

## Lesson 6 UK political system -1

### Proper names

1. **Buckingham Palace 白金汉宫（英国皇宫）** : Originally built in 1703, the palace is now the official London residence of the British monarch located in the City of Westminster. The palace is a setting for state occasions and royal entertaining, and a major tourist attraction.
2. **Royal Coat of Arms of the UK 英国皇家徽章**: The official coat of arms of the British monarch, currently Queen Elizabeth II. These arms are used by the Queen in her official capacity as monarch, and are officially known as her Arms of Dominion 御纹 .
3. **The White House**: It is the official home and principal workplace of the presidents of the United States. Built between 1792 and 1800 of white-painted Aquia sandstone in the late Georgian style, it has been the executive residence of every U.S. President since John Adams. When Thomas Jefferson moved into the home in 1801, he, with architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, expanded the building outward, creating two colonnades 柱廊 which were meant to conceal stables and storage.
4. **Constitutional Monarchy**: A constitutional monarchy, or a limited monarchy, is a form of constitutional government, wherein either an elected or hereditary monarch is the head of state, unlike in an absolute monarchy, wherein the king or the queen is the sole source of political power, as he or she is not legally bound by the national constitution. The constitutional monarchy's government and its law are the government and the law of a limited monarchy. Most constitutional monarchies have a parliamentary system (the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand) in which the monarch is the head of state, but a directly- or indirectly-elected prime minister is head of government.
5. **Prime Minister**: A prime minister is the most senior minister of cabinet in the executive branch of government in a parliamentary system. The position is usually held by, but need not always be held by, a politician. In many systems the Prime Minister selects and can dismiss other members of the cabinet, and allocates posts to members within the Government. In most systems, the prime minister is the presiding member and chairperson of the cabinet. In a minority of systems, notably in semi-presidential system of government, a prime minister is the official who is appointed to manage the civil service and execute the directives of the President.
6. **parliament debate**: Parliament debate is an academic debate event. Most university level institutions in English-speaking nations sponsor parliamentary debate teams, but the format is currently spreading to the high school level as well. Despite the name, the parliamentary style is not related to debates in governmental parliaments.
7. **Cabinet**: A cabinet is a body of high-ranking members of government, typically representing the executive branch. It can also sometimes be referred to as the Council of Ministers, an Executive Council or an Executive Committee.
8. **Democratic Party**: The Democratic Party is one of two major political parties in the United States, the other being the Republican Party. It is the oldest political party in the United States and amongst the oldest in the world.

The Democratic Party traces its origins to the Democratic-Republican Party, founded by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and other influential opponents of the Federalists in 1792. Since the division of the Republican Party in the election of 1912, it has consistently positioned itself to the left of the Republican Party in economic as well as social matters. The economically

left-leaning activist philosophy of Franklin D. Roosevelt, which has strongly influenced American liberalism, has shaped much of the party's economic agenda since 1932. Roosevelt's New Deal coalition usually controlled the national government until the 1970s. The civil rights movement of the 1960s, championed by the party despite opposition at the time from its Southern wing, has continued to inspire the party's liberal principles.

9. **Republic Party:** The Republican Party is one of the two major contemporary political parties in the United States of America, along with the Democratic Party. It is often referred to as the Grand Old Party or the GOP. Founded in 1854 by anti-slavery expansion activists and modernizers, the Republican Party rose to prominence with the election of Abraham Lincoln, the first Republican president. The party presided over the American Civil War and Reconstruction and was harried by internal factions and scandals toward the end of the 19th century. Today, the Republican Party supports a conservative platform (as far as American politics are concerned), with further foundations in economic liberalism, fiscal conservatism, and social conservatism.
10. **President:** President is a title held by many leaders of organizations, companies, trade unions, universities, and countries. Etymologically, a “president” is one who presides, who sits in leadership (from Latin pre- “before” + sedere “to sit”; giving the term praeses). Originally, the term referred to the presiding officer of a ceremony or meeting (i.e. chairman); but today it most commonly refers to an official with executive powers.
11. **Congress:** The United States Congress is the bicameral legislature of the federal government of the United States, consisting of two houses: The Senate and the House of Representatives. Both senators and representatives are chosen through direct election.  
Each of the 435 members of the House of Representatives represents a district and serves a two-year term. “House” seats are apportioned among the states by population. The 100 Senators serve staggered six-year terms. Each state has two senators, regardless of population. Every two years, approximately one-third of the Senate is elected.
12. **general election:** A general election is an election in which all or most members of a given political body are up for election. The term is usually used to refer to elections held for a nation’s primary legislative body, as distinguished from by-elections and local elections.  
The term originates in the United Kingdom general elections for the House of Commons.