

# Talk a Lot

## Politics

### General Questions

1. Are there any words or phrases that you don't know? Find them in a dictionary.
2. Take some cards. Describe the word or phrase on a card without saying it.
3. How many words and phrases have... a) 1 syllable, b) 2 syllables, c) 3 syllables, d) 4 syllables, e) 5 syllables, f) 6 syllables?
4. Put words and phrases with more than one syllable into groups according to where the strong stress falls.
5. Put the words and phrases into alphabetical order.
6. Find and put into groups... a) compound nouns, b) words with suffixes.
7. Find words that... a) begin with a vowel sound, b) end with a vowel sound, c) begin with a consonant sound, d) end with a consonant sound. Put them into sound groups.
8. Find words which contain silent letters (letters which are not pronounced).
9. How many words and phrases can you remember when they are all turned over?
10. Put words and phrases that contain the same sounds into groups, using the IPA.

### Lesson Questions

1. Which word sounds like... a) bike, b) great, c) revision, d) wax, e) bear, f) relate?
2. Find the two main political parties in the UK.
3. Which word is a kind of humour which makes fun of politics and politicians?
4. i) Find a word which has a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the... a) 1st syllable, b) 2<sup>nd</sup> syllable, c) 3<sup>rd</sup> syllable, etc. ii) Do any words and phrases *not* have a schwa?
5. a) Put together the different political ideologies. b) How do you feel about each one?
6. Scandal, sleaze, bribery, fraud, and dirty tricks can all be described by this word.
7. This word defines a nation's financial system.
8. Which word means... a) strategy, b) optimism, c) ballot, d) administration, e) workers' revolt, f) opponent, g) elector, h) liberty?
9. Find all of the different people, and describe what each one does.
10. "Governments should pass a) \_\_\_\_\_ which leads to the b) \_\_\_\_\_ of voters' lives."
11. This is an international organisation that gets countries talking to one another.

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### Discussion Words Question Sheet

#### Answers

#### General Questions

1. Answers will vary.

2. Answers will vary.

3. a) 6 words have 1 syllable: mayor, strike, tax, state, bill, trust. b) 6 words have 2 syllables: voter, MP, debate, council, satire, freedom. c) 14 words have 3 syllables: government, politics, improvement, decision, election, president, policy, dictator, anarchist, corruption, monarchy, citizen, Parliament, fascism. d) 9 words and phrases have 4 syllables: legislation, economy, Labour Party, politician, prime minister, opposition, majority, democracy, idealism. e) 4 words and phrases have 5 syllables: constituency, United Nations, ideology, representative. f) 1 phrase has 6 syllables: Conservative Party.

4. 2 syllables: these words have the strong stress on the first syllable: **voter**, **council**, **satire**, **freedom**; these words have the strong stress on the second syllable: **MP**, **debate**. 3 syllables: these words have the strong stress on the first syllable: **fascism**, **politics**, **president**, **policy**, **anarchist**, **monarchy**, **citizen**, **Parliament**, **government**; these words have the strong stress on the middle syllable: **improvement**, **decision**, **election**, **dictator**, **corruption**. 4 syllables: this phrase has the strong stress on the first syllable: **Labour Party**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the second syllable: **economy**, prime **minister**, **majority**, **democracy**; these words have the strong stress on the third syllable: **opposition**, **politician**, **legislation**. 5 syllables: this word has the strong stress on the second syllable: **idealism**, **constituency**; these words have the strong stress on the third syllable: **ideology**, **representative**; this phrase has the strong stress on the fourth syllable: United **Nations**. 6 syllables: this phrase has the strong stress on the second syllable: **Conservative Party**.

5. Anarchist, bill, citizen, Conservative Party, constituency, corruption, council, debate, decision, democracy, dictator, economy, election, fascism, freedom, government, idealism, ideology, improvement, Labour Party, legislation, majority, mayor, monarchy, MP, opposition, Parliament, policy, politician, politics, president, prime minister, representative, satire, state, strike, tax, trust, United Nations, voter.

6. a) None of the words or phrases are compound nouns. b) The following words and phrases contain suffixes: **corruption**, **election**, **legislation**, **opposition**, **United Nations**; **government**, **improvement**, **Parliament**; **constituency**, **democracy**, **policy**; **prime minister**, **voter**; **fascism**, **idealism**; **anarchist**; **citizen**; **Conservative Party**; **council**; **decision**; **dictator**; **economy**; **freedom**; **ideology**; **Labour Party**; **majority**; **monarchy**; **politician**; **president**; **representative**; **satire**.

7. a) These words all begin with a vowel sound (grouped by IPA sound): /i/ **economy**, **election**, **improvement**; /aɪ/ **idealism**, **ideology**; /æ/ **anarchist**; /ɒ/ **opposition**.

b) These words and phrases all end with a vowel sound (grouped by IPA sound): /i/ **democracy**, **Labour Party**, **Conservative Party**, **economy**, **policy**, **monarchy**, **constituency**, **majority**, **ideology**; /ə/ **voter**, **prime minister**, **dictator**; /aɪə/ **satire**; /i:/ **MP**; /eə/ **mayor**.

c) These words and phrases all begin with a consonant sound (grouped by IPA sound): /p/ **Parliament**, **policy**, **politician**, **politics**, **president**, **prime minister**; /k/ **Conservative Party**, **constituency**, **corruption**, **council**; /d/ **debate**, **decision**, **democracy**, **dictator**; /s/ **citizen**, **satire**, **state**, **strike**; /m/ **majority**, **mayor**, **monarchy**; /l/ **Labour Party**, **legislation**; /f/ **fascism**, **freedom**; /t/ **tax**, **trust**; /b/ **bill**; /g/ **government**; /r/ **representative**; /j/ **United Nations**; /v/ **voter**.

d) These words and phrases all end with a consonant sound (grouped by IPA sound): /t/ **anarchist**, **debate**, **government**, **improvement**, **Parliament**, **president**, **state**, **trust**; /n/ **citizen**, **corruption**, **decision**, **election**, **legislation**, **opposition**, **politician**; /m/ **fascism**, **idealism**, **freedom**. /l/ **bill**, **council**; /s/ **tax**, **politics**; /k/ **strike**; /v/ **representative**; /z/ **United Nations**.

8. Many English words contain one or more **silent letters** – letters which are part of the spelling of a word, but which are not pronounced. The aim of this activity is to demonstrate how so often the spelling of a word in English is different from how it sounds when spoken. Below are some good examples of words in this group of discussion words that have silent letters. The silent letters are shown in brackets. No doubt your students will be able to identify some more.

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### Discussion Words Question Sheet

*debat [e], vote [r], fas [c]ism, gover [n]ment, improv [e]ment, Parl [i]ament, sati [r]e, monarc [h]y*

9. Answers will vary.

10. There are many possible answers to this question; for example, “tax”, “anarchist”, and “fascism” all contain the vowel sound /æ/. Use the phonetic chart on p.18.6 of the **Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook** (available free from [www.englishbanana.com/talkalot](http://www.englishbanana.com/talkalot)) and the phonetic spellings of the vocabulary words on the *Discussion Words (with the IPA)* handout to help your students put the words into sound groups.

#### Lesson Questions

1. a) strike. b) state. c) decision. d) tax. e) mayor. f) debate.

2. Labour Party *and* Conservative Party.

3. Satire.

4. i) a) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 1<sup>st</sup> syllable: Conservative Party, corruption, majority, constituency. b) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 2<sup>nd</sup> syllable: government, representative, politics, Labour Party, policy, anarchist, politician, monarchy, opposition, Parliament, council, freedom, voter. c) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 3<sup>rd</sup> syllable: government, democracy, improvement, decision, Conservative Party, economy, election, president, dictator, United Nations, corruption, citizen, majority, Parliament. d) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 4<sup>th</sup> syllable: representative, politician, prime minister, ideology, opposition, constituency, legislation. e) Phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 5<sup>th</sup> syllable: United Nations. ii) 11 words don't have a weak stress schwa sound: fascism, MP, debate, strike, tax, state, satire, idealism, bill, mayor, trust.

5. a) The different political ideologies are: freedom, anarchist (anarchism), idealism, monarchy, fascism, democracy.  
b) Answers will vary.

6. Corruption.

7. Economy.

8. a) policy, decision. b) idealism. c) vote. d) government. e) strike. f) opposition. g) voter. h) freedom.

9. The different people are: **mayor** – this person is the leader of a town council; **representative** – this person holds a position of authority; they act and speak on behalf of other people, e.g. an MP should represent the interests of the people who live in their constituency (voting area); **MP** – an MP (Member of Parliament) is a professional politician, who speaks to people in their constituency – their constituents – about issues that affect them, and then represent the views of their constituents when voting for or against legislation in Parliament; **president** – this person is the highest leader of a country, organisation, or company; **dictator** – this person is the ruler of a country, who has not been elected democratically, and who may hold onto power by force; **anarchist** – a person who believes that nobody should be in authority over anybody else, and that everybody should be able to choose the best way to live their own lives; **politician** – a person who is elected to a role in politics, e.g. an MP, or a town councillor; **citizen** – a person who belongs to a particular country; **prime minister** – the leader of a country, who may be second in power to a president or monarch; **voter** – a person who is able to vote in an election.

10. a) legislation. b) improvement.

11. United Nations.

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