

The European Union – Word List

- **access** = to be able to use something that others have
- **agreement** = two or more people or countries want to do something together
- **aim** = purpose of something, what it is intended to do
- **approve** = to agree on something or to say yes to a suggestion
- **argument** = opinion you have against something
- **banknotes** = paper money
- **Benelux** = Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg
- **block** = stop from happening
- **body** = organ, institution
- **border** = line that separates two countries
- **challenge** = a problem that comes up and is difficult to solve
- **citizen** = a person who lives in a country and has rights there
- **coin** = piece of metal that is used as money
- **collapse** = fall apart
- **combine** = put together to make one
- **community** = group of countries with the same interests
- **compare** = to see how two things are the same or different
- **comply** = to do what you are expected to do
- **constitution** = set of rules that a group of countries have
- **consumer** = person who buys products
- **cooperate** = to work together
- **currency** = the money that a country has
- **currently** = right now, at the moment
- **damage** = destruction
- **decade** = a period of ten years
- **design competition** = many artists took part in creating a design for the banknotes
- **designed** = here: planned
- **destination** = place you go to
- **devastating** = something that is very bad and destroys everything
- **develop** = grow
- **divided** = split or separate into two or more parts
- **economic** = everything that has to do with business and money in a country
- **economy** = system by which a countries goods and services are produced
- **elect** = to vote for someone to be in an official position
- **employment** = the people who are at work in a country
- **enlargement** = when more and more countries join
- **environment** = nature and the world around us
- **establish** = begin, create
- **EU charter** = the set of rules that the EU has
- **exchange rate** = the money you get when you to change it into another country's currency
- **executive branch** = the organisation that has the power to make decisions
- **expand** = to become larger
- **extension** = an extra period of time
- **foreign** = from another country
- **form of payment** = way of paying for things
- **found - founded** = to start something new; create
- **general election** = when all the people of a country vote for members of parliament and a government
- **goods** = products
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **grant** = to give someone something they have asked for
- **harbour** = place where ships load and unload their goods
- **head of state** = the highest official or politician of a country; the president of a country

- **headquarters** = the main building of a company or organisation
- **hub** = place which others are connected to
- **human rights** = the basic rights that everyone should have
- **immigrant** = person who moves to another country in order to live and work there
- **implement** = carry out
- **improve** = to make better
- **in contrast to** = different from
- **increase** = to become more or bigger
- **independence** = being free
- **independent** = free
- **inflation** = when prices always go up and make life more expensive
- **influence** = power, control
- **Iron Curtain** = name that was used after World War II for the border between the Communist countries of eastern Europe and the free countries of western Europe
- **join** = to become a member
- **laws** = the rules that a country or a group of countries have
- **located** = where something can be found
- **majority** = more than half
- **matters** = topics, issues
- **membership** = being a member
- **millennium** = a thousand-year period
- **movement** = travel, transport
- **NATO = North Atlantic Treaty Organisation** = military organisation that aims to protect Europe and North America
- **negotiate** = to discuss something in order to reach an agreement
- **nuclear energy** = the power that is created by splitting atoms
- **oppress** = to treat a group of people badly or in an unfair way
- **overcome** = to solve a problem
- **pass** = here: go through with
- **peaceful use** = not to use something as a weapon in a war
- **physical border** = a border that is real and that can be seen
- **prevent** = stop from happening
- **receive** = get
- **recession** = difficult time when there is less trade and people buy fewer products
- **recognise** = here : to officially accept another country's existence
- **referendum** = when people are asked to vote on an important issue or topic
- **reject** = to say no
- **remain** = stay
- **representative** = someone who has been chosen to speak or make decisions for a country
- **responsible** = in charge of
- **secure** = keep
- **seek** = try to achieve
- **serve** = to have a special function
- **single** = only one
- **single currency** = one form of money for all member states
- **single market** = an agreement between a group of countries not to charge tax between for products and services traded between them;
- **slight** = very small
- **specific** = special, only one of its kind
- **stable** = safe, calm, quiet
- **status** = position
- **success** = if something turns out to be very good for you
- **support** = help
- **trade** = to buy and sell products
- **trading bloc** = countries that buy and sell goods together
- **treaty** = two or more countries agree to sign a document
- **trigger** = here: come into effect
- **unanimous** = every member of the council agrees
- **unify** = bring together, make stronger
- **united Germany** = East and West Germany became one country
- **value** = how much something is worth
- **various** = different
- **vow** = promise
- **withdrawal treaty** = document signed between the EU and the UK which sets the rules on how the UK will leave the EU