



PART I: EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

In this part of the lesson, we will focus on an extract from a brochure prepared by the European Commission¹.

IA. PRE-READING TASK

Before reading the text, work with a partner to compare the EU to other national and international entities like the USA and the UN:

Similarities	Differences
 USA	
 U.N.	

IB. SKIMMING

Now read the text and compare it to your answers.

The European Union (EU) is a family of democratic European countries working together to improve life for their citizens and to build a better world.

Family squabbles and occasional crises are what make the news headlines, but away from the cameras the EU is actually a remarkable success story. In just over half a century it has delivered peace and prosperity in Europe, a single European currency (the euro) and a frontier-free 'single market' where goods, people, services and capital move around freely. It has become a major trading power, and a world leader in fields such as environmental protection and development aid. No wonder it has grown from six to 27 members and more countries want to join. ...

The European Union (EU) is unique. It is not a federal state like the United States of America because its member countries remain independent sovereign nations. Nor is it a purely intergovernmental organisation like the United Nations because the member countries do pool some of their sovereignty – and thus gain much greater collective strength and influence than they could have acting individually.

They pool their sovereignty by taking joint decisions through shared institutions such as the European Parliament, which is elected by the EU citizens, and the Council, which represents national government. They decide on the basis of proposals from the European Commission, which represent the interests of the EU as a whole.

¹ The full document is available from http://ec.europa.eu/publications/booklets/eu_glance/68/index_en.htm

IC. SCANNING FOR INFORMATION

Read the third paragraph again and state whether the following statements are **true** or **false**:

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. There is no other national or international entity like the EU. | True <input type="radio"/> | False <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. The EU is made up of free nations. | True <input type="radio"/> | False <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. The member states of the EU are fully sovereign. | True <input type="radio"/> | False <input type="radio"/> |

Read the last paragraph again and answer the following questions:

4. Who does the European Parliament represent?
5. Who does the Council represent?
6. Who does the Commission Represent?

ID. FOCUS ON DISCOURSE FEATURES

Since the text was written by the European Commission, it understandably takes a positive position towards European integration. Underline the language in the text that shows the writers' positive attitude.

IE. VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

What do the following words mean?

- currency _____
- capital _____
- prosperity _____
- federal _____
- sovereign / sovereignty _____

IF. VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Match the following words to form phrases:

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| trading | strength |
| world | power |
| joint | decisions |
| collective | leader |

PART II: EURO-SCEPTICISM

IIA. PRE-LISTENING

Some European citizens, both in the far right and the far left have voiced criticism of the European Union. What do you think their concerns are?

Left	Right

IIB. LISTENING FOR GIST

In the video² that you will view, Nigel Farage, a member of the European Parliament and president of the Europe for Freedom and Democracy Party, will raise some objections to the way that the EU works. What does he have to say about...

... Poland's integration in the EU?

...Greece?

...the way EU should work?

IIC. INTENSIVE LISTENING:

The following transcript has been generated using Google's auto transcription software. The software is still in Beta (i.e. testing mode) so it often produces inaccurate translations. Listen carefully to the text from 0:45 to 1:36 and correct the transcript.

And public opinion is saying, ~~well space walks~~ **whilst they want** a European co-operation, yes of course I agree with that, what they don't want is this Europe, rom by our elected bureaucrats, like Mr. Barroso. You say the ear was fantastic, in a recent comment; you're supporting the destruction of national democracy.

But it's with reference to grace that I'm most concerned about you, because when faced with every cynon statement, you said "we lived for many years as a non-sovereign country, under Soviet occupation. For us European integration is not a threat to sovereignty, because we experienced, not long ago, stationary a threat to also printed". So what are you saying? That this isn't quite as bad as the USSR? Is that really good enough to your people?

IID. JUST FOR FUN

You may also want to hear Mr. Farage's view on the European president, Mr. Van Rompuy. You can find it here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqovTGjYjM4>.

² The full video is available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoAtCs7wXHY>

II.E. DISCUSSION

Working in small groups, discuss Mr Farage's suggestions. Use the space provided below for taking notes.

Views on...	We feel that ...	Because...
Poland		
Greece		
European future		

Now report your views to the rest of us. Make a note of how your classmates feel using the following scale:

4=Strongly Agree, 3=Agree, 2=Disagree, 1=Strongly Disagree, 0=No opinion

Group	Poland	Greece	European future
	4 3 2 1 0	4 3 2 1 0	4 3 2 1 0
	4 3 2 1 0	4 3 2 1 0	4 3 2 1 0
	4 3 2 1 0	4 3 2 1 0	4 3 2 1 0
	4 3 2 1 0	4 3 2 1 0	4 3 2 1 0

II.F. WRITING

Re-read the first paragraph of the text on page 1. Which parts of the paragraph would a euro-sceptic be most likely to object to? How would they describe the European Union? Hint: their arguments would depend on whether their criticism stems from the left or the right.

Choose one of the following writing tasks (approx. 200 words):

1. Using the text on page 1 as a loose model, write a description of the EU from a critical perspective.
2. Write a report on Mr. Farage's statement at the European parliament, adding your own opinion. You may choose to agree or disagree with what he said.
3. Using the table above, summarise the way you and your classmates feel about the issues that Nigel Farage raised.