

Do the preparation task first. Then read the article and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

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|---------------------------|--|
| 1..... an election | a. the group of people who officially control a country |
| 2..... the government | b. a member of government or of another political party |
| 3..... a politician | c. the leader of the government |
| 4..... the Prime Minister | d. the larger number or part of something |
| 5..... the turnout | e. behaviour that shows no interest in something |
| 6..... a political party | f. when people vote to choose people to represent them in political jobs |
| 7..... the majority | g. the number of people who vote in an election or attend an event |
| 8..... apathy | h. an organisation of people with similar political beliefs and ideas |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | There are only two political parties in the UK. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | A political party needs an overall majority to form a government. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | A coalition government is made up of two parties sharing power. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | You have to be 17 or over to vote in a general election in the UK. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | Less than half of 18- to 24-year-olds voted in the 2015 election. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | There is a general election every three years in the UK. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: matching

Match the two sentence halves and write a–f next to the number 1–6.

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|--------|---|--|
| 1..... | If the winning party does not have an overall majority, ... | a. ... we won't change anything. |
| 2..... | Only rich people will be able to go to university ... | b. ... then there is a hung parliament. |
| 3..... | If we don't vote, ... | c. ... if we have to pay thousands of pounds to study! |
| 4..... | I'll vote in the next election ... | d. ... if we felt that our opinions were respected. |
| 5..... | If politicians really listened to the voters, ... | e. ... if things don't change. |
| 6..... | We would get engaged in mainstream politics ... | f. ... I think more young people would vote. |

3. Check your grammar: multiple choice – second conditional

Circle the best word to complete these sentences.

- If I **be / was / am** Prime Minister, I would make public transport free.
- I **would / won't / will** vote if I was 18.
- Would more people vote if politicians **listening / listens / listened** to them?
- If I **know / knew / known** more about politics, I would vote.
- I wouldn't vote for a party that **didn't / don't / did** respect young people.
- Would you vote for an MP if he or she **have / hadn't / had** a really bad hairstyle?

Discussion

- Are you interested in politics?
- Would you like to be a politician?
- What issues are important in your country today?
- Do you think everybody should vote?