

Title	Catalonian independence bid	Level: higher
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**Text:**

Sonoe talked at lunchtime about the uneasy situation in the Spanish region of Catalonia, which held an unofficial referendum last weekend.

The turnout was 42%, of which 90% voted 'for', which *could* be seen as only the most fervent 38% of the whole Catalonian population.

Does this mean that the other 58% who didn't vote were mainly opposed to change?

If so, that would mean that the independence vote would not have been won by the proponents..

**Question for discussion:**

What would you do, if you were the Spanish government?  
 Discuss the legal situation, as you understand it.  
 Do you think your region could become independent?

**Words and usage:**

**'Turn out'**  
 Turn out is a noun and verb meaning the number of people who go to a place to do an action, in this case, going to a voting station to cast their vote.

**'Be mainly opposed'**  
 Adverbs can tell us the size of the part of a total. This may be a number, volume or frequency. 'Mainly' means a part larger than half, perhaps up to 90%. For example, if the weather forecast says it will be mainly rainy tomorrow, we can expect most hours of the day to be wet!  
 Adverbs with similar meaning include mostly and largely. An antonym example is partly or slightly.

**Resources:**

[Oxford Dictionaries. http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com](http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com)  
[The British Council website. https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org](https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org)

**Listening link:** [Catalonian Independence bid](#)



**Practice idea:** Describe a number of things in your life using 'mainly', such as the weather, activities you do at work or at weekends. Perhaps, the music genre you listen to most.

**Quiz Me! Conversation card:** Card number E7 below is from the Which? pack 1, available at [englishbooks.jp](http://englishbooks.jp)

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**Do you mainly  
fill free time with  
work, rest or 'play'?**

[quizme.jp](http://quizme.jp)

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