Edinburgh, where supporters will claim that democracy is being denied. \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> The key issues are what currency an independent Scotland would use and whether it could re-join the EU. Sturgeon is under pressure from some activists to call a referendum without the British parliament's permission. If the independence movement was to do this, it could struggle to gain international recognition if it won.
- Sources: Reuters, The Guardian



## 6 Reading comprehension

Complete the following sentences with one, two, or three words from the article on page five.

1. Scotland will not be allowed to hold a referendum without \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Sturgeon suggested that the Scottish government will possibly use the general election as a \_\_\_\_\_ referendum.
3. The future of the union is an issue \_\_\_\_\_ Westminster.
4. Successive Prime Ministers have refused Scotland's appeals for \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Democracy is being \_\_\_\_\_, claim some independence supporters.
6. Scotland might find it difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ if independence is claimed without parliament's permission.

## 7 Talking point

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. How do you think Nicola Sturgeon can use the next general election as a "de facto" referendum?
2. Are holding rallies an effective way of achieving a political goal?
3. Should Scotland be permitted to re-join the EU?
4. If you supported Scottish independence, would you want to hold a referendum without the permission of the UK parliament?





## 8

## Focus on grammar

Part A: Look at the table below about passive causative.

- The **passive causative** is a combination of a causative verb and the passive voice. A causative verb is used to talk about an action that someone else did for us, while the passive voice is used when the subject receives an action.
- Therefore, we use the passive causative to talk about something that someone else does for us or for another person. This often happens when someone pays someone else to do something for them. To use the passive causative, we use the following structure:

*Have/Get + object + past participle*

For example:

*I get my hair cut by the barber.*

*He had his car fixed by the mechanic.*

- We can use "have" or "get" when forming the passive causative, but "have" is slightly more formal.

Part B: Use the passive causative to complete the following sentences.

**Group 1:**

1. I have a pain in my mouth. I will \_\_\_\_\_ (get/teeth/check) by the dentist.
2. Henry will \_\_\_\_\_ (get/car/wash) on his way to work.
3. She might \_\_\_\_\_ (have/hair/dye) by the hairdresser.
4. They always \_\_\_\_\_ (get/nails/do) before they go out on Friday night.
5. My friend is \_\_\_\_\_ (get/tattoo/do) while we speak.

**Group 2:**

1. Sarah needs to \_\_\_\_\_ (have/letter/translate) before she flies to China.
2. David had to \_\_\_\_\_ (have/watch/mend) so he went into town.
3. The bride \_\_\_\_\_ (have/dress/design) by a famous stylist.
4. They were very hungry and decided to \_\_\_\_\_ (get/food/deliver).
5. She has \_\_\_\_\_ (have/eyes/test) by the optician.





**9 Extended activity/homework**

Read the following question and write an opinion essay on the topic below. Your essay should agree or disagree with the statement and should be at least 250 words long.

Scottish independence should not be decided by English politicians working in England. Especially after Brexit, Scottish people should have the right to choose their own future.

**You should:**

- Write at least 250 words
- Check your spelling, grammar, and punctuation

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