

Warmer - Speaking: Government in your country (5 mins)

Discuss these questions in your group:

1. What do you know about the government in your country? How many members does it have?
Are they elected or unelected?
2. What is the main job of this government?
3. Can you think of any important decisions that have been taken by your country's government recently?

Task 1 - Pre-listening: Quiz about the British Parliament (10 mins)

In pairs answer the questions below about the British Parliament. Compare with another pair:

1. Before a new law is passed by Parliament, it is known as:
 - a) a bill
 - b) an Act
2. Most bills are suggested by:
 - a) the Prime Minister
 - b) the government
3. When a bill is introduced in Parliament, MPs and Lords:
 - a) hold their first debate on a bill
 - b) ask lots of questions about a bill
4. All bills are carefully examined by:
 - a) a committee of MPs and Lords
 - b) a special group of parliamentary lawyers
5. MPs and Lords can vote on each bill:
 - a) only three times
 - b) every time a bill is changed
6. When a bill is not approved in the Houses of Parliament:
 - a) the government needs to come up with a new bill
 - b) the government can still make an appeal to the Queen
7. The House of Commons is made up of:
 - a) unelected members
 - b) elected members
8. Before a bill before becomes a law, it must be approved by:
 - a) the Queen
 - b) the House of Lords



Task 2 – Listening: Quiz about the British Parliament (10 mins)

Watch the video and check your answers to task 1.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KFGt9M-j28>

Task 3 – Listening: The stages of passing a bill into a law (10 mins)

Watch the video clip again and put the stages of passing a bill in Parliament in the correct order:

a) The bill is closely examined in both Houses of Parliament.
b) MPs and Lords make changes to the bill.
c) A government minister explains reasons for the bill and answers any questions.
d) The bill is sent to the monarch for a final approval.
e) MPs and Lords take a vote on the bill.
f) Both Houses have to agree on the bill before it becomes a new law.
g) A new bill gets introduced in Parliament.
h) The bill officially becomes a new law of the land.

Task 4 – Post- listening: Summary completion (5 mins)

Complete the summary of the video with the correct words from the box on the next page. There are three extra words which are not needed in the text.

A newly proposed law is known first as a 1) Most bills are suggested by the 2) All bills need to be closely examined by a special group of 3) They are also allowed to make some changes to a bill. These changes are called 4) To become a law, a bill has to be approved by 5) Any changes made in one house need to be 6) in the other. If both Houses are unable to reach an 7) the House of Commons has the final 8) Once both houses have agreed on a bill, it needs to be approved by the 9) This is called 10)..... and means that a bill officially becomes a new law.

Words and phrases for Task 4

agreement	government	improvements	amendments		
Royal Assent	bill	MPs and Lords	accepted	monarch	both
	Houses	say	decision	signed	

Task 5 – Speaking: Group discussion (20 mins)

Imagine you are a group of MPs in Parliament. In your groups:

- *look at the list of issues in the box below.*
- *discuss which two are top priorities for your group and why.*
- *suggest some possible solutions to the problems.*

Increasing public awareness of environmental protection
Improving public transport in your city
Providing better quality of education
Reducing crime and violence
Creating employment opportunities for young people
Improving the quality of public health care
Fighting for animal rights

Possible follow-up task - Writing: An article about parliament in your country

A well-known travel company asked you to write about parliament (or government) in your country for their website.

Write an article (250 words) including information on:

- the structure of the parliament in your country.
- number of their members.
- their job/tasks.
- the way bills are passed in your country.
- any similarities between the parliament in your country and the one in the UK.