

General Election 2015

The General Election is fast approaching and this is a perfect opportunity to discuss with your children the process of how a Government comes into power.

What is a General Election?

The election of all Members of Parliament (MPs) for each constituency (local area) is called a General Election. In the UK we vote for the best candidate in our local area to represent us in the [House of Commons](#).

The UK system is not like the US system where you vote for the President/Vice-President, then your local representatives separately. In the UK, the winning candidate becomes MP and takes a seat in the House of Commons. The party with the majority of seats in the Commons gets to form the [government](#). That party's leader becomes Prime Minister. In the UK we have the House of Commons and the House of Lords. We can only vote for an MP to represent us in the House of Commons. The Lords are appointed or inherited.

How often do General Elections take place?

General elections have to take place at least every five years and are called by the Prime Minister (the leader of the Government).

Who can become an MP?

People are nominated as candidates to become MPs. Any one over the age of 21 can be a candidate.

How does an MP get a seat in Parliament?

When an MP gets the most votes for his constituency (local area) he gains a seat. This means he has a place in Parliament.

