

# Government Systems

## Table of Contents

### Government

- 2 Discussion
- 2 Vocabulary
- 5 Survey

### Vocabulary Review

- 6 Matching
- 6 Odd One Out
- 7 Complete the Sentences

### How Laws Are Made in the United States

- 8 Reading
- 9 Comprehension
- 9 Matching
- 10 Complete the Sentences
- 10 Timeline

### Grammar Practice

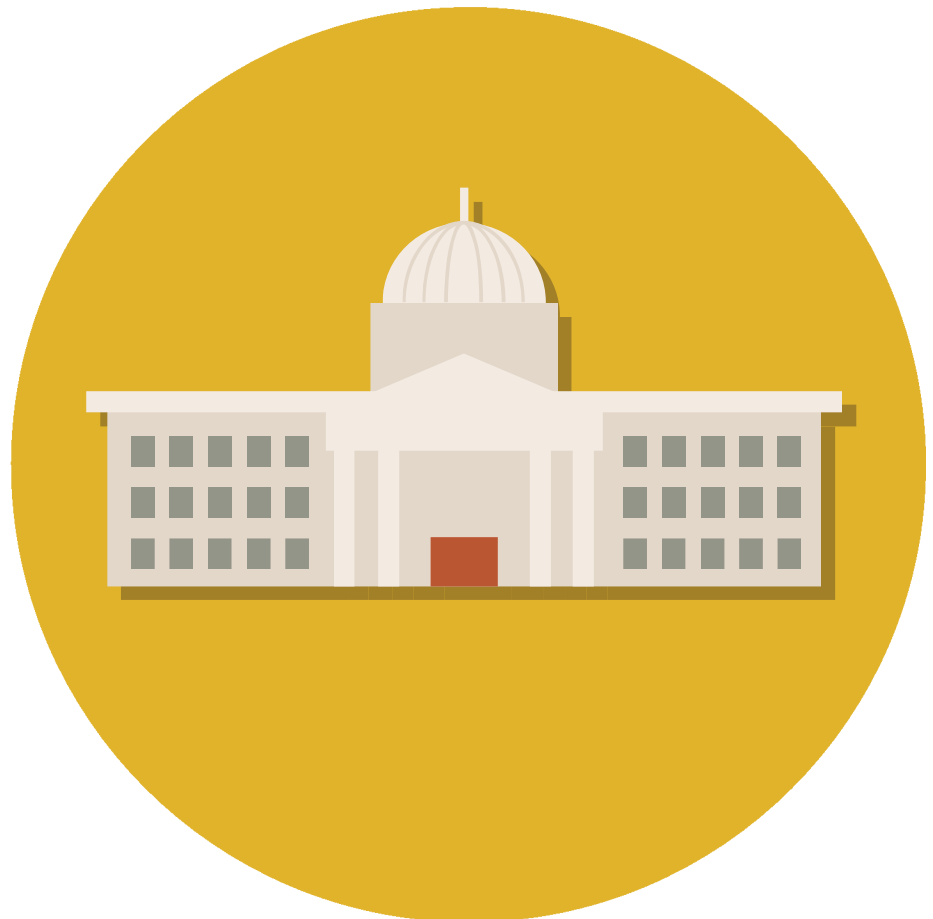
- 11 Preposition Review
- 11 Passive Voice

### Pair Work

- 12 Reading (Student A)
- 13 Reading (Student B)
- 14 Sharing Information

### Class Activity

- 14 Mock Election



# Government

## A. Discussion

Discuss the following questions in groups.

1. When was the last election in your country, state/province, or city?
2. What system of government does your country have? (e.g., **republic**, **monarchy**, **constitutional monarchy**, etc.)
3. How are government officials chosen in your country?
4. Have you ever **voted** in an **election** of any kind? (e.g., **federal**, **provincial**, **state**, **municipal**, school, etc.) If so, when was the last time? Was the **candidate** you voted for elected?
5. What are some of the titles given to the leaders of different countries around the world?
6. Who is the current leader of your provincial or state government, and what is his/her title?
7. Who is the **mayor** of your city?
8. Are you interested in politics?
9. Have you ever watched a **political debate** on television?
10. What is a **political party**? Do you know the names of the political parties in your country?
11. Why do you think people go into **politics**?
12. In your opinion, what kind of personal characteristics should a good politician have?
13. What does it mean to be on the **left** or **right** side of the political spectrum?
14. Are there many women in politics in your country?
15. How often are federal elections held in your country?

## B. Vocabulary

Word	Definition
absolute monarchy	a system of government in which the monarch (king/queen) has almost complete power
anarchy	a condition of lawlessness where there is no government control
ballot	the official piece of paper used in voting
bill	a proposed law that is presented to a government for approval; a formal or written suggestion for an idea before it becomes a law
by-election	a special election held between regular elections
cabinet	a group of people chosen by the head of government to give advice on government policy and administration

## Government cont.

### B. Vocabulary cont.

Word	Definition
cabinet minister / secretary	a member of cabinet who leads a particular department of government (e.g., minister of health, secretary of defense)
campaign	a program of activities (e.g., speeches, television advertisements, etc.) intended to help a candidate become elected
candidate	a person who is trying to get people's votes in an election, a person running for an elected position
citizen	a member of a country, a person who has full rights in a country either by birth or immigration
Congress	the chief lawmaking body of the United States government made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives
constituent	a person who lives in a particular voting district or area, a voter
constituency	a voting area or district
constitution	the laws and principles according to which a country is governed
constitutional monarchy	a system of government in which a king or queen is the official head of state, but the power is limited by a constitution (e.g., Britain)
conservative	having political opinions that are more traditional and the belief that there should not be a lot of government involvement in people's lives
debate	to discuss, argue, and question different opinions on a subject
democracy	a type of government in which the citizens share power and decision-making either directly or through elected representatives
dictator	a leader or ruler who has absolute power and controls the country by force
dictatorship	a form of government in which a ruler or small group has absolute power
elect	to choose a representative by voting
election	the formal process of choosing individuals to represent the citizens in government
electorate	the whole group of people who have the right to vote

## Government cont.

### B. Vocabulary cont.

Word	Definition
electoral district	an area that is represented by an elected member of government, a voting district or area
enumerator	a person who helps prepare the list of voters
governor	a leader of a state government
independent candidate	a person running for political office who does not belong to a particular political party
left wing	being on the liberal side of the political spectrum
liberal	having a political opinion that is more progressive/ less traditional and the belief that the government should be more involved in providing social programs
majority	the greater number or part of
mayor	a leader of a city government
minority	the smaller number or part of
moderate	a person who is in the middle of the political spectrum
monarch	a king, queen, or emperor (the head of state of a monarchy)
municipal government	the government of a city or municipality
Parliament	the national lawmaking body of certain countries, such as Canada or Great Britain
party platform	a statement of principles or shared ideas of a political party
pass a law	to enact, to formally accept or make a law
policy	the methods, ideas, or plan of action of a government or political party
political party	a group of people with similar political ideas, an organization formed to gain political power
politician	a person taking part in politics or who is in political office
prime minister	the leader of a parliamentary system of government, such as Canada

## Government cont.

### B. Vocabulary cont.

Word	Definition
premier	the leader of a province
president	the head of state in a republic, such as the United States
republic	a system of government in which the people's elected representatives vote on legislation and the head of state (e.g., the president) is elected
riding	a voting district or area (in Canada and some Commonwealth countries)
right wing	being on the conservative side of the political spectrum
run for office	to be a candidate in an election

### C. Survey

What do you think are the most important political issues in your country right now? Write your answers in the chart, then ask your group members questions and record their answers.

	Me			
Jobs				
Health Care				
Economy				
Taxes				
Education				
Other				

# Vocabulary Review

## A. Matching

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. campaign         | a) a ruler who has absolute power   |
| _____ 2. cabinet          | b) a person running for political office  |
| _____ 3. bill             | c) a group or organization formed to gain political power                                 |
| _____ 4. ballot           | d) a group of people chosen by the president or prime minister to help run the government |
| _____ 5. candidate        | e) the leader of a city government  |
| _____ 6. by-election      | f) a written suggestion or proposal before it becomes a law                               |
| _____ 7. citizen          | g) to discuss or argue different opinions on a subject                                    |
| _____ 8. constitution     | h) a program of activities intended to help a candidate get elected                       |
| _____ 9. mayor            | i) a piece of paper used in voting  |
| _____ 10. political party | j) the leader of government for a state   |
| _____ 11. monarch         | k) a special election held between regular elections                                      |
| _____ 12. debate          | l) to be a candidate in an election   |
| _____ 13. dictator        | m) a person who has full rights in a country either by birth or immigration               |
| _____ 14. run for office  | n) a king or queen  |
| _____ 15. governor        | o) the laws and principles according to which a country is governed                       |

## B. Odd One Out

Circle the word that does not belong in each group of words below.  
 Be prepared to explain why.

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| 1. a) vote<br>b) argue<br>c) choose<br>d) elect              | 4. a) cabinet<br>b) doctor<br>c) minister<br>d) secretary   | 7. a) argue<br>b) debate<br>c) party<br>d) question                | 10. a) be a candidate<br>b) manage a store<br>c) run for office<br>d) try to be elected |
| 2. a) janitor<br>b) governor<br>c) ruler<br>d) administrator | 5. a) candidate<br>b) king<br>c) queen<br>d) monarch        | 8. a) laws<br>b) buildings<br>c) principles<br>d) constitution     | 11. a) republic<br>b) monarchy<br>c) ballot<br>d) dictatorship                          |
| 3. a) party<br>b) group<br>c) organization<br>d) teacher     | 6. a) moderate<br>b) false<br>c) conservative<br>d) liberal | 9. a) campaign<br>b) advertisements<br>c) champagne<br>d) speeches | 12. a) electoral district<br>b) riding<br>c) platform<br>d) constituency                |

## Vocabulary Review cont.

### C. Complete the Sentences

Choose the correct word from the vocabulary list in Part A to complete the following sentences.

1. There are so many good \_\_\_\_\_ running for mayor this year.  
I can't decide who to vote for.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ passed with almost 100% support.  
Both parties agree that it is a good law.
3. The governor spent a lot of money on her election \_\_\_\_\_ this year.  
She made a lot of speeches and had so many advertisements on television.
4. Maria came to this country six years ago. This year she is going to become a \_\_\_\_\_, and then she will be able to get a passport and vote in elections.
5. The Queen of England is a constitutional \_\_\_\_\_.  
She is the head of state, but this is really a ceremonial title. She has no political power.
6. The candidates for each political party are going to have a \_\_\_\_\_ on television tonight to discuss the issues in this election.
7. There are four candidates listed on the \_\_\_\_\_.  
Place an X beside the name of the person you are voting for.
8. The people were very happy when the old \_\_\_\_\_ died and the country became a democracy again.
9. According to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the country,  
all citizens who are 18 years or older have the right to vote.
10. After the election, the prime minister chose a new \_\_\_\_\_.  
Some of the ministers remained the same, but there were also several new ones.
11. In the Canadian system of government, the leader of the \_\_\_\_\_ that wins the most votes becomes the prime minister of the country.
12. Mr. Jones is a very honest, hardworking, intelligent man. He has many good ideas about government. He should \_\_\_\_\_ in the next election.
13. The head of a city government is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. A special \_\_\_\_\_ will be held next month to replace the member of Parliament who just died.

# How Laws Are Made in the United States

## A. Reading

1. Making a law is a long process. Laws first begin as ideas. An idea can come from a government representative or from a citizen who **contacts** his or her representative with an idea. The representative in the government must **research** the idea and write it into a bill. Then the representative will talk to other members of the government and try to get support for the bill and try to get someone to **sponsor** it. Then the bill is introduced in the House of Representatives. It is placed in a special box and later read by a clerk to all the members of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House then sends the bill to a special committee of representatives to study, review, and **revise** the bill. This committee is made up of **experts** in the area that the bill is discussing. For example, if the bill is about health care, there may be doctors on the committee, or if the bill is about the environment, the committee may include scientists. If the committee members need more information before making a decision, they may send it to a subcommittee to examine it further.
2. After the committee **approves** the bill, they send it to the House floor to be **debated** by all the members of the House. At this stage, the representatives discuss the bill and explain why they agree or disagree with it. They go through each section of the bill carefully, and they can recommend changes. Then the vote is taken. There are three methods of voting on a bill in the House of Representatives. One is a voice vote, another is a standing count, and the third is an electronic vote. If the **majority** of the representatives vote in favor of the bill, it is then sent to the Senate. Once the bill reaches the Senate, it goes through the same steps as in the House of Representatives. It is examined and discussed by a committee and then sent back to the Senate floor for a vote. Senators vote by voice. If the Senate approves the bill, it is then sent to the president.
3. When receiving the bill, the president has three **options**. He or she can sign the bill and it becomes law. The president can also **veto** the bill and send it back to the House of Representatives with the reasons for refusing to sign it. If the House and Senate still believe that the bill should become a law, they can vote again. If two-thirds of both the House and Senate support the bill, the president's veto is **overridden** and the bill becomes law. The last choice for the president is to do nothing. If the Congress is **in session**, the bill automatically becomes law in ten days. If Congress is not in session, the bill does not become law.



## How Laws Are Made in the United States cont.

### B. Comprehension

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner, and then write the answers in your notebook.

1. What are the two bodies of Congress in the United States?
2. Where do ideas for laws come from?
3. What does a representative do before introducing a bill to the House?
4. What does the Speaker of the House do with the bill after it is introduced?
5. What does the committee do?
6. What are three ways of voting in the House of Representatives?
7. Where does the bill go after the House of Representatives approves it?
8. What happens to the bill in the Senate?
9. How do the senators vote?
10. If the president does not like the bill, what can he do?
11. What happens to a bill if the president vetoes it?
12. What happens to a bill when the president signs it?

### C. Matching

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. contact     | a) to change                                   |
| _____ 2. research    | b) to reject, to prohibit, to not allow        |
| _____ 3. sponsor     | c) a choice                                    |
| _____ 4. revise      | d) to study                                    |
| _____ 5. expert      | e) working, active, not on break               |
| _____ 6. approve     | f) to be responsible for something, to support |
| _____ 7. debate      | g) the greater number or part                  |
| _____ 8. majority    | h) to communicate with                         |
| _____ 9. option      | i) to discuss, to argue, to question           |
| _____ 10. veto       | j) overturned, not accepted                    |
| _____ 11. overridden | k) to agree with, to accept                    |
| _____ 12. in session | l) a person with special knowledge             |

## How Laws Are Made in the United States cont.

### D. Complete the Sentences

Choose the correct word from the vocabulary list in Part C to complete the following sentences.

1. Many scientists around the world are doing \_\_\_\_\_ to try and find a cure for cancer.
2. The president doesn't like that bill and will probably \_\_\_\_\_ it.
3. The government is not \_\_\_\_\_ for the next two weeks because of the Christmas holidays.
4. I can't answer your medical questions. I am not an \_\_\_\_\_. You should ask a doctor.
5. Here is my email address in case you want to \_\_\_\_\_ me.
6. Her father does not like her boyfriend. He will never \_\_\_\_\_ of their marriage.
7. I don't want to travel by airplane. Is there another \_\_\_\_\_?
8. If you want to immigrate to this country, you may need someone to \_\_\_\_\_ you.
9. She is a very popular politician. She won the election by a large \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The candidates are going to \_\_\_\_\_ the issues on television tonight.

### E. Timeline

Work in a small group. Place the following in chronological order (1–15).

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 5     | The Speaker of the House sends the bill to a committee.                            |
| 3     | The representative tries to get support and a sponsor for the bill.                |
| _____ | The committee reviews the bill and makes changes to it.                            |
| _____ | Someone has an idea for a law.   |
| 11    | The Senate studies the bill.   |
| _____ | All the members of the House of Representatives vote on the bill.                  |
| _____ | The bill is placed in a box and then read to all the members of the House.         |
| _____ | If the Senate approves the bill, it is sent to the president.                      |
| _____ | If the bill is approved in the House, it is sent to the Senate.                    |
| _____ | The House committee approves the bill and sends it back to the floor of the House. |
| _____ | A representative of Congress researches the idea and writes the idea into a bill.  |
| _____ | If the president agrees with the bill, he or she signs it.                         |
| 8     | All the members of the House discuss the bill carefully.                           |
| _____ | The bill becomes a law.  |
| _____ | The Senate votes on the bill.  |

## Grammar Practice

### A. Preposition Review

Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition.

1. There are four candidates running \_\_\_\_\_ mayor this year.
2. Mark an X \_\_\_\_\_ the ballot \_\_\_\_\_ the name of the candidate you want.
3. Enumerators go door-\_\_\_\_\_-door to get all the citizens' names \_\_\_\_\_ the voters list.
4. That political party does not believe \_\_\_\_\_ raising taxes.
5. Are you interested \_\_\_\_\_ politics?
6. The political debate will be \_\_\_\_\_ television \_\_\_\_\_ 8:00 pm tonight.
7. I don't like that candidate, so I won't vote \_\_\_\_\_ him.
8. Parliament is not \_\_\_\_\_ session right now. It is summer break.
9. The majority \_\_\_\_\_ the senators voted \_\_\_\_\_ favor \_\_\_\_\_ the bill.
10. When a bill reaches the Senate, it goes \_\_\_\_\_ many of the same steps as in the House of Representatives.

### B. Passive Voice

Change the following sentences from active to passive.  
The first one is completed for you.

1. The senators approved the bill.

The bill was approved by the senators.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. The enumerator put Joanne Baker's name on the voters list.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The clerk read the bill to all the members of the House.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. The Speaker sent the bill to a committee.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The president has signed the bill.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_