

Politics Vocabulary

Word	Phonetic Transcription	Definition
10 Downing Street	tɛn daʊ nɪŋ stri:t	<i>The official building of the Prime Minister in the UK</i>
Agenda	ə dʒ ɛndə	<i>A list of goals</i>
Amendment	ə m ɛndmənt	<i>A change</i>
Ballot box	b ælət bɒks	<i>A box where paper with a vote is placed</i>
Bill	bɪl	<i>A proposed law</i>
By-election	bɑɪ-ɪ l ɛkʃn	<i>An election to vote for an MP in between regular general elections</i>
Cabinet	k æbɪnɪt	<i>The group of MPs leading the country</i>
Candidate	k ændɪdeɪt	<i>A person considered for a job</i>
To canvas	k ænvəs	<i>To go around an area and meet people to get political support</i>
Chamber	tʃ eɪmbə	<i>A house of UK parliament</i>
Civil service	sɪvl sɜ:vɪs	<i>Administrative jobs who carry out the government's work</i>
Coalition	kəʊə l ɪʃn	<i>Partnership of multiple political parties</i>
Constituency	kən st ɪtʃuənsi	<i>A geographical area</i>
Constitutional monarchy	kɒn st ɪtju:ʃənl m ɒnəki	<i>A monarch's powers are limited by the constitution</i>
Democratic	dɛmə k rætɪk	<i>A form of government where the people have the ultimate power</i>
Devolved government	dɪv ə lvd g ʌvnmənt	<i>A decentralised governmental power</i>
To disband	dɪsb æ nd	<i>To break up</i>
Donor	d əʊnə	<i>A person who donates something</i>

Word	Phonetic Transcription	Definition
Elected	ɪləktɪd	A person who was voted for
Executive	ɪgzɛkjʊtɪv	Law enforcement
Exit poll	ɛksɪt pəʊl	An opinion survey summarising the overall view of people's votes
First Minister	fɜːst mɪnɪstə	Leader of a ruling party
First-past-the-post	fɜːst-pɑːst-ðə-pəʊst	A candidate with the most votes in one area wins
Freedom of speech	friːdəm ɒv spiːtʃ	The ability to express one's opinions without restraint
General election	dʒenərəl ɪləkʃn	A vote from the population
Government	ɡʌvnmənt	A group of people with the authority to rule a country
Head of State	hed ɒv steɪt	Chief representative of a country
Hung parliament	hʌŋ pɑːləmənt	A parliament where no political party has a majority
Judiciary	dʒuːdɪʃri	A system that adjudicates legal disputes and makes decisions
Left-wing	left-wɪŋ	Ideology of greater equality
Legislation	ledʒɪsleɪʃn	Law
Legislative	ledʒɪslətɪv	Power to make laws
Mandate	mændeɪt	Authority via election
Manifesto	mænɪfɛstəʊ	Public declaration of goals for a political party
Member of Parliament (MP)	mɛmbər ɒv pɑːləmənt	An elected person who represents their local geographic area in parliament
No confidence	nəʊ kɒnfɪdəns	A show of no support for a ruling person or body
Nominee	nɒmɪniː	A person considered for a job

Word	Phonetic Transcription	Definition
Opposition	ɒpəzɪʃn	<i>The group or person in an opposite ideological position to the sitting government</i>
Parliament	pɑːləmənt	<i>The highest system of politics in the UK</i>
To pledge allegiance	pleɪdʒ əliːdʒəns	<i>To promise</i>
Political party	pəˈlɪtɪkəl pɑːti	<i>An organisation of people with similar political beliefs</i>
Polling day	pəʊlɪŋ deɪ	<i>The day of a general election</i>
Polling station	pəʊlɪŋ steɪʃn	<i>A building where people can vote</i>
Power-sharing	paʊə-ʃeərɪŋ	<i>A policy where responsibilities and power are shared</i>
Prime Minister (PM)	praɪm mɪnɪstə	<i>Leader of a ruling party</i>
Proxy vote	prɒksi vəʊt	<i>A vote on behalf of another person</i>
Public sector	pʌblɪk sɛktə	<i>Part of the economy controlled by the state</i>
To recount	rɪːkaʊnt	<i>To count votes again</i>
Right-wing	raɪt-wɪŋ	<i>Ideology of free enterprise and economy</i>
Secretary of State	sɛkrətri ɒv steɪt	<i>The head of a major governmental department</i>
Shadow cabinet	ʃædəʊ kæbɪnɪt	<i>The group of MPs in the opposition party in leading positions</i>
To take an oath	teɪk ən əʊθ	<i>To make a serious promise to tell the truth and do your job</i>
Trade union	treɪd juːnjən	<i>An organisation that supports the rights of workers in a certain trade</i>
To vote (cast a vote)	vəʊt	<i>To indicate your opinion</i>
Voting day	vəʊtɪŋ deɪ	<i>The day of a general election</i>
Ward	wɔːd	<i>A small geographic area for voting purposes</i>