

General Elections

The 8th of June is an important day this year. People will choose a leader for our country. They will pick other leaders as well. They will choose them by voting. This is called an election.

There was going to be an election in three years time. Prime Minister Theresa May asked for an election to be held this year. She wants the best person to be in charge.

Why is it important?

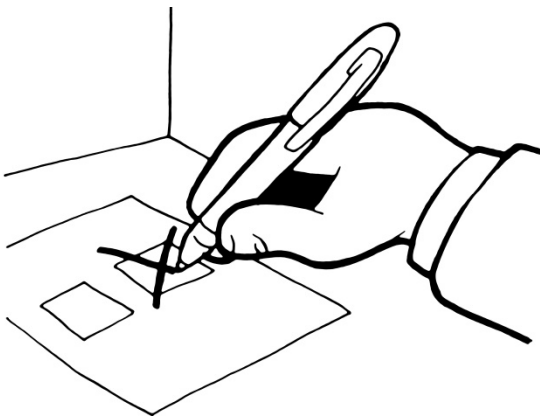
The leaders who are picked will make big choices. They will say what happens in our country. They will choose what you learn at school. They will make new laws.

We call the leaders 'politicians'. They will talk about the big choices in the Houses of Parliament. The Houses of Parliament are in London. They are old buildings. They have a clock called 'Big Ben'.

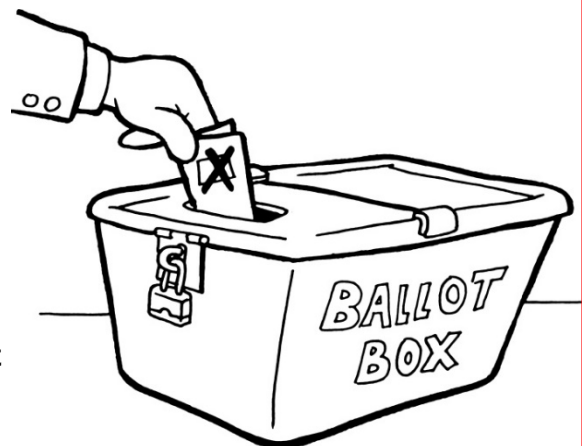


How do people vote?

Our country is split into 650 parts. Each part can send one politician to the Houses of Parliament. The people in each part will vote for the leader they want. People who are 18 or older can vote.



On election day, there will be special places to vote. Places like churches and schools. You might get a day off! People will go to these places to vote. They will be given a piece of paper. It will be a list of politicians that they can choose. Their vote is a secret. All the votes will be counted. The politician who gets the most votes will be the new leader. They will go to London. They will help to make the big choices.



Who can people vote for?

People think different things about our country. They think different things are good. They think different things are bad. Some people want things to change. Some people want things to stay the same. A person who really thinks that their ideas are the best might become a politician. If they are picked, they can make choices that they think are good.

Some people try to be a politician on their own. But most people join a group. They find other politicians who agree with them. A group like this is called a 'party'. Big parties have a politician in every part of the country. They all try to get people to vote for them.



Politicians are busy before an election. They talk to people. They put up posters. They want people to think they are the best one to choose. Some politicians talk on T.V. They argue with each other. They say they have good ideas. They say other politicians have bad ideas.

Special things happen before an election. Some parties make adverts. Some of the adverts make fun of the other parties. Sometimes, normal people put up posters. They put them on their houses. They put them on lamp posts. The posters say who the people will vote for.

Who wins the election?

Every part of the country will choose a new leader. That means that 650 politicians will be picked. They will be from different parties. The party with the most politicians is the winner. The Queen makes one of them into the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is the leader of our country. The Prime Minister lives in a special house. It is in London. It is number 10, Downing Street.

The Prime Minister is in charge for 5 years. Then there is a new election.

Ed Moss

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What is an election? Pick 2 answers.

A time when people vote.

A time when hospitals are closed.

A time when people have a party.

A time when leaders are chosen.

Find and copy 2 things that the leaders who are picked will do.

Why might you get a day off?

Why do some parties make adverts which make fun of the other parties?

When else might you or other people use voting?

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Various answers; must be from the text.

Why might you get a day off?

School may be closed so people can vote there.

Why do some parties make adverts which make fun of the other parties?

To make voters think that the other parties are bad/silly/wrong; so that more people vote for them instead of the other parties.

When else might you or other people use voting?

Various answers from occasions in school/friendships/the wider world.