

HOW THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT WORKS IN 60 SECONDS

LISTENING COMPREHENSION created by IA

<https://youtu.be/GbLTwQwXqWc>

BEFORE LISTENING: match the given words with their respective definitions.

- a. a group of people who live in a particular area and are represented by an elected official.
- b. Members of Parliament, the elected officials who represent constituencies in the House of Commons
- c. independent members of the House of Lords who do not belong to any political party.
- d. religious leaders appointed to the House of Lords
- e. the lower chamber of the UK parliament where MPs debate and vote on proposed laws
- f. a room used for formal meetings or events, such as the House of Commons or House of Lords
- g. the king or queen who serves as the head of state in a monarchy.
- h. the upper chamber of the UK parliament where unelected members, including life peers and bishops, debate, and vote on proposed laws.
- i. topics or problems that are being discussed or debated, such as social issues or political issues.

Words:

1. crossbenchers
2. chamber
3. issues
4. monarch
5. constituency
6. house of commons
7. MPs
8. bishops
9. house of lords

Correct matches:

1. c
2. f
3. i
4. g

- 5. a
- 6. e
- 7. b
- 8. d
- 9. h

1. WHILE LISTENING. Are the following statements true or false?

- 1. Parliament only debates issues of the day.
- 2. The House of Commons is made up of MPs.
- 3. The House of Lords is made up of elected members.
- 4. The monarch's role in Parliament is mainly political.
- 5. The Prime Minister is questioned in the House of Lords.
- 6. Committees in Parliament scrutinize the work of government departments.
- 7. Parliament doesn't ask for input from the public.
- 8. Parliament only represents the views of people in London.
- 9. Parliament makes laws.
- 10. The opposition sits with the government in the House of Commons.

True/False:

- 1. False (Parliament also makes laws, represents the views of people across the UK, and checks and challenges the work of the government.)
- 2. True
- 3. False (The House of Lords is made up mostly of life peers, who are appointed for their knowledge and experience.)
- 4. False (Her role is mainly ceremonial these days.)
- 5. False (The Prime Minister is questioned in the House of Commons.)
- 6. True
- 7. False (Parliament asks experts and the public for ideas and evidence to shape their inquiries.)
- 8. False (Parliament represents the views of people across the UK.)
- 9. True
- 10. False (The opposition sits opposite the government in the House of Commons.)

AFTER LISTENING: Fill in the gaps with the correct words

Parliament isn't just some big old building by the Thames. Parliament makes laws, _____(1) issues of the day, represents the views of people across the UK, and checks and challenges the work of the government. Wait a minute, so Parliament isn't the same as the government? Well, it's the government that takes a leading role in the running of the country, but there's also a bigger picture. So there's the House of _____(2), that's where the government sits, along with the opposition, who sit opposite them, of course. This is the _____(3) chamber, and it's made up of _____(4), who represent all 650 UK _____(5). Then there's the House of _____(6), made up mostly of life _____(7), who are appointed for their knowledge and experience. There is no political party with overall control in the Lords, and many of its members, the _____(8) and the _____(9), are non-party political. Finally, there's the _____(10). Her role is mainly ceremonial these days, but she does still _____(11) every new law. So what does Parliament do all day? Inside the debating chambers, the big issues are discussed, new laws _____(12), and the Prime Minister is questioned. While a host of committees, made up of small groups of parliamentarians, _____(13) the work of government departments, check the details of new laws, and ask experts and the public, that's you, for ideas and evidence to shape their _____(14). Representing the people, passing laws, debating issues, and checking and challenging the work of the government, it's all in a day's work for Parliament.

Correct answers:

1. debates
2. commons
3. elected
4. mps
5. constituencies
6. lords
7. peers
8. crossbenchers
9. bishops
10. monarch
11. sign
12. agreed
13. scrutinise
14. inquiries