

Referendum –(Noun) an occasion when all the people in a country can vote in order to show their opinion about a political question

Is it more democratic to hold a referendum, rather than let the government alone decide?

Propaganda – (Noun) information, ideas, opinions, or images, often only giving one part of an argument, that are broadcast, published, or in some other way spread with the intention of influencing people's opinions:

political/ wartime propaganda

At school we were fed communist/ right-wing propaganda.

opinion (Noun) a thought or belief about something or someone:

What's your opinion about/on the matter?

People tend to have strong opinions on capital punishment.

He didn't express/give an opinion on the matter.

polls – (Noun) a study in which people are asked for their opinions about a subject or person:

We're carrying out/ conducting a poll to find out what people think about abortion.

The latest opinion poll puts the Democrats in the lead.

parliament – (Noun) in some countries, a group of people who make the laws for the country:

the Russian parliament

vote – (Noun) to show your choice or opinion in an election or meeting by writing a cross on an official piece of paper or putting your hand up:

Who did you vote for?

The unions voted against strike action.

campaign – (Noun) a planned group of especially political, business, or military activities that are intended to achieve a particular aim:

The protests were part of their campaign against the proposed building development in the area.

This is the latest act of terrorism in a long-standing and bloody campaign of violence.

majority (Noun) [1] the larger number or part of something:

The majority of the employees have university degrees.

A large majority of people approve of the death sentence.

[2] in an election, the difference in the number of votes between the winning person or group and the one that comes second:

The Socialists won by a narrow/ large majority.

Ballot (Noun) a secret written vote:

to hold a ballot

She was the only candidate on the ballot (= available to vote for).

Bill (Countable Noun) A proposed change in the law. When it is still in the planning stage and before it becomes legal, a law is called a bill.

'There is little support for the new bill. I don't think it will ever become law.'

Coalition(Countable Noun) The time when different political parties agree on a something for a reason.

'During periods of war, coalitions between political parties are common.'

Democracy(Countable Noun) A system where power is held by the people through elections. One person = one vote.

'The alternatives to Democracy, Communism for example, have largely been failures.'

To Elect(Verb) To choose by voting.

'In November Americans will vote for a new President.'

Election(Noun) The process of choosing a new government or leader.

'In Britain elections are held every 4 or 5 years.'

Election Campaign

(Countable Noun) The organised effort to get a political party into power. Also known as a race.

'A political campaign is very expensive. The political parties spend lots of money on advertising.'

Electorate(Countable noun, but usually singular) All the people who can vote in an election.

'The party is working hard to win the support of the electorate.'

Law(Countable Noun) A rule made by the government. It is illegal to break the law.

'The government introduced a new law banning smoking in public places.'

The Opposition(Group Noun) The opposition are the political party who are not in power. They are not the government but want to be.

'The role of the Opposition is to oppose and scrutinise the government.'

Politics(Noun) The process through which decisions on how to run the country / government are made.

'In my country young people are less interested in politics than ever before.'

Policy(Countable Noun) A plan of action or guide that a political party or group decides upon.

'The party has a policy to cut taxes when it comes to power.'

Politician(Noun: Job) A person who has been elected and works in politics.

'Tony Blair was a politician for many years before becoming Prime Minister.'

To Run(Verb) When an American politician, for example, tries to become the President, he 'runs for President'

'George Clinton successfully ran for President twice.'

Spin(Verb / Uncountable Noun) To try and deceive / fool people by giving misleading information.

'The government are trying to put a positive spin on the situation.'

Turn-Out(Phrasal Verb / Countable Noun) The amount of people who vote in an election and (as a verb) going to vote.

'Voter turn-out is only 40% in my country. Most people are not interested in voting.'

To Vote(Verb) To choose which person or political party you prefer in an election. This is done in private and by choosing from a paper list.

'Have you decided who you are going to vote for in the election?'

(Countable Noun) A way for a group to make a decision.

'They held a vote on what they should do next.'