

Angry Spain ousts ruling party

Level 1 | Elementary

Aznar is punished for bloodshed and for 'hiding the truth'.

1 Key vocabulary

Match the words with their meanings.

1. to lie
 2. busy
 3. to arrest
 4. an election
 5. separatist
 6. a shock
 7. a victim
 8. a commuter
-
- a. the time in a democracy when everyone can choose the government
 - b. a very big surprise (usually something bad)
 - c. not to tell the truth/to say things which are not true
 - d. someone who travels to work in another city every day
 - e. to take someone to a police station because they have done something wrong
 - f. someone who is injured or killed in an accident or an attack
 - g. a person who wants part of a country to be independent
 - h. full of people

2 Find the information

Look in the text and find the answers as quickly as possible.

1. When did the terrorist bombs explode?
2. How many people died?
3. How many people were injured?
4. When was the election in Spain?
5. How many Spanish soldiers are in Iraq?
6. How many explosions were there?

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On 11th March ten terrorist bombs exploded at railway stations in Madrid, the capital of Spain. The terrorists planted the bombs in busy trains. More than 200 people died in the terrorist attack and 1,500 were injured.

At first the Spanish government said that the Basque separatist group Eta planned the attack. Many Spanish people did not believe the government. They did not think that Eta was the group which planted the bombs in the trains. They believed that it was Al-Qaeda, the Islamist terrorist group, the group which attacked the World Trade Center in New York on September 11th 2001.

Then the police found a videotape in Madrid. In the video

a man said Al-Qaeda planted the bombs in the trains. Then the police arrested 3 Moroccan men. Now everyone knew it was Al-Qaeda and not Eta.

On 14th March, three days after the terrorist attacks in Madrid, the Spanish people voted in a general election. Before the election everyone thought that the People's Party, led by the Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, was going to win the election. But people were very angry about the terrorist attacks. They were also angry because they thought that the government was not telling the truth. When the government said that Eta was the group which planted the bombs, many people believed that the government was lying.

The result of the election was a shock for many people. The Socialist Party, led by

Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, won the election. This was a shock for President Bush and the American government too. The new Spanish government immediately promised to bring the 1,300 Spanish soldiers in Iraq back to Spain. Mr Zapatero also said that President Bush and Tony Blair were lying about Iraq. In his first radio interview he said: "Mr Blair and Mr Bush must do some thinking... you can't organise a war with lies."

Mr Zapatero began his victory speech with a minute's silence for the victims of the attacks – a series of ten explosions on commuter trains at Atocha, El Pozo and Santa Eugenia stations in the south of Madrid. "Together we will defeat [terrorism]," he told his supporters. He also said that he wanted to end Spain's close relationship with the USA and to start up its former friendship with France and Germany again.

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3 Comprehension check

Are these sentences True or False according to the text?

1. Most people believe Eta planned the attack.
2. Ten bombs exploded at railway stations in Madrid.
3. No one was surprised by the result of the election in Spain.
4. Mr Zapatero wants to send more soldiers to Iraq.
5. He wants to end Spain's close relationship with France and Germany.
6. People voted for the Socialist Party because they did not believe the government.

4 Vocabulary - collocations

Fill the gaps in numbers 1 to 4 using verbs. Check your answers in the text.

- to _____ a bomb
to _____ an election
to _____ an attack
to _____ the truth

Fill the gaps in numbers 5 to 8 using nouns. Check your answers in the text.

- the _____ of the election
the _____ of the attacks
a radio _____
a minute's _____

5 Vocabulary - prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions.

1. The bombs exploded _____ three railway stations in Madrid.
2. The result of the election was a shock _____ many people.
3. The attack happened _____ March 11th.
4. Mr Zapatero said Bush and Blair were lying _____ Iraq.
5. The People's Party was led _____ Mr Aznar.
6. They promised to bring the soldiers back _____ Spain.

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6 Grammar focus

Irregular past simple. Look at this example from the text:

Then the police found a videotape.

Now complete the table. The first seven are from the text.

Verb	Past simple
1. begin	_____
2. lead	_____
3. think	_____
4. win	_____
5. say	_____
6. tell	_____
7. know	_____
8. teach	_____
9. fight	_____
10. buy	_____