



Learn English Through Stories.

U Series

U39

**Adapted and modified by
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Contents

Vocabulary.

Fifteen tests.

A. Write a word from the box in each gap.

obsolete • overdue • provisional • punctual • seasonal • simultaneous
• temporary • timely

1. 'I'll only be working here for a couple of weeks. I'm a.....worker.'
2. 'It couldn't have happened at a better time! What a.....arrival!'
3. 'It depends on the time of year. It's a.....problem.'
4. 'I get to work at nine o'clock on the dot every day. I try to be..... '
5. 'We both said it at exactly the same time. Our answer was..... '
6. 'We can't use that software on our new computers. It's..... !'
7. 'It's the first draft of the text. We can change it later if we want. It's only.....'
8. 'They should have sent that to us ages ago. It's long.....'

B. Write a word from the box in each gap.

century • era • frequency • millennium • phase • span • spell • stint

1. We live in a/an.....of mass communication.
2. After a short..... of being unemployed, I decided to set up my own business.
3. It was in the twentieth..... that humans first developed nuclear weapons.
4. Despite advances in technology, no human being will ever live for a..... in my opinion.
5. The council is planning to increase the..... of buses to the city centre.
6. I did a brief..... in the navy, and then decided it wasn't for me.
7. I've got a very short concentration.....
8. It's just a..... that most teenagers go through. Don't worry!

C. Choose the correct word.

Dear Alan,

I am writing to thank the organisation for the (1) service I received when my membership (2)..... . As you may know, I am a (3).....member of the Chaversham (4)..... Car Club having spent most of (5).....working with cars built in the (6).....following the First World War.

Indeed, I was under the impression that I did not have to renew my subscription each year as I had been granted the status of '(7)..... member' for the (8)..... I spent as Chairperson of the organisation in the 1970s. I was therefore more than a little surprised to receive a rather (9)..... e-mail from the club saying that as three months had (10)since my membership run out. I was no longer eligible to attend the (11)..... dinner next month. I, of course, immediately replied, stating the facts as I saw them.

I received a (12)..... e-mail from the same person, apologising for the confusion, explaining that although I did not have to pay to renew my subscription. I still had to renew it. They kindly explained how I could do this online, and I must say I was most impressed with the whole thing, as the change from my being a non-member to being a member again was literally (13).....

I am now looking forward to meeting up with some of my (14).....at the dinner next week. I hope to see you there.

Warmest regards,

Robert Thompson.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 A prior | B prompt | 8 A period | B interval |
| 2 A postponed | B expired | 9 A interim | B abrupt |
| 3 A long-standing | B timely | 10 A lapsed | B elapsed |
| 4 A Vintage | B Antique | 11 A annual | B eternal |
| 5 A spell | B lifetime | 12 A subsequent | B temporary |
| 6 A duration | B decade | 13 A simultaneous | B instantaneous |
| 7 A chronological | B permanent | 14 A anachronisms | B contemporaries |

D. Write a word from the boxes in each gap.

1. Would you like to work for a large..... corporation?

2. How much budget is there for the..... campaign?

marketing • multinational

3. Charlene is a freelance business.....; companies hire her to solve particular problems they are facing.

4. My dad's a senior..... in a huge American corporation.

consultant • executive

5. The advertising campaign was..... in that it increased sales by over 50%.

6. Robots are often much more.....than people because they can work 24 hours a day without getting tired, and they don't make mistakes!

effective • efficient

7. The paper had to make several journalists..... last week due to loss of sales.

8. Darren's home on..... from the army at the moment.

leave • redundant

9. How long is the union planning to..... for?

10. They wouldn't.....someone just for stealing a bit of stationery, would they?

fire • strike

11. Sue used to work here, but then she wasby a major law firm.

12. I can't believe they..... Jack just for taking a few paperclips home with him.

headhunted • sacked

E. Circle the correct word.

If you're about to graduate but are unsure what to do next, why not consider a career in the (1) **state / civil** service?

Working in the public (2) **area / sector** provides job security and job satisfaction. There are excellent (3) **prospects / predictions** for (4) **promotion / progress**, and you'll know you're doing something to benefit society. You'll be working with highly experienced and professional (5) **colleagues / clients** in a modern, friendly working environment, and you'll receive a competitive salary too. We also respect our staff's right to be part of a (6) **club / union**.

We want to (7) **recruit / elect** the brightest and the best. If you think you fit the bill, fill in an application form today.

F. Choose the correct word.

1. I'm so.....under with work at the moment - it's awful!

A iced B rained C snowed D fogged

2. The company's announced it's..... off over 1,000 workers.

A leaving B laying C setting D giving

3. They're planning todown their operation in Greece and concentrate on Eastern Europe.

A wind B tie C roll D stretch

4. I'm not sure if I'm doing it right, but I'll try to.....ahead with it anyway.

A drive B bang C touch D press

5. Something's..... up, so I'm afraid I won't be able to make it this afternoon.

A shown B pulled C cropped D cut

6. Could you lend me some money to.....me over to the end of the month?

A hand B tide C get D make

7. I didn't.....out to be a millionaire -I just wanted to run a successful business.

A set B go C begin D watch

8. Mona's going to leave early this afternoon but she says she'll..... up the hours tomorrow.

A find B make C catch D bring

G. Write a phrasal verb from the box in the correct form in each gap.

dive in • end up • kick off • knock off • knuckle down • lie ahead
• take on • while away

1. If the business does well, I'll hopefully be able to.....a part-time assistant in the spring.
2. We..... having to scrap the whole advertising campaign and start again.
3. Let's..... this session by introducing ourselves, shall we?
4. Josh can.....a whole day playing online computer games with his mates.
5. No teenager really knows what.....for them career-wise in the future.
6. That's enough TV! It's time to.....and get on with your homework now.
7. I usually.....work at about half five so I'm home by six thirty most nights.
8. As soon as the food was brought out, everyone..... and helped themselves.

H. Phrasal verbs with away, such as while away, are often connected to the idea of an action continuing for a long time. Which of these phrasal verbs with away are also connected to this idea?

1. Mary was beavering away at her desk when I last popped in to see her.
2. Let's break away from the main crowd and go over there for a while.
3. You can't explain it away as a simple mistake. You did it on purpose!
4. I think I'll give these old clothes away. Do you know any charity shops around here?
5. My fingers are tired! I've been hammering away at this keyboard for hours.
6. I'm sorry to tell you that your great-grandfather passed away during the night.
7. Keep plodding away and you'll finish your novel eventually.
8. Can we have a break? We've been slaving away all morning.
9. We can hear Carol typing away at her keyboard from the living room.
10. Don't disturb your father. He's working away on some designs at the moment.

I. Write one word in each gap.

1. The President's just been elected to a second term..... office.
2. I don't know how anyone can sit in front of a computer for hoursend.
3. My great-grandmother used to work.....a servant in a huge mansion.
4. My exam results should come.....day now.
5. Applicants must be at least 18 years..... age.
6. You'd better start working a bit harder or you'll be..... of a job!
7. Never mind..... you get paid for it or not, you can't work this weekend. We're going to a wedding!
8. the time Jeremy got there, we'd already left.

J. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

1. The government needs to stop this ridiculous bureaucratic system. **put**

The government needs tothis ridiculous bureaucratic system.

2. No one except Jake has ever beaten me at a game of chess. **only**

Jakebeat me at a game of chess.

3. It's time we began to sort through these cupboards. **start**

It's time we..... through these cupboards.

4. Julie asked for a second's thinking time before she answered. **just**

'Could..... think before I answer?' asked Julie.

5. I can't really remember the last time I had a day off. **ages**

It feels..... I had a day off.

6. Sorry, Alan, but right now I'm rather busy. **in**

Sorry, Alan, but at.....I'm rather busy.

7. They painted the wall very well. **made**

They..... the wall.

K. For each question, write one word which can be used in all three sentences.

1. Jenny,.....you've been here for three years, we need to start thinking about your promotion.

I'm sure Harold was here just..... , wasn't he?

You can share my computer for..... , but they'll have to get you your own quite soon.

2. Thanks so much for the flowers — they really made my.....

My grandparents love going on..... trips to towns by the sea.

You'd think that, in this..... and age, a 25 year old would know what a blog is.

3. I was just.....to go home, but that's okay.

It's.....time you got home — we've been worried sick!

We're definitely going to have to do something.....increasing our market share.

4. I should get a reply from them any.....now.

It'll only take them a.....to update the website.

Now is the..... of truth!

5. We're definitely living in the..... of information.

This particular wine doesn't really mature with.....

It's time you started acting your....., young man!

6. It's just a typical 1960s..... block.

The media start prying into your private life when you run for public.....

You'd better talk to Derek at head

7. I began to realise in the..... of the meeting that my proposal was not going to be accepted.

We're going to have to decide on a.....of action to take.

All they said was that they'd contact me in due.....

8. I do hope we're going to arrive..... time.

How anyone could work in that office for years..... end I just don't know.

Jim bet me that Doug was going to get the sack so I immediately said:

'You're..... !'

L. Each of the words in bold is incorrect. Rewrite them correctly.

1. I haven't seen Carol in **monkey's** years. I wonder what she's doing these days.
2. When I started work here, we didn't have e-mail or even fax machines. That was long before your **moment**.
3. I was talking to Sandra in the Personnel Department the **recent** day and she didn't mention redundancies.
4. I nearly sent that e-mail to Dave by mistake, but luckily I realised in the **bill** of time.
5. Tina's happy with her job for the time **coming**, but I expect she'll start looking for a new one in a year or so.
6. The boss might take you out for a meal once in a blue **planet**, but don't expect it to happen any time soon!
7. Sheila says she's given up smoking **with** good and that she'll never have another cigarette as long as she lives.
8. I get to go on business trips from **once** to time, but it's certainly not a regular occurrence.
9. I invited Graham to dinner on the **edge** of the moment. I'm sorry I didn't ask you first.
10. Let me know if you need help and I'll be there at the drop of a **pen**!
11. 'Have you finished the reports yet?' 'Not yet. All in **nice** time!'
12. The photocopier still worked, but I thought it needed a service. You know what they say: 'a **repair** in time saves nine' and all that!

M. Each of the words in bold is in an incorrect form. Rewrite them correctly.

1. The salary they offered me exceeded my wildest **expecting**!
2. I hope I **last** his previous secretary — she only worked here for a week!
3. Once you've been self-employed for a while, it's very difficult to become just another company **employer** again.
4. Hargreaves & Son are one of our main **competitions**.
5. There were over 100 **appliers** for the position, apparently.
6. Your supervisor will be checking up on you **period**.
7. If this project's successful, the possibilities for expansion are **unending**.
8. A good business suit is **timely** — it never goes out of fashion.
9. The building looks a bit **future** from the outside but it's quite traditional inside.
10. You have to be prepared for every **event** in this line of work.
11. Getting angry with your boss is **productive** because it'll just make a bad situation worse.

N. The prefix counter-, as in counterproductive, is sometimes used with nouns, adjectives and verbs to suggest the idea of 'opposite'. Write each of these words with counter- in the correct gap.

counteract • counterattack • counterbalance • counterculture
counterintelligence • countermeasures • counteroffensive • counterpart

1. As a spy during the war, I was often involved in..... from discovering our secrets.
2. The government will have to take some..... to stop inflation from increasing.
3. The reports by independent journalists will hopefully..... the government's inaccurate propaganda.
4. The army's planning to mount a..... later today.
5. You'll have to speak to my..... in the New York office.
6. We have to..... this rise in crime by toughening up the sentencing laws.

7. I'm not interested in mainstream art; I'm far more concerned with art produced in the.....

8. If he accuses me of lying, I'm going to.....by saying I know he lied about the sales figures last month.

O. Use the words given below to form a word that fits in the gaps.

- 1. INCIDENT 2. MOMENT 3. ANTIQUE 4. COMPETE 5. PRODUCE**
6. WORK 7. MANAGE 8. EMPLOY 9. JOB 10. TIME 11. HISTORY

Margaret Thatcher

Few British politicians have aroused more passion than Margaret Thatcher, who was Prime Minister from 1979 until 1990. It is not (1)..... that, during her premiership, Britain went through a period of (2)..... change. Those who support Thatcher's policies say she was responsible for changing Britain's (3).....union laws and smashing union power, paving the way for the creation of a modern, (4).....economy which required much higher (5)..... , efficiency and wage-restraint on the part of the (6)than in the past. One of her core beliefs was that it was (7)..... which was responsible for running companies, rather than unions or the government. Critics of Margaret Thatcher point to the very high (8)..... figures of the 1980s - the official (9)..... total had risen from just over one million people out of work in 1979 to over three million by 1982.

When Margaret Thatcher realised that she had lost the support of many of her MPs in November 1990 and stood down as Prime Minister, the nation was split. Some saw her resignation as (10)....., and wished she would continue. Others felt it could not have come too soon. Even today, (11)..... and economists are divided as to whether her legacy was positive or negative overall.

Answers

A. Write a word from the box in each gap.

1. I'll only be working here for a couple of weeks. I'm a **temporary** worker.'
2. 'It couldn't have happened at a better time! What a **timely** arrival!'
3. 'It depends on the time of year. It's a **seasonal** problem.'
4. 'I get to work at nine o'clock on the dot every day. I try to be **punctual**.'
5. 'We both said it at exactly the same time. Our answer was **simultaneous**.'
6. 'We can't use that software on our new computers. It's **obsolete**!'
7. 'It's the first draft of the text. We can change it later if we want. It's only **provisional**.'
8. 'They should have sent that to us ages ago. It's long **overdue**.'

B. Write a word from the box in each gap.

1. We live in an **era** of mass communication.
2. After a short **spell** of being unemployed, I decided to set up my own business.
3. It was in the twentieth **century** that humans first developed nuclear weapons.
4. Despite advances in technology, no human being will ever live for a **millennium** in my opinion.
5. The council is planning to increase the **frequency** of buses to the city centre.
6. I did a brief **stint** in the navy, and then decided it wasn't for me.
Or: I did a brief **spell** in the navy, and then decided it wasn't for me.
7. I've got a very short concentration **span**.
8. It's just a **phase** that most teenagers go through. Don't worry!

C. Choose the correct word.

Dear Alan,

I am writing to thank the organisation for the **prompt** service I received when my membership **expired**. As you may know, I am a **long-standing** member of the Chaversham **vintage** Car Club having spent most of **lifetime** working with cars built in the **decade** following the First World War.

Indeed, I was under the impression that I did not have to renew my subscription each year as I had been granted the status of ' **permanent** member' for the **period** I spent as Chairperson of the organisation in the 1970s. I was therefore more than a little surprised to receive a rather **abrupt** e-mail from the club saying that as three months had **elapsed** since my membership run out. I was no longer eligible to attend the **annual** dinner next month. I, of course, immediately replied, stating the facts as I saw them.

I received a **subsequent** e-mail from the same person, apologising for the confusion, explaining that although I did not have to pay to renew my subscription. I still had to renew it. They kindly explained how I could do this online, and I must say I was most impressed with the whole thing, as the change from my being a non-member to being a member again was literally **instantaneous**.

I am now looking forward to meeting up with some of my **contemporaries** at the dinner next week. I hope to see you there.

Warmest regards,

Robert Thompson.

D. Write a word from the boxes in each gap.

1. Would you like to work for a large **multinational** corporation?
2. How much budget is there for the **marketing** campaign?
3. Charlene is a freelance business **consultant**; companies hire her to solve particular problems they are facing.
4. My dad's a senior **executive** in a huge American corporation.
5. The advertising campaign was **effective** in that it increased sales by over 50%.

6. Robots are often much more **efficient** than people because they can work.
7. The paper had to make several journalists **redundant** last week due to loss of sales.
8. Darren's home on **leave** from the army at the moment.
9. How long is the union planning to **strike** for?
10. They wouldn't **fire** someone just for stealing a bit of stationery, would they?
11. Sue used to work here, but then she was **headhunted** by a major law firm.
12. I can't believe they **sacked** Jack just for taking a few paperclips home with him.

E. Circle the correct word.

If you're about to graduate but are unsure what to do next, why not consider a career in the **civil** service?

Working in the public **sector** provides job security and job satisfaction. There are excellent **prospects** for **promotion**, and you'll know you're doing something to benefit society. You'll be working with highly experienced and professional **colleagues** in a modern, friendly working environment, and you'll receive a competitive salary too. We also respect our staff's right to be part of a **union**.

We want to **recruit** the brightest and the best. If you think you fit the bill, fill in an application form today.

F. Choose the correct word.

1. I'm so **snowed under** with work at the moment - it's awful!
2. The company's announced it's **laying off** over 1,000 workers.
3. They're planning to **wind down** their operation in Greece and concentrate on Eastern Europe.
4. I'm not sure if I'm doing it right, but I'll try to **press ahead** with it anyway.

5. Something's **cropped up**, so I'm afraid I won't be able to make it this afternoon.
6. Could you lend me some money to **tide me over** to the end of the month?
7. I didn't **set out** to be a millionaire - I just wanted to run a successful business.
8. Mona's going to leave early this afternoon but she says she'll **make up** the hours tomorrow.

G. Write a phrasal verb from the box in the correct form in each gap.

1. If the business does well, I'll hopefully be able to **take on** a part-time assistant in the spring.
2. We **ended up** having to scrap the whole advertising campaign and start again.
3. Let's **kick off** this session by introducing ourselves, shall we?
4. Josh can **while away** a whole day playing online computer games with his mates.
5. No teenager really knows what **lies ahead** for them career-wise in the future.
6. That's enough TV! It's time to **knuckle down** and get on with your homework now.
7. I usually **knock off** work at about half five so I'm home by six thirty most nights.
8. As soon as the food was brought out, everyone **dived in** and helped themselves.

H. Phrasal verbs with away, such as while away, are often connected to the idea of an action continuing for a long time. Which of these phrasal verbs with away are also connected to this idea?

1. Mary was beavering away at her desk when I last popped in to see her.
5. My fingers are tired! I've been hammering away at this keyboard for hours.
7. Keep plodding away and you'll finish your novel eventually.

8. Can we have a break? We've been slaving away all morning.
9. We can hear Carol typing away at her keyboard from the living room.
10. Don't disturb your father. He's working away on some designs at the moment.

I. Write one word in each gap.

1. The President's just been elected to a second term **in** office.

Or: The President's just been elected to a second term **of** office.

2. I don't know how anyone can sit in front of a computer for hours **on** end.

3. My great-grandmother used to work **as** a servant in a huge mansion.

4. My exam results should come **any** day now.

5. Applicants must be at least 18 years **of** age.

6. You'd better start working a bit harder or you'll be **out** of a job!

7. Never mind **whether** you get paid for it or not, you can't work this weekend.
We're going to a wedding!

Or: 7. Never mind **if** you get paid for it or not, you can't work this weekend.
We're going to a wedding!

8. **By** the time Jeremy got there, we'd already left.

J. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

1. The government needs to stop this ridiculous bureaucratic system.

The government needs to **put an end to** this ridiculous bureaucratic system.

Or: The government needs to **put a stop to** this ridiculous bureaucratic system.

2. No one except Jake has ever beaten me at a game of chess.

Jake **is the only person ever to** beat me at a game of chess.

Or: Jake **is only one ever to** beat me at a game of chess.

3. It's time we began to sort through these cupboards.

It's time we **made a start sorting** through these cupboards.

Or: It's time we **made a start at sorting** through these cupboards.

Or: It's time we **made a start on sorting** through these cupboards.

4. Julie asked for a second's thinking time before she answered.

'Could I **just take a second to** think before I answer?' asked Julie.

Or: 'Could **you just me a second to** think before I answer?' asked Julie.

5. I can't really remember the last time I had a day off.

It feels **like ages since** I had a day off.

Or: It feels **like it's been ages since** I had a day off.

Or: It feels **like it was ages ago when** I had a day off.

6. Sorry, Alan, but right now I'm rather busy.

Sorry, Alan, but at **this moment in time** I'm rather busy.

7. They painted the wall very well. **made**

They **made a good job of painting** the wall.

K. For each question, write one word which can be used in all three sentences.

1. Jenny, **now** you've been here for three years, we need to start thinking about your promotion.

I'm sure Harold was here just **now**, wasn't he?

You can share my computer for **now**, but they'll have to get you your own quite soon.

2. Thanks so much for the flowers — they really made my **day**.

My grandparents love going on **day** trips to towns by the sea.

You'd think that, in this **day** and age, a 25 year old would know what a blog is.

3. I was just **about** to go home, but that's okay.

It's **about** time you got home — we've been worried sick!

We're definitely going to have to do something **about** increasing our market share.

4. I should get a reply from them any **moment** now.

It'll only take them a **moment** to update the website.

Now is the **moment** of truth!

5. We're definitely living in the **age** of information.

This particular wine doesn't really mature with **age**.

It's time you started acting your **age**, young man!

6. It's just a typical 1960s **office** block.

The media start prying into your private life when you run for public **office**.

You'd better talk to Derek at head **office**.

7. I began to realise in the **course** of the meeting that my proposal was not going to be accepted.

We're going to have to decide on a **course** of action to take.

All they said was that they'd contact me in due **course**.

8. I do hope we're going to arrive **on** time.

How anyone could work in that office for years **on** end I just don't know.

Jim bet me that Doug was going to get the sack so I immediately said: 'You're **on!**'

L. Each of the words in bold is incorrect. Rewrite them correctly.

1. I haven't seen Carol in **donkey's** years. I wonder what she's doing these days.

2. When I started work here, we didn't have e-mail or even fax machines. That was long before your **time**.

3. I was talking to Sandra in the Personnel Department the **other** day and she didn't mention redundancies.

4. I nearly sent that e-mail to Dave by mistake, but luckily I realised in the **nick** of time.

5. Tina's happy with her job for the time **being**, but I expect she'll start looking for a new one in a year or so.

6. The boss might take you out for a meal once in a blue **moon**, but don't expect it to happen any time soon!

7. Sheila says she's given up smoking **for** good and that she'll never have another cigarette as long as she lives.

8. I get to go on business trips from **time** to time, but it's certainly not a regular occurrence.

9. I invited Graham to dinner on the **spur** of the moment. I'm sorry I didn't ask you first.

10. Let me know if you need help and I'll be there at the drop of a **hat!**

11. 'Have you finished the reports yet?' 'Not yet. All in **good** time!'

12. The photocopier still worked, but I thought it needed a service. You know what they say: 'a **stitch** in time saves nine' and all that!

M. Each of the words in bold is in an incorrect form. Rewrite them correctly.

1. The salary they offered me exceeded my wildest **expectations**!
 2. I hope I **outlast** his previous secretary — she only worked here for a week!
 3. Once you've been self-employed for a while, it's very difficult to become just another company **employee** again.
 4. Hargreaves & Son are one of our main **competitors**.
 5. There were over 100 **applicants** for the position, apparently.
 6. Your supervisor will be checking up on you **periodically**.
 7. If this project's successful, the possibilities for expansion are **endless**.
 8. A good business suit is **timeless** — it never goes out of fashion.
 9. The building looks a bit **futuristic** from the outside but it's quite traditional inside.
 10. You have to be prepared for every **eventuality** in this line of work.
 11. Getting angry with your boss is **counterproductive** because it'll just make a bad situation worse.
- Or: 11. Getting angry with your boss is **unproductive** because it'll just make a bad situation worse.

N. The prefix counter-, as in counterproductive, is sometimes used with nouns, adjectives and verbs to suggest the idea of 'opposite'. Write each of these words with counter- in the correct gap.

1. As a spy during the war, I was often involved in **counterintelligence** from discovering our secrets.
 2. The government will have to take some **countermeasure** to stop inflation from increasing.
 3. The reports by independent journalists will hopefully **counterbalance** the government's inaccurate propaganda.
- Or: The reports by independent journalists will hopefully **counteract** the government's inaccurate propaganda.
4. The army's planning to mount a **counterattack** later today.

- Or: The army's planning to mount a **counteroffensive** later today.
5. You'll have to speak to my **counterpart** in the New York office.
 6. We have to **counteract** this rise in crime by toughening up the sentencing laws.
 7. I'm not interested in mainstream art; I'm far more concerned with art produced in the **counterculture**.
 8. If he accuses me of lying, I'm going to **counterattack** by saying I know he lied about the sales figures last month.

O. Use the words given below to form a word that fits in the gaps.

Margaret Thatcher

Few British politicians have aroused more passion than Margaret Thatcher, who was Prime Minister from 1979 until 1990. It is not a **coincidence** that, during her premiership, Britain went through a period of **momentous** change. Those who support Thatcher's policies say she was responsible for changing Britain's **antiquated** union laws and smashing union power, paving the way for the creation of a modern, **competitive** economy which required much higher **productivity**, efficiency and wage-restraint on the part of the **management** than in the past. One of her core beliefs was that it was **workers** which was responsible for running companies, rather than unions or the government. Critics of Margaret Thatcher point to the very high **unemployment** figures of the 1980s — the official **jobless** total had risen from just over one million people out of work in 1979 to over three million by 1982.

When Margaret Thatcher realised that she had lost the support of many of her MPs in November 1990 and stood down as Prime Minister, the nation was split. Some saw her resignation as **untimely**, and wished she would continue. Others felt it could not have come too soon. Even today, **historians** and economists are divided as to whether her legacy was positive or negative overall.