

New Internationalist
The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

Voting



**NEW INTERNATIONALIST
EASIER ENGLISH
INTERMEDIATE READY
LESSON**

This lesson:

**Grammar – how to say things are
optional and compulsory**

**Speaking – about voting in
different countries, and if voting
should be compulsory or not**

Reading – an argument

True or false? - general elections?:

- 1) In the UK, voting is optional.
- 2) Everyone has to vote in Germany.
- 3) You only vote if you want to in France.
- 4) Voting is compulsory in Brazil if you're between 18 and 70, but you can vote if you like if you're 16, 17 or over 70 (if you are literate).
- 5) You are fined if you don't vote in some countries.
- 6) You must vote in Australia because it's mandatory.
- 7) You don't have a choice whether to vote or not in Argentina.

What do you notice about the underlined language?:

- 1) In the UK, voting is optional.
- 2) Everyone has to vote in Germany.
- 3) You only vote if you want to in France.
- 4) Voting is compulsory in Brazil if you're between 18 and 70, but you can vote if you like if you're 16, 17 or over 70.
- 5) You are fined if you don't vote in some countries.
- 6) You must vote in Australia because it's mandatory.
- 7) You don't have a choice whether to vote or not in Argentina.
- 8) You don't have to vote in Spain.

Discuss your country and other countries – which do you think is best?

Voting is compulsory

You have to vote

Everyone has to vote

You are fined if you don't vote

You must vote

Voting is mandatory

You don't have a choice whether to vote or not

Voting is optional

You only vote if you want to

You can vote if you like

You don't have to vote

Read this article:
“Is it a good idea to make everyone vote?”

Group **A** – find all the **YES**

arguments

Group **B** – find all the **NO**

arguments

[http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Is it a good idea to say that everyone must vote%3F](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Is_it_a_good_idea_to_say_that_everyone_must_vote%3F)



Now divide into pairs – A&B

A – you think
voting should be
compulsory – try
to persuade B
with all the
reasons you
found in the text

B – you think
voting should be
optional – try to
persuade A with
all the
arguments you
found in the text

Homework:

Choice:



Reading: read the original argument:

<http://www.newint.org/sections/argument/2015/03/18/uri-220.jpg>

or (and?)

Writing: write an article for a magazine about what you really think:
“Should voting be compulsory?”