

Shockwaves

Word of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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1. Tick the events that have sent shockwaves around the world recently.

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| 1. Great Britain's exit from Europe, known as Brexit | 4. Prince Harry and Meghan leaving the royal family |
| 2. A volcano erupting in New Zealand, killing more than 10 people. | 5. The Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris burning down. |
| 3. People eating too much cake. | 6. The spread of Coronavirus |

2. Highlight the five nouns that you might see in a newspaper headline about an event that has sent out shockwaves.

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| a. Disbelief | d. Panic |
| b. Joy | e. Horror |
| c. Fear | f. Shock |

When something happens unexpectedly and the effects are felt by a community or other large group of people, we say that the event has sent out shockwaves. It often has negative connotations. Positive news that is unexpected is often referred to as 'a pleasant surprise'.

3. Complete the sentence.

- a. _____ reverberated around Europe when the Brexit referendum result was announced: people didn't expect the vote to be in favour of leaving.

4. Imagine you are an Italian living in London at the time of the Brexit announcement. How do you feel? Talk to a partner about your reaction.

5. Friends back home have asked you what the situation is like now. Write a post for social media telling them what you were doing when you heard the announcement, what you did straight after and what you think will happen in the future. Start your post with this sentence:

The news that Great Britain had voted to leave the European Union sent out shockwaves all around London. I was sitting in a bar with some Spanish friends when....

Teacher's Notes

1. Tick 1, 2, 4, 5, 6,

2. Highlight a,c,d,e,f

3.a. Shockwaves reverberated around Europe when the Brexit referendum result was announced: people didn't expect the vote to be in favour of leaving.

4. Students can work in groups for this activity.

5. Sample answer:

The news that Great Britain had voted to leave the European Union sent out shockwaves all around London. I was sitting in a bar having a coffee with some Spanish friends when the news came on. The presenter looked totally shocked as she announced that voters had decided to 'leave' Europe. Me and my friends couldn't believe it. We watched the news for ages and then we had to get to university. I called my mum on the way; she was really upset. I told her not to worry because I was sure that this couldn't really happen. But you know what? It did. In the future I think people will have to have a passport and maybe a visa to visit Britain even just for a short holiday. People who want to live there will need to apply for special status. I hope that this situation won't take away the freedom of young people to travel, learn about new cultures and improve their language skills but I do think it will make it more difficult.