

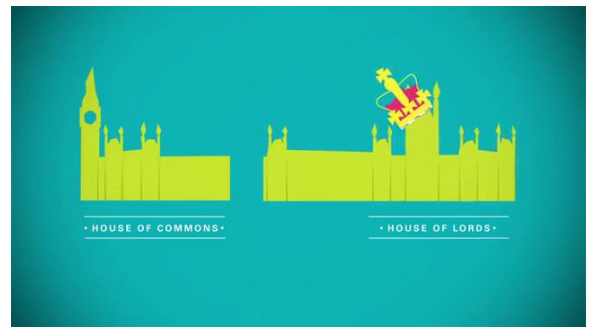
Let's debate in the British Parliament!



What is the House of Commons?

You are going to debate on a very important issue in the manner of the British Parliament. So watch this video and learn more about it : <http://www.parliament.uk/education/about-your-parliament/mps-lords-monarch/mps-in-the-house-of-commons/>

1/ What are the 3 different parts which compose the Parliament today?



2/ What did you learn about the members of the House of Commons?

3/ Is the monarch allowed in the House of Commons?

4/ What do members of the House of Commons do every day?

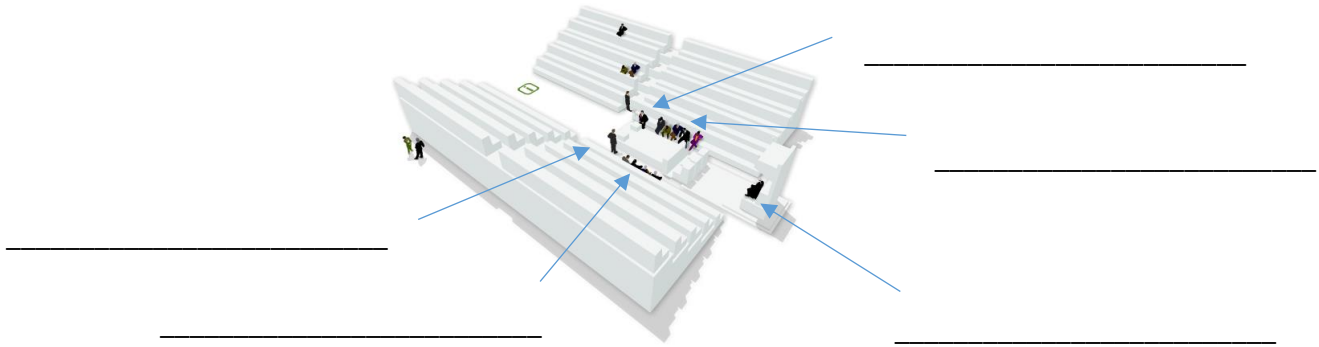
5/ What are the 2 sides which compose the House of Commons?

6/ How many members of parliament (MPs) are there?

7/ Who maintains order during the debates?

8/ Who leads the government?

9/ Complete the legend of this screen capture with the following labels : *Prime Minister, members of the government, leader of the opposition, members of the opposition, speaker/chairman*



10/ What is the role of the government?

11/ What is the role of the opposition?

Debating in the House of Commons

Let's get ready for a debate in class! Watch the 2nd video to learn more about the different roles.

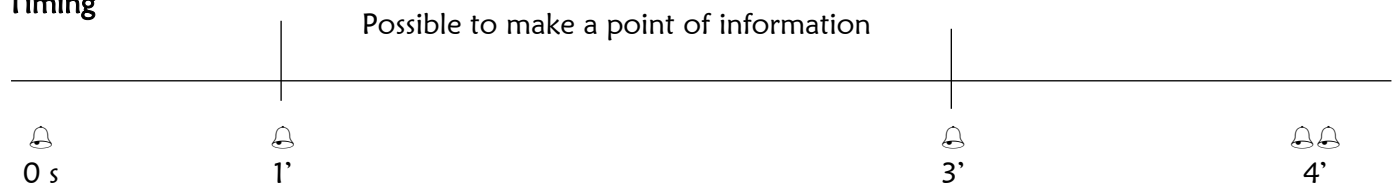
9 people are involved in the debate. Write their names in the boxes.

OPENING TEAMS	1		2	
	3		4	
CLOSING TEAMS	5		6	
	7		8	

Read these different roles. Who does what in a debate?

Puts forward the main idea, introduces the team	
Gives the main reason why the opposition is against the motion	
Gives a 2 nd argument in favour of the motion + develops it	
Gives a 2 nd reason why the opposition is against the motion	
Gives a 3 rd argument in favour of the motion + develops it	
Gives a 3 rd reason why the opposition is against the motion	
Sums up the different arguments for the motion, extends the debate further	
Sums up the different arguments against the motion, extends the debate further	
Controls the debate, allows members to speak	
Can interrupt and ask permission to speak	
Are not allowed to contradict the opening teams	

Timing



It's over to you!

1/ As members of the government you will have to defend a **motion**. However if you are members of the opposition you will have to give counter-arguments.

2/ Read the motion you will have to debate on. Make teams. **Distribute roles**.

3/ Prepare the **arguments** you are going to defend / attack, depending if you play the government or the opposition team. Each argument should then be illustrated with examples. Practice your intonation.

4/ A **jury** will judge on your performances and decide which side was the most convincing, hence if the motion will be accepted or rejected.

5/ **Useful vocabulary**

- **The chairman announces the motion**
 - ☞ *Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to this debate.*
 - ☞ *The motion for debate today is: ...*
- **The Members of Parliament address the House**
 - ☞ *Mr/Madam Chairman, Distinguished Members of the Jury, Members of the Proposition/Opposition, Members of the House, Ladies and Gentlemen*
 - ☞ *This House believes that...*
 - ☞ *We, as today's proposition/opposition, strongly believe that...*
- **The Prime Minister / the leader of the opposition define the motion and present the teamline**
 - ☞ *Before we come to our argumentation, let's first define some important terms in this debate.*
 - ☞ *When we say ... we mean that ...*
 - ☞ *We, as today's proposition/opposition, have organized our argumentation as follows: I, as the first speaker, will talk about ... Our second speaker, ..., will elaborate on the fact that ... Our third speaker, ..., and our final speaker will summarize our arguments.*
- **Rebutting an argument**
 - ☞ *Before I come to my own arguments, let us first have a look at what ... has said.*
 - ☞ *The first prop/opposition speaker has told us ...; on the contrary ... / but in fact....*
 - ☞ *The first/... reason why we're proposing/opposing this motion is*
- **Giving examples, illustrating an argument**
 - ☞ *There are many examples for this..., for instance.*
 - ☞ *In fact, you can find many examples for this in real life. Just think of...*
- **Closing formula, summarizing**
 - ☞ *And it is on this basis, Ladies and Gentlemen, that I beg/ask/implore you to accept/reject the motion.*
 - ☞ *Now because of this ..., we have to support this motion.*
 - ☞ *So Ladies and Gentlemen, what have we told you today? Firstly ..., Secondly..*
 - ☞ *It is now my pleasure to summarize this debate, take a look at what both sides have said and see what the outcome of this debate actually is.*
- **Interruption – point of information** : A question made to the speaker by any member of the opposing team. Introduced by placing one's hand on one's head and clearly pronouncing the words "point of information". The speaker may or may not accept the point.
 - ☞ *Sir/Madam, is it not a fact that...?*
 - ☞ *Surely you can't deny that...?*
 - ☞ *Aren't you contradicting...*
 - ☞ *What about the ...?*
 - ☞ *How can you explain that ... ?*
 - ☞ *I'm going to come to this point in my second argument in a minute.*
- **Timing**
 - ☞ The speaker may not be interrupted during the first and the last 30 minutes of his/her speech.
- **Jury**
 - ☞ The jury decides on the winning team and best speaker. It bases its decision on: content and research (what you say), presentation (how you say it, voice, presence), teamwork (team spirit, strategy, involvement), overall impression