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Ready-to-use ESL/EFL Lessons by Sean Banville

Europe's population now half a billion

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1007/100728-population.html

Contents

28th July, 2010

THE ARTICLE

Europe's population has passed the half-a-billion mark for the first time ever. Europe's statistics database agency Eurostat put the official figure at 501.1 million people across the 27-nation European Union. This was a rise of 1.4 million people between January 1 2009 and January 1 2010. The bulk of the increase was due to immigration, with 900,000 immigrants moving to EU countries. Eurostat said that the five countries with the biggest increases in population were Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, Cyprus and Sweden. Germany's population fell by 203,000. Over five million children were born in 2009 across the EU. The highest birth rates were in Ireland, Britain and France, and the lowest were in Germany and Austria. Europe is still far behind China, which has a population of 1.4 billion.

Increases in population are leading many European governments to worry about how to cope with the increasing numbers. More people put a great strain on a country's resources. It can also lead to environmental damage and competition for jobs, houses and public services. The United Nations Population Fund says population growth will also cause tension due to reduced living space and increased demand for food and water, fuel and transport. Many countries in Europe are experiencing anger from people who are opposed to immigration. Sir Andrew Green of the UK's Migration Watch think tank said: "There are always arguments in favour of immigration…but the majority of people are clear that immigration needs to be brought down."

WARM-UPS

1. POPULATION: Walk around the class and talk to other students about population. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

population / database / statistics / database / immigration / birth rates / far behind / worry / how to cope / strain on resources / public services / tension / arguments

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. STRAINS: What pressures are there on these resources? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

Resource	Strains	How to cope?
Water		
Transport		
Jobs		
Housing		
Food		
Public services		

4. OVERPOPULATION: Students A **strongly** believe that overpopulation will not be a problem in the future; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. IMMIGRATION: What does it add to a country? Rate these and share your ratings with your partner: 10 = Adds loads; 1 = Has a negative impact. Change partners and share your ratings again.

- Cultural diversity
- Increased workforce
- New skills
- Global understanding

- New languages
- Food and culture
- Cosmopolitan feel
- Sense of wanting to help new arrivals

6. TENSION: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'tension'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1007/100728-population.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

a.	The population of Europe has decreased considerably since 2000.	T / F
b.	There was a rise of 1.4 million people in Europe's population in 2009.	T / F
c.	Most of the rise in population was due to increasing birth rates.	T / F
d.	Birth rates were higher in Ireland than in Germany in 2009.	T / F
e.	European governments aren't too concerned about immigration.	T / F
f.	The U.N. said immigration will cause many tensions.	T / F
g.	A lot of Europeans are angry about immigration.	T / F
h.	A British man believes we need to think more about tanks.	T / F

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

1.	passed		a.	for
2	figure		b.	dropped
3.	bulk		c.	manage
4.	fell		d.	majority
5.	far		e.	fury
6.	cope		f.	a long way
7.	strain		g.	gone over
8.	anger		h.	obvious
9.	in favour of		i.	pressure
10.	clear		j.	number

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

1.	passed the half-a-billion mark		a.	rates were in Ireland
2	The bulk		b.	increases in population
3.	countries with the biggest		c.	be brought down
4.	The highest birth		d.	to cope
5.	Europe is still far		e.	of the increase
6.	worry about how		f.	reduced living space
7.	put a great strain		g.	for the first time
8.	cause tension due to		h.	to immigration
9.	people who are opposed		i.	behind China
10.	immigration needs to		j.	on a country's resources

WHILE READING / LISTENING

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Europe's population has _____ the half-a-billion mark for the first time ever. Europe's _____ database agency Eurostat put the official figure at 501.1 million people across the 27-nation European Union. This was a _____ of 1.4 million people between January 1 2009 and January 1 2010. The bulk of the increase was due to immigration, with 900,000 immigrants _____ to EU countries. Eurostat said that the five countries with the biggest _____ in population were Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, Cyprus and Sweden. Germany's population _____ by 203,000. Over five million children were born in 2009 across the EU. The _____ birth rates were in Ireland, Britain and France, and the lowest were in Germany and Austria. Europe is still _____ behind China, which has a population of 1.4 billion.

fell

moving

statistics

far

passed

highest

rise

increases

Increases in population are _____ many European governments to worry about how to _____ with the increasing numbers. More people put a great strain on a country's resources. It can also _____ to environmental damage and competition for jobs, houses and public services. The United Nations Population Fund says population growth will also cause tension _____ to reduced living space and increased _____ for food and water, fuel and transport. Many countries in Europe are experiencing anger from people who are _____ to immigration. Sir Andrew Green of the UK's Migration Watch think tank said: "There are always arguments in _____ of immigration…but the majority of people are clear that immigration needs to be _____ down."

favour

lead

leading

brought

opposed

due

cope

demand

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

Europe's population has passed the half-a-billion _____ ever. Europe's statistics database agency Eurostat _____ 501.1 million people across the 27-nation European Union. This was a rise of 1.4 million people between January 1 2009 and January 1 2010. The _____ due to immigration, with 900,000 immigrants moving to EU countries. Eurostat said that the five countries _____ in population were Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, Cyprus and Sweden. Germany's population fell by 203,000. Over five million children were born in 2009 across the EU. The _____ in Ireland, Britain and France, and the lowest were in Germany and Austria. Europe _____ China, which has a population of 1.4 billion.

Increases in population are leading many European governments to worry _____ with the increasing numbers. More people put a great strain on a country's resources. _____ environmental damage and competition for jobs, houses and public services. The United Nations Population Fund says population _____ tension due to reduced living space and increased demand for food and water, fuel and transport. Many countries in Europe are experiencing anger from people _____ immigration. Sir Andrew Green of the UK's Migration Watch think tank said: "There are _____ favour of immigration…but the majority of people are clear that immigration _____ down."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms … for the words 'official' and 'figure'.

official	figure

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.
- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning…?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

• passed	• how
• 27	• lead
• 1.4	• due
• five	• anger
• fell	• tank
• far	• clear

STUDENT POPULATION SURVEY

From

Write five GOOD questions about population in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

POPULATION DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

a)   What did you think when you read the headline?

b)   What springs to mind when you hear the word 'immigration'?

c)   What do you think of Europe's population rising to half a billion?

d)   What problems does overpopulation bring?

e)   What changes have there been to the population in your country?

f)   Is immigration a good or a bad thing?

g)   Would you like to move to another country?

h)   What problems do migrants have?

i)   Is it better to have a cosmopolitan population?

j)   Should all EU countries have an equal share of immigration rises?

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POPULATION DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

a)   Did you like reading this article?

b)   Why are European governments worrying?

c)   How do governments cope with increasing numbers?

d)   What kind of environmental damage does immigration cause?

e)   Do you think levels of migration will reach boiling point one day?

f)   What problems will immigration cause in the future?

g)   Are you in favour of immigration?

h)   Do former colonial countries have an obligation to allow people from former colonies to move to their country?

i)   What are the arguments in favour of immigration?

j)   What questions would you like to ask a migrant moving to Europe?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

Europe's population has passed the half-a-billion (1) _____ for the first time ever. Europe's statistics database agency Eurostat put the official figure at 501.1 million people (2) _____ the 27-nation European Union. This was a rise of 1.4 million people between January 1 2009 and January 1 2010. The bulk (3) _____ the increase was due (4) _____ immigration, with 900,000 immigrants moving to EU countries. Eurostat said that the five countries with the biggest increases in population were Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, Cyprus and Sweden. Germany's population (5) _____ by 203,000. Over five million children were born in 2009 across the EU. The highest birth rates were in Ireland, Britain and France, and the lowest were in Germany and Austria. Europe is still (6) _____ behind China, which has a population of 1.4 billion.

Increases in population are (7) _____ many European governments to worry about how to cope with the increasing numbers. More people put a great (8) _____ on a country's resources. It can also lead to environmental damage and competition for jobs, houses and public services. The United Nations Population Fund says population growth will also cause (9) _____ due to reduced living space and increased demand for food and water, fuel and transport. Many countries in Europe are experiencing (10) _____ from people who are opposed (11) _____ immigration. Sir Andrew Green of the UK's Migration Watch think tank said: "There are always arguments in favour of immigration…but the majority of people are clear that immigration needs to be (12) _____ down."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

1.	(a)	meek	(b)	make	(c)	maker	(d)	mark
2.	(a)	beyond	(b)	across	(c)	over	(d)	round
3.	(a)	of	(b)	from	(c)	to	(d)	at
4.	(a)	by	(b)	of	(c)	to	(d)	as
5.	(a)	drop	(b)	off	(c)	fell	(d)	down
6.	(a)	for	(b)	far	(c)	fir	(d)	fur
7.	(a)	leading	(b)	loading	(c)	leasing	(d)	leafing
8.	(a)	grain	(b)	brain	(c)	train	(d)	strain
9.	(a)	tense	(b)	tension	(c)	tensed	(d)	tenses
10.	(a)	mad	(b)	upset	(c)	furious	(d)	anger
11.	(a)	by	(b)	at	(c)	to	(d)	of
12.	(a)	brought	(b)	bought	(c)	bringing	(d)	brings

WRITING

Write about **population** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

_____

_____

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HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about population. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. POPULATION: Make a poster about population and immigration. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. BENEFITS: Write a magazine article about the benefits of immigration Include imaginary interviews with successful immigrants.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to Sir Andrew Green. Ask him three questions about immigration. Give him three of your opinions about it. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F   b. T   c. F   d. T   e. F   f. T   g. T   h. F

SYNONYM MATCH:

1.	passed	a.	gone over
2	figure	b.	number
3.	bulk	c.	majority
4.	fell	d.	dropped
5.	far	e.	a long way
6.	cope	f.	manage
7.	strain	g.	pressure
8.	anger	h.	fury
9.	in favour of	i.	for
10.	clear	j.	obvious

PHRASE MATCH:

1.	passed the half-a-billion mark	a.	for the first time
2	The bulk	b.	of the increase
3.	countries with the biggest	c.	increases in population
4.	The highest birth	d.	rates were in Ireland
5.	Europe is still far	e.	behind China
6.	worry about how	f.	to cope
7.	put a great strain	g.	on a country's resources
8.	cause tension due to	h.	reduced living space
9.	people who are opposed	i.	to immigration
10.	immigration needs to	j.	be brought down

GAP FILL:

Europe's population now half a billion

Europe's population has **passed** the half-a-billion mark for the first time ever. Europe's **statistics** database agency Eurostat put the official figure at 501.1 million people across the 27-nation European Union. This was a **rise** of 1.4 million people between January 1 2009 and January 1 2010. The bulk of the increase was due to immigration, with 900,000 immigrants **moving** to EU countries. Eurostat said that the five countries with the biggest **increases** in population were Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, Cyprus and Sweden. Germany's population **fell** by 203,000. Over five million children were born in 2009 across the EU. The **highest** birth rates were in Ireland, Britain and France, and the lowest were in Germany and Austria. Europe is still **far** behind China, which has a population of 1.4 billion.

Increases in population are **leading** many European governments to worry about how to **cope** with the increasing numbers. More people put a great strain on a country's resources. It can also **lead** to environmental damage and competition for jobs, houses and public services. The United Nations Population Fund says population growth will also cause tension **due** to reduced living space and increased **demand** for food and water, fuel and transport. Many countries in Europe are experiencing anger from people who are **opposed** to immigration. Sir Andrew Green of the UK's Migration Watch think tank said: "There are always arguments in **favour** of immigration…but the majority of people are clear that immigration needs to be **brought** down."

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d   2 - a   3 - b   4 - c   5 - c   6 - b   7 - d   8 - a   9 - b   10 - d   11 - c   12 - a