

Spot on facts

COMPREHENSION **1** Create a timeline of the Anglo-Irish relationship. Find out ... → S11, S32

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12th century	Norman invasion under King Henry II
13th–18th century	English attempt to systematically conquer and colonise the country, ardent Irish rebellions violently suppressed by the English
1801	Act of Union: Ireland part of the UK
1916	failed Easter Rising; defeat and execution of leaders
1919–1921	Anglo-Irish War, 1921 Partition: Irish Free State in the South and Ulster in the North
1949	Irish Free State became the Republic of Ireland
1960s–ca. 1998	civil rights campaign for equal rights for Northern Ireland Catholics, rising tension referred to as the Troubles
1969	British troops sent to Northern Ireland
1972	Bloody Sunday, direct rule from London
1985	Anglo-Irish Agreement: Dublin government was granted an advisory role in Northern Ireland
1998	Good Friday Agreement: commitment of both Republicans and Unionists to end violence and share power
2007	establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly
2011/2014	first mutual visits of the Queen and the Irish President respectively as milestones towards normality

SPEAKING **2** Do some research and give a short talk on the current economic ...

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- In late 2010 the Irish government accepted an €85 billion rescue package from the EU and the IMF.
- In 2011 the government started on a strict four-year savings plan to drastically reduce their budget deficit.
- This austerity programme has led to a steady recovery of the economy and the banking sector and an improvement in public finance.
- Ireland remains attractive to businesses due to its young, dynamic workforce and its corporate tax rate of 12.5%, which is one of the EU's lowest.
- According to the Central Statistics Office in 2014 Ireland's gross domestic product rose 2.7%, the highest increase since the end of 2012.
- Economists predict that Ireland will have an average economic growth of around 3.5% over the next decade.
- In August 2014 the Fitch Rating Agency has restored Ireland's A- credit rating, assessing Ireland's economy as "a wealthy, flexible economy" and saying its "vulnerabilities" in the banking sector have declined.