

UK Parliament Easy Read 1

The UK Parliament and its Members



This Easy Read will tell you:

- What UK Parliament is
- What an MP is
- What a Member of the House of Lords is



What is Parliament?



The UK Parliament is made up of two groups of people
They are called:

- The House of Commons
- The House of Lords



The two Houses in UK
Parliament work together to:

- make laws
- check what the Government is doing



The Government leads the country. It is made up of the political party with the most elected MPs after a general election.

MPs in the House of Commons



MPs sit in the House of Commons in UK Parliament.



MP

MP is short for **Member of Parliament**.



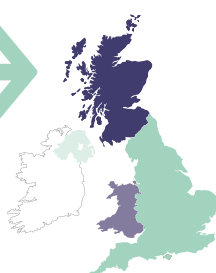
MPs are voted for by adults in the UK in a big vote. This vote is called a **general election**.



650

There are 650 MPs.

Constituency



MP

Every MP listens to people in their local area. Each area is called a **constituency**.

What does an MP do?



MPs come to the UK Parliament to debate. This means they talk about ideas and problems together. Like how to get more people into jobs.



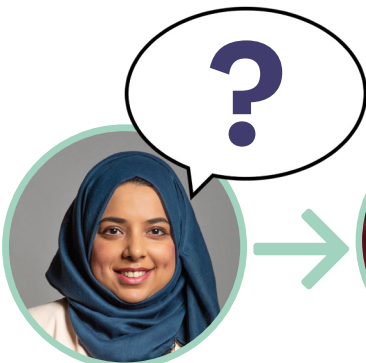
Chamber

They do this in the House of Commons Chamber. It is a large room with green benches on each side.



Speaker

The MPs choose someone to be the Speaker. The Speaker's job is to tell MPs who can speak and remind them of the rules.



In the Chamber, MPs question the Prime Minister and other members of Government. They can ask them about what they are doing and why.



MPs also make laws. These are the rules everyone in the UK has to follow.

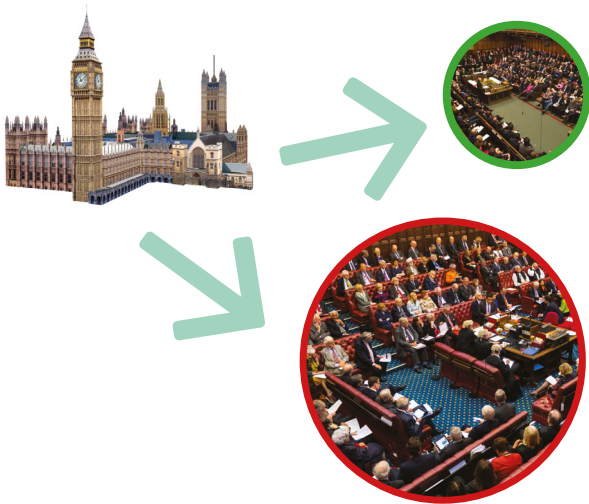


Small groups of MPs look closely at the work of the Government. The groups are called **Select Committees**.



MPs meet people in their local area to hear about ideas or problems. These meetings are called **surgeries**.

Members of the House of Lords



The House of Lords is separate from the House of Commons.

House of Lords



There are around 800 members in the House of Lords.

800



Lord



Baroness

A man who is a member of the House of Lords is called a **Lord**.
A woman who is a member of the House of Lords is called a **Baroness**.



Most Members of the House of Lords are chosen for their special experience. Like being a doctor, a teacher or a judge.



Most Members of the House of Lords are **Life Peers**. This means they become a Member for their lifetime.



Some Members of the House of Lords have been MPs before they became a Lord or a Baroness.



Some are part of a political party.



Some are not part of a political party.



They are called **Crossbenchers**. This is because they sit on benches across the middle of the House of Lords Chamber.

What Members of the House of Lords do

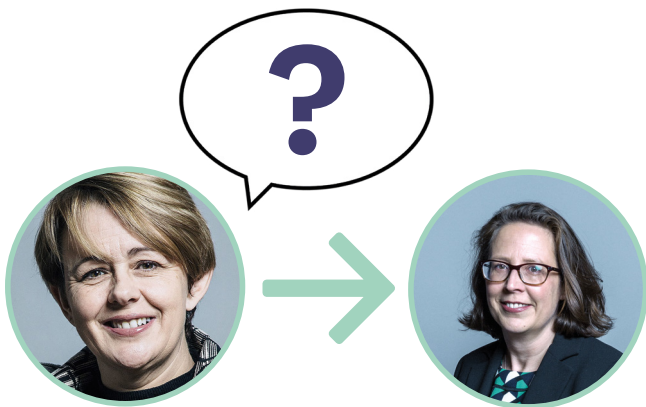


Members meet in the House of Lords Chamber to debate. This means they talk about big issues together.



The Members choose someone to be the Lord Speaker. The Lord Speaker's job is to run the Chamber in a debate.

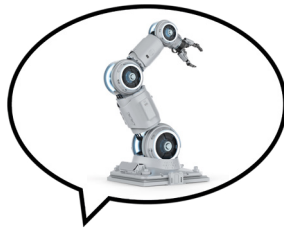
Lord Speaker



In the Chamber Members of the House of Lords can question Ministers from the Government. They ask them about what they are doing and why.



The House of Lords works with the House of Commons to make laws. These are the rules everyone in the UK has to follow.



Members of the House of Lords work in small groups called **Select Committees**. They look closely at big issues like technology or climate change. This means the changes in weather patterns we will have.

My Campaign



The House of Lords also campaigns on issues. This means talking to people about an idea or problem they think is really important.

Then they will work with other people to try to change it.

Find out more about UK Parliament

UK Parliament **Easy Read 2** will tell you about how laws are made.

