You could have knocked me down with a feather
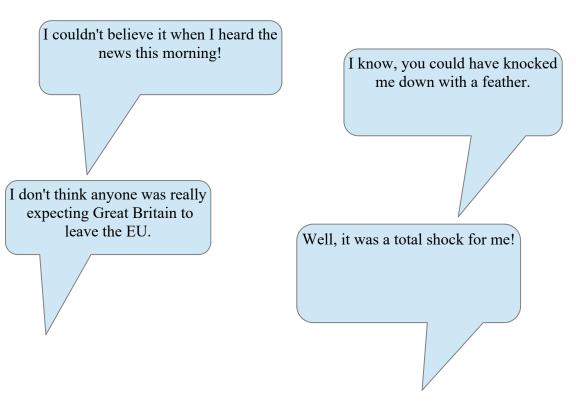
Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

Edizioni Maggio 2020

1.Write down 6 personal or news events that have left you feeling totally shocked in recent years.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

2a. Read

I couldn't believe it when I heard the news this morning!

I know, you could have knocked me down with a feather.

I don't think anyone was really expecting Great Britain to leave the EU.

Well, it was a total shock for me!

2b. Complete

_____when the newsreader said that the 'leave' campaigners had won. I wasn't expecting that result at all.

'You could have knocked me down with a feather' means that you were left so weak by shock that it would literally only have taken a push with a feather to make you fall over.

3.   Did you feel like someone could have knocked you down with a feather when you heard about Brexit or did you not feel too strongly effected? Talk to a partner.

4.   **How do you think Brexit could effect young people in Europe over the next few years? Complete this sentence:**
I think Brexit will...

5.a. Imagine that Italy is preparing for a referendum on its future in the European Union. List arguments for leaving and remaining in the EU.

      Leave   *Remain*

5. b. The referendum results are out. Highlight the sentence that would be true for you:

Italy voted to leave the EU. You could have knocked me down with a feather.

Italy voted to stay in the EU. You could have knocked me down with a feather.

Teacher's Notes

2b. <u>You could have knocked me down with a feather</u> when the newsreader said that the 'leave' campaigners had won. I wasn't expecting that result at all.

4.Sample answer:

I think Brexit will effect young people a lot because it will change people's sense of identity. Young British students might become more isolated and less culturally aware. There could be a reduction in the number of English youngsters choosing to study foreign languages. For the rest of Europe, there will be more bureaucracy involved when travelling to Great Britain and there could be an increase in the number of people who don't feel welcome in Great Britain.

5.Students should think about what the advantages and disadvantages of belonging to the EU are, in their opinion. Think culturally, economically and politically.