

Le système politique américain

La Constitution de 1776 établit les relations entre trois composantes : les pouvoirs exécutif, législatif et judiciaire. À la tête de l'exécutif se trouve le Président qui, élu pour 4 ans en même temps que le Vice-président, est responsable de la politique étrangère et de la défense, et nomme les juges de la Cour suprême. Les deux chambres (Représentants et Sénat) du Congrès votent les lois promulguées par le Président qui dispose d'un droit de veto que le Congrès peut annuler. Le « Speaker » de la Chambre des représentants, troisième personnage de l'État, deviendrait Président en cas de décès du Président et du Vice-président dont l'une des fonctions est de présider le Sénat. La Cour suprême dont les membres sont choisis par le Président est garante de la Constitution et examine en dernier ressort les décisions des autres tribunaux. Outre la structure fédérale, chaque État a sa propre constitution et son administration. Dans chacune des 50 capitales d'État, siègent un gouverneur élu au suffrage universel ainsi qu'une Chambre des Représentants et un Sénat.

The Constitution clearly defines the executive, legislative and judicial powers of the nation. The Chief of the Executive is the President of the United States. Elected for 4 years (in leap years), with his Vice President, who will succeed him in case of death, resignation or impeachment, the new President is sworn into office on January 20th by the Chief Justice¹. He is advised by 13 departments whose heads are chosen by (and responsible to) him and approved by the Senate; he must "take care that the laws be faithfully executed"; he runs the foreign and the defense policy, appoints ambassadors, is Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and may place the National Guards² of States under federal rule in case of crisis. He can also issue executive orders which have a binding force of law. Among the constitutional powers vested in him are the appointment of Supreme Court members and of federal judges, and the power to grant pardon in federal cases or to veto any bill passed by Congress, though a two-thirds vote in each house overrides his decision. The Constitution provides that the President "shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the state of the Union³".

The President's Secretary of State⁴ heads the State Department in charge of foreign relations, visa applications and non-military help to foreign nations. The Department of Defense supervises military preparedness while the Secretary of the Treasury manages all financial affairs as well as the secret service in charge of the protection of the leaders of the country. The Attorney General⁵ heads the Department of Justice; the Department of the Interior protects the environment and runs the national parks and monuments. The other departments – Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Energy – coordinate federal actions. Numerous other agencies provide special services to the public.

Congress, the legislative branch, consists of 2 chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the House, membership is proportional to the population of a state: after every decennial census, district lines are redrawn and the 435 House seats redistributed according to population shifts. In the Senate, 2 senators represent each state. The House Speaker⁶ presides the debates of the Representatives (elected every 2 years):

chosen from the ranks of the majority (his counterpart from the other party becomes the minority leader), he is the third ranking person after the President and the Vice President and would move to the White House, should both die in office. The Senate is presided over by the Vice President of the USA, who has the casting vote in the event of a tie. The powers of the Senate are defined by Article I, section 3 of the Constitution: it must confirm all presidential appointments of high federal officials and ratify all treaties by a two-thirds vote.

Due to the high volume and complexity of work, the Senate and the House divide their tasks among over 20 standing committees each and 4 joint committees. A conference committee is created to reconcile the version of a bill passed by the Senate with that passed by the House.

Legislative proposals may come from any Representative or Senator or from any of the executive departments, or private groups or citizens, but only Senators and Representatives can refer them to the committees which have jurisdiction over the matter. All bills can originate in either House, except "bills for raising revenue" that "shall originate in the House of Representatives." Once a bill has been passed in identical terms by both Houses of Congress, it is sent for approval to the President, who can either sign it or pocket veto⁷ it. He can also veto it outright, but his veto can be overruled by a two-thirds majority vote from both Houses though only 106 vetoes out of a total of 2538 have been overruled so far.

The Supreme Court, instituted by Article III of the Constitution, is the highest tribunal in the nation and functions as a guardian of the Constitution. Its nine members – the Chief Justice and 8 Associate Justices – are chosen and appointed for life by the President, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The Constitution provides that their salary may not be diminished while in office and gives the Supreme Court original jurisdiction in cases "affecting ambassadors to the United States, other public ministers and consuls," and those in which a State is party. It also reviews judgments of lower Federal courts and the highest courts of the States.

After examining each case submitted, the Justices decide which cases to schedule for oral argument, which to decide without argument, and which to deny. Later their decisions are made public with the publication of the opinion of the Court. In any decision, individual Justices may write their own concurring⁸ or dissenting⁹ opinions.

The Constitution provides for the three branches of government to be clearly separate and distinct, and the powers given to each are carefully balanced by the powers of the other two in a system of "checks and balances," which keeps any branch from gaining too much power or from misusing it. Together with the federal entity created by the Constitution, each of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia has its own constitution and state government. Local jurisdictions regulate public utilities, property, industry and business as well as working conditions within the state, sanitation, education, local transportation and the state criminal code. State governments also have three branches, executive, legislative and judicial. The chief executive of a state is the governor, elected for 4 years (2 years in a few states) by popular vote. Except for Nebraska, which has a single legislative body, all states have a bicameral legislature. In most states, senators serve four-year terms, and members of the lower house serve two-year terms. At the local level, most cities have some kind of central council with a mayor elected by voters. Some cities now hire a professional city manager in response to the increasing complexity

of urban problems. The Census Bureau¹⁰ has identified 85,000 local governmental units including counties, municipalities, townships, school districts and special districts. In parts of New England, "town meetings" are held once a year when the governmental power is not delegated but is exercised directly and regularly by all the voters who meet in open session to debate local issues, pass laws for operating the government or decide on tax rates and the town budget.

There are three basic types of elections – primary, general and local. A primary election is a state-level nominating vote specific to each party to choose a candidate for a later general election. A primary can be open (any registered voter, regardless of party affiliation, may vote) or closed (only those who are members of the respective party may vote). Citing the cost, some states rely on a caucus, an informal meeting in which participants discuss their preference. Delegates (people actively involved in politics, or who have contributed to the campaign fund, or who are grassroots members) are selected to go to party conventions. A party determines the number of delegates to its convention and the number allocated to each state on the basis of the state's voting strength within the party's organization. At the convention, the delegates formally submit their votes for the nominees, and the person with the most votes becomes the party's presidential candidate.

After a presidential campaign that lasts from September to November, on polling day, set on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November since a federal law of 1845, voters cast their ballot for "electors", i.e. people selected for their dedication to their party. Each state has the same number of electoral votes as it has members of Congress; since the 23rd amendment, the District of Columbia has also had three electoral votes. There are a total of 538 votes, and a candidate must receive 270 to win. In all but 2 states, the winner-take-all system gives the winning candidate all the electoral votes, however slim his margin; as a result, in 17 presidential elections, the winner did not receive the majority of the popular votes. The electors of the party of the winning candidate are the ones who vote in the Electoral College. The electors usually gather in their state capitals in December to cast their votes, which are then sent to Washington. In accordance with the Constitution, if no candidate to the Presidency has a majority of the electoral vote, the House will elect the President, each State and the District of Columbia having one vote only; the senators will elect the Vice President.

On Election Day, when voters also elect their Representatives and Senators, as well as numerous state officials, they may be asked to vote on referendums by popular initiative, listed on the ballot as Proposition n^o.... California, for instance, uses referendums for a wide range of issues; recently Prop. 215 legalized the sale of marijuana for medical purposes. In Oregon has had a Death With Dignity law since 1997, allowing doctor-assisted suicide, that was originally a popular initiative referendum. Most of referendums in recent years have targeted gun ownership, minimum wage changes, and drug possession and use.

An excellent example of how the checks-and-balances system works is same-sex marriage. A highly contentious issue since the 1990s, the states had responded in a variety of ways, from legalization of same-sex marriages to amendments to the state constitution to ban them from ever being recognized in the state. At the federal level, Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 1996, allowing both the federal government and the states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed legally in

other states. However, in 2013 the Supreme Court ruled that the federal government was legally obligated to recognize any marriage legally contracted in any state, thus striking down key elements of DOMA. In 2015, the Supreme Court went further, declaring state bans on same-sex marriages to be unconstitutional because they were discriminatory. Same-sex marriages are therefore now legal in all American states.

Notes

1. Chief Justice: juge placé à la tête de la Cour suprême. Il donne souvent son nom à la Cour le temps de sa présidence.
2. National Guard: unité de volontaires relevant de chaque État (env. 500 000 hommes). Mobilisée sur ordre du gouverneur, elle dispose du même équipement que les unités régulières et assure le maintien de l'ordre et la sécurité en cas de grande catastrophe.
3. state of the Union: message du Président au Congrès en janvier dans lequel il évoque l'état de la nation et les projets de législation.
4. Secretary of State: équivalent du ministre des Affaires étrangères.
5. Attorney General: équivalent du ministre de la Justice.
6. House Speaker: Président de la Chambre des Représentants.
7. pocket veto: veto exprimé indirectement par le Président en ne signant pas un projet de loi dans le délai de 10 jours au-delà duquel ce projet est accepté sans son consentement.
8. concurring opinion: texte rédigé par un juge de la Cour suprême dont il partage l'avis tout en étant en désaccord avec les raisons données pour la décision.
9. dissenting opinion: texte rédigé par un juge de la Cour suprême pour exposer les raisons de son désaccord avec l'avis qu'elle rend.
10. Census Bureau: Bureau fédéral chargé du recensement décennal et des études statistiques sur le pays.

Vocabulary

Vocabulaire du texte

<i>a leap year</i>	une année bissextile
<i>the resignation</i>	la démission
<i>the impeachment</i>	la mise en accusation
<i>sworn into office (to be -)</i>	prêter serment
<i>to advise</i>	conseiller
<i>to appoint so</i>	nommer qqn (à une fonction)
<i>binding</i>	obligatoire, contraignant
<i>vested</i>	investi
<i>to grant</i>	accorder
<i>a bill</i>	un projet de loi
<i>to override</i>	annuler
<i>preparedness</i>	le degré de préparation
<i>a decennial census</i>	un recensement décennal
<i>a district</i>	une circonscription électorale
<i>a shift</i>	un déplacement (de population, de voix)
<i>the counterpart</i>	l'homologue
<i>a casting vote</i>	une voix prépondérante
<i>a tie</i>	égalité de voix
<i>a standing committee</i>	une commission permanente
<i>a joint committee</i>	une commission interparlementaire

Vocabulaire complémentaire

<i>the acceptance speech</i>	le discours-programme du candidat investi
<i>an appropriation bill</i>	un projet de loi de finances
<i>the Appropriations Committee</i>	la Commission des Finances (dépenses)
<i>a ballot box</i>	une urne
<i>a ballot paper</i>	un bulletin de vote
<i>a bipartisan bill</i>	un projet de loi ayant l'accord des deux partis
<i>books (to be on the -)</i>	être dans les textes officiels
<i>the civil service</i>	la fonction publique
<i>a constituency</i>	une circonscription électorale
<i>a constituent</i>	un électeur
<i>contentious</i>	litigieux
<i>to cross the party line</i>	voter contre son parti

<i>a conference committee</i>	une commission de conciliation, de compromis
<i>outright</i>	carrément, franchement
<i>to overrule</i>	annuler, rejeter
<i>a Justice</i>	un juge
<i>to review a legal decision</i>	réviser un jugement
<i>a case</i>	une affaire (judiciaire)
<i>to schedule</i>	programmer, mettre à l'emploi du temps
<i>to deny</i>	rejeter
<i>"checks and balances"</i>	l'équilibre des pouvoirs
<i>to misuse</i>	mal utiliser, mal employer
<i>public utilities</i>	les services publics
<i>bicameral</i>	bicaméral (à deux chambres)
<i>a township</i>	une commune, un canton
<i>the grassroots</i>	l'électorat local, la base
<i>polling day</i>	le jour des élections
<i>dedication</i>	le dévouement
<i>slim</i>	minime, faible
<i>real estate</i>	les biens immobiliers
<i>to repeal</i>	abroger, annuler (une loi)

<i>a donkey</i>	un âne (symbole des Démocrates)
<i>an elephant</i>	un éléphant (symbole des Républicains)
<i>to enfranchise</i>	donner le droit de vote
<i>an executive order</i>	un décret présidentiel
<i>to garner support</i>	recueillir le soutien
<i>gerrymandering</i>	le charcutage électorale
<i>the Hill</i>	le Congrès (allusion à la colline où se trouve le Capitole de Washington)
<i>the incumbent President</i>	le Président en fonction
<i>the incumbent</i>	le titulaire d'un poste
<i>a landslide election</i>	un raz de marée électorale
<i>leeway (to give so -)</i>	donner à qqn une marge de manœuvre

Vocabulary

<i>the legislative agenda</i>	le programme législatif (des lois à voter)	<i>to rubber-stamp</i>	entériner sans discussion
<i>to nominate</i>	désigner, proposer la candidature de qqn	<i>a split ticket</i>	une liste de candidats panachée
<i>a non-voter</i>	un abstentionniste	<i>a spokesperson</i>	un porte-parole
<i>a polling booth</i>	un isolement	<i>a straight ticket</i>	une liste de candidats homogène
<i>to prompt so to do sth</i>	pousser qqn à faire qqch	<i>a three-cornered election (GB)</i>	une triangulaire
<i>to pull the wires</i>	tirer les ficelles	<i>a three-way election (US)</i>	une triangulaire
<i>Question Time</i>	les questions orales (au Congrès)	<i>the Ways and Means Committee</i>	la Commission des Finances (recettes)
<i>recess</i>	les vacances parlementaires, l'intersession	<i>a whip</i>	un responsable de la discipline d'un groupe parlementaire
<i>a rubber-stamp parliament (GB)</i>	un parlement qui accepte sans discussion		

Le système politique britannique

The House of Lords, the House of Commons and the Cabinet

La Grande-Bretagne étant une monarchie, la Reine est théoriquement à la tête du gouvernement. En pratique, et bien que symboliquement ce soit toujours elle qui nomme le Premier ministre, elle n'a plus aucune réelle influence sur la direction politique du pays. Le Premier ministre, qui est le chef du parti majoritaire à la Chambre des Communes, nomme les membres de son gouvernement, généralement issus de cette même Chambre. Autour du Premier ministre, le Cabinet est constitué des ministres les plus importants, tels que le Chancelier de l'Échiquier ou le ministre des Affaires étrangères. En plus des Communes, le Parlement est également constitué de la Chambre des Lords. En revanche, la Chambre des Communes est au cœur de la vie politique et du processus démocratique du pays. Elle est composée de 650 membres, qui étaient historiquement issus des deux partis principaux – Conservateur et Travilliste – mais qui ont depuis été rejoints par de nombreux partis minoritaires. Pour qu'un projet de loi devienne une loi effective, celui-ci doit suivre un parcours complexe entre les deux Chambres et subir parfois des modifications au cours de lectures successives. Lorsqu'il a enfin reçu l'aval du Parlement dans son ensemble, il devient alors un Acte du Parlement, autrement dit, une loi.

The British government has three branches, of which the monarch is officially the head: Parliament, which makes the laws, the Government, which carries them out, and the law courts, which interpret them. Every autumn, the monarch opens Parliament and makes a speech outlining what "his/her government" intends to do in the coming year. Theoretically, it is indeed "his/her government" and not the people's, and theoretically, a monarch could choose any one to be Prime Minister to run the government in the name of the Crown – and could choose all the other ministers too, for all ministers are "servants of the Crown" (not servants of "the people"). Similarly, it is the monarch who summons a Parliament and dissolves it before a general election; nothing can become law until the monarch has agreed to it. Finally, the monarch embodies the law in the courts – a subject breaking the law (strictly speaking, Britons are not "citizens" but "subjects" of Her Majesty the Queen or His Majesty the King) will be convicted by "the Crown" and sent to one of "Her/His Majesty's prisons". The reality, however, is very different. The monarch names the leader of the strongest party in the House of Commons to be Prime Minister, for a maximum five year term, and it is the PM who decides whom to appoint as government ministers. Similarly, it is the PM who requests a dissolution of Parliament before an election, but it would be unthinkable for the monarch to refuse this request. Finally, while the monarch could, in theory, refuse to grant approval, known as Royal Assent, to a bill passed by Parliament, no monarch has done so since 1708. To do so now would risk a serious constitutional crisis. In reality, the monarch is a figurehead, a symbol, and at most, a safety net in the event of a government becoming dictatorial. Nonetheless, the PM is required to attend a weekly audience with the monarch in which

s/he gives an account of issues of national importance. Queen Elizabeth II has dealt with thirteen PMs since her coronation in 1952, making her advice on many issues invaluable.

"Her/His Majesty's Government" is also referred to as "Whitehall", the name of the geographical area in London in which Downing Street (the Prime Minister's official residence) and most government buildings are located, a short walk from Parliament. Government ministers are usually members of the House of Commons but may be members of the House of Lords. All government ministers who are members of the Commons – including the Prime Minister – are expected to continue representing the constituencies which elected them.

A government consists of approximately one hundred ministers, and at its core lies the Cabinet. The Cabinet consists of some twenty senior ministers who are invited by the PM to belong to it, usually within hours of an election victory. Apart from the PM, the most senior members of the Cabinet are the Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Home Secretary. These positions are the ones most immediately made known after the result of a general election whilst minor Cabinet posts, may not be announced until a few days after an election. Once the Cabinet has reached decision on a matter, if it is supported in the House of Commons, it becomes government policy. That is why it is essential that all Cabinet members publicly support and defend Cabinet policies – especially during Parliamentary debates. If a minister feels that s/he cannot defend a policy, then his/her only option is to resign from the Cabinet. Since the Prime Minister drives the agenda of Cabinet meetings, contentious issues can be left out of discussion and the Cabinet can do little if the Prime Minister prefers to use a "kitchen cabinet," i.e. to consult only a select few.

If the Government is frequently referred to as "Whitehall", Parliament is often referred to as "Westminster", since it is located in the Palace of Westminster. The main task of Parliament is to legislate and control the Government, and it does so through its main functions: it examines proposals for new laws and may pass them; it raises enough money through taxation to enable the government to function; it examines government policy and administration, and it debates and discusses the major political issues of the day. Until September 2011, when the Fixed Term Parliament Act was passed, the duration of a Parliament was not fixed and the Prime Minister could ask the Queen to dissolve it at any time during its five-year term. The new act provides for general elections to be held every five years. However, two provisions might trigger a general election: if a motion for an early general election is agreed either by at least two-thirds of the whole House or without division¹, or if a motion of no-confidence is passed and no alternative government is confirmed by the Commons within 14 days.

Parliament is composed of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Historically, the House of Lords was created to provide a council of nobles for the king, whilst the Commons were originally summoned to fill the King's coffers. But the more money a king required, the more the Commons questioned its use. Eventually, the Commons grew powerful enough to provide or withhold money, and it was only a matter of time (around the 17th century) before the Commons not only held financial power, but legislative power too – over the monarch and the Lords.

As mentioned above, the House of Commons embodies the most dynamic part of the legislative process of British politics. It is a cradle of democracy, as can be seen by the

fact that even a government with a huge parliamentary majority can see that majority diminish if party members vote against the government – a rare but noteworthy occurrence. The principle function of the Commons is to examine government bills and vote on them – therefore playing a vital role in how laws are made in Britain.

The Commons consists of elected MPs chaired by a Speaker, who is an MP chosen by other MPs, and Commons members represent some 650 constituencies, 533 in England, 40 in Wales, 59 in Scotland and 18 in Northern Ireland. There are only 370 physical seats in the Commons debating chamber, but it is unusual for all MPs to be present at the same time. Unlike the French *Assemblée nationale*, in which the debating chamber is semicircular and represents a wide political spectrum, the Commons' chamber is rectangular, with benches running the length of the chamber. On the Speaker's right hand side sits the party in power – Her Majesty's Government, whilst on the other side sits Her Majesty's Opposition, composed of all Members who oppose the government. The front benches on either side are reserved for members of the Cabinet on the government side, and Opposition spokesmen on the other side, known as the Shadow Cabinet. Behind these front rows sit MPs known as "backbenchers". The physical layout of the room is testimony to Britain's traditional two-party system, the two most prominent today being the Conservative and Labour Parties. In front of each set of benches, a red line is drawn on the carpet. The red lines in front of the two sets of benches are two swords' lengths apart, beyond which a Member is traditionally not allowed to approach the opposite benches – a reminder that in past centuries the process was essentially adversarial! Although other groups have very limited influence, there are now more than two parties. The 2018 composition of the House of Commons by number of members and political party is 316 Conservative, 259 Labour, 35 Scottish National Party, 12 Liberal Democrat, 10 Democratic Unionist, 6 Sinn Fein² (The Irish Nationalist Party), 5 Independent, 4 Plaid Cymru (The Welsh Nationalist Party), 1 Green.

The House of Lords is not at all democratic, for it is an unelected body consisting of the Lords Spiritual, the 26 most senior bishops and archbishops of the Church of England, and the Lords Temporal. These include the hereditary peers: 90 in all, elected by the nobility from among themselves, and the life peers, individuals who were ennobled in recognition of their work in public service. Before the House of Lords Act of 1999, hundreds of peers had the right to sit in the House of Lords. The Act left seats for ninety hereditary peers, elected by and among members of the nobility. In 2018, the number of hereditary peers who could elect those 90 members or be chosen to sit themselves was 789.

For a Bill to become law, it moves through both Houses in a very specific way. If the Bill is introduced by the Government, it is called a Public Bill; a Private Bill is introduced by MPs or the Government in favour of a category of individuals or of corporations. The House of Commons debates the Bill over a series of stages – the First Reading, which is a formal announcement with no debate; the Second Reading, which is a debate often followed by a vote; the Committee Stage, in which amendments may be made; the Report Stage, in which the House considers the amendments; and the Third Reading, which is a formal review of the amended contents of the Bill. If the Bill is introduced in the Commons, it will now go to the Lords where it goes through the same stages. The Lords can delay but not stop a Bill. When both Houses have reached agreement, the Bill receives Royal Assent, still read out in Norman French as "La reyne le vault," and the Bill becomes law.

Power in the UK is devolved, and therefore Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland each have their own parliaments. However, Westminster legislates for both England and the entire country. The devolved assemblies are the Scottish Parliament (*Pàrlamaid na h-Alba* in Scottish Gaelic or *Scots Pairlament* in Scots, often referred to as Holyrood for its location), the National Assembly for Wales (*Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru* in Welsh), and the Northern Ireland Assembly (*Tionól Thuaisceart Éireann* in Irish or *Norlin Airlan Assemblée* in Ulster-Scots).

Notes

1. A division: Members of both Houses register their vote for or against issues by physically going into two different areas either side of their debating chambers. This is known as "dividing the House", while the areas concerned are known as "division lobbies". Therefore, a vote is called a "division".
2. Sinn Féin does not take its seats in Parliament because of its refusal to take the oath to be "faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors". Sinn Féin MPs have offices and staff at Westminster and can claim expenses in the same way as other members.

<i>to outline</i>	esquisser, tracer les grandes lignes	<i>to embody sth</i>	s'incarner dans
<i>to intend to do something</i>	avoir l'intention de faire quelque chose	<i>a cradle</i>	un berceau
<i>theoretically</i>	théoriquement, en théorie	<i>to be noteworthy</i>	être remarquable, mémorable, digne d'être souligné
<i>to summon</i>	appeler, faire venir, convoquer	<i>an occurrence</i>	un événement
<i>to dissolve</i>	dissoudre	<i>a bill</i>	une proposition de loi
<i>to appoint</i>	nommer (à un poste)	<i>an MP (a Member of Parliament)</i>	un membre du Parlement
<i>to embody something</i>	incarner qqch, personnifier qqch	<i>to chair (a meeting or committee)</i>	présider
<i>to pass a bill</i>	adopter un projet de loi	<i>a bench</i>	un banc
<i>a figurehead</i>	une personne purement décorative ou symbolique	<i>to oppose something</i>	s'opposer, résister à quelque chose
<i>a safety net</i>	un filet de sécurité	<i>a spokesman</i>	un porte-parole
<i>to deal with</i>	gérer, traiter, faire face à	<i>the Shadow Cabinet</i>	le Conseil des ministres fantôme
<i>the coronation</i>	le couronnement	<i>a row</i>	un rang, une rangée
<i>a constituency</i>	une circonscription électorale	<i>the physical layout</i>	l'agencement, la disposition physique
<i>the Foreign Secretary</i>	le ministre des Affaires étrangères	<i>a sword</i>	une épée
<i>the Chancellor of the Exchequer</i>	le ministre des Finances	<i>a reminder</i>	un rappel
<i>the Home Secretary</i>	le ministre de l'Intérieur	<i>a bishop</i>	un évêque
<i>to make something known</i>	rendre quelque chose public, faire savoir qqch	<i>an archbishop</i>	un archevêque
<i>to have an agenda</i>	avoir un ordre du jour, un programme	<i>hereditary peers</i>	les pairs héréditaires
<i>contentious</i>	contentieux	<i>to ennoble</i>	anoblir
<i>a provision</i>	une clause	<i>nobility</i>	la noblesse
<i>the King's coffers</i>	les fonds de la Couronne	<i>the contents</i>	un contenu
<i>to withhold</i>	refuser	<i>to reach an agreement</i>	parvenir à un accord, se mettre d'accord
		<i>devolved</i>	délégué, décentralisé

Vocabulary

<i>to abdicate</i>	renoncer (au trône)	<i>a manifesto</i>	un manifeste, une proclamation, une déclaration publique
<i>an amendment</i>	une modification de projet de loi	<i>negotiations have reached a stalemate</i>	les négociations ont abouti à une impasse
<i>a by-election</i>	une élection partielle	<i>public expenditure</i>	les dépenses publiques
<i>a Cabinet re-shuffle</i>	un remaniement ministériel	<i>a resignation</i>	une démission
<i>to call for something</i>	nécessiter, exiger quelque chose	<i>to safeguard</i>	sauvegarder, protéger des droits
<i>a cornerstone</i>	une pierre angulaire	<i>a statesman, a stateswoman</i>	un homme ou femme d'État
<i>to disavow</i>	désavouer, renier	<i>strikers</i>	des grévistes
<i>a dispute</i>	une contestation, une controverse, un conflit	<i>the stronghold of trade unionism</i>	la citadelle du syndicalisme
<i>to distrust</i>	se méfier, se défier	<i>a subsidy</i>	une subvention
<i>effectiveness</i>	l'efficacité	<i>Ten Downing Street</i>	l'adresse du Premier ministre
<i>in retrospect</i>	rétrospectivement	<i>the Treasury</i>	le ministère des Finances
<i>the left wing of a party</i>	l'aile gauche d'un parti		
<i>a long-overdue measure</i>	une mesure tardive		