**The houses of parliament(800)**

**The House of Commons**

**About**

The House of commons consists of 650 elected members who are elected using the terrible First past the post voting system who hold their seats until parliament is dissolved. The house of Commons of England became the house of Commons of Great Britain when England and Scotland passed the political union bill in 1707, Ireland joined them at the start of the 19th century.

**Reforms**

The Reform Act of 1832 also known as the Great Reform Act abolished rotten boroughs like Old Sarum, established uniform voting requirements for the boroughs and granted increased representation to the larger city’s but unfortunately retained many of the pocket boroughs.

The Parliament Act of 1911 reduced the rejecting power of the lords to merely stalling the legislation from passing

**Anomalies**

Over the nineteenth century the House of Commons saw a major reform. With the borders not having been changed since 1660 there were a number of small towns that still held their ancient right to elect 2 MP’s. For example there was Old Sarum, which only held six voters for two Members of Parliament. Even though at the same time, large city’s like Manchester had to reform to its representation. There were also so-called pocket boroughs, small bunches of buildings controlled by a wealthy landowner who’s nominees were without failure elected.

**Power**

The House of Commons serves a largely similar to our parliament, they are the leading arm of the legislative branch of England. Since the Parliament act of 1911 the House of Lords no longer has veto power over the legislation the House of Commons has passed.

**Members**

After the most recent election the seats are as follows: Conservative 329 members. Labour Party 229 members. Scottish National Party 54 members. Liberal Democrats 9 members. Democratic Unionist Party 8 members. Sinn Fein 4 members. Plaid Cymru 3 members. SDLP 3 members. Ulster Unionist Party 2 members. UK Independence Party 1 member. Green Party 1 member. Independent 4 members. Vacant 2 members. There is also a speaker who doesn’t affiliate with a patry.

**A normal meeting**

A normal meeting in the house of commons begins with prayers. At this time The Speakers Chaplain reads the prayer. The main player is as follows “*Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen*.” -http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/business/prayers/

Following prayers there is question time, they take place over an hour every day accept Friday. After questions, each department answers a pre-established quota of questions. The questions they have can be viewed on the parliaments website. After the regular questions, there is a time for urgent questions. MPs request questions to the speaker to consider if a question should be included. Following the important questions there are the minerals statements. Then the Ministers may make oral statements to Parliament which usually address major incidents, government policies or actions. These take place after Oral Questions and any granted Urgent Questions. After making a statement Ministers responds to other MPs questions about the matter. An hour is allocated to this. After the statements, there are debates. The usual debates in the British follow a general format. An MP or other member of parliament puts forward a proposal to be debated. The chair reads the bill and passes on questions about the bill. The parliament debates the questions. After witch, there is a vote, that is called divisions. The results of witch decide if a bill is passed into law

**The House of Lords**

**History**

The House of Lords of today descends from the parliament of England and Scotland. The Acts of Union of 1706 and 1707 abolished the parliaments of both nations and established the Parliament of the United Kingdom. This added 45 MPs and 16 Peers to represent Scotland. The House of Lords grew more powerful than the House of Commons over the years. Until the 17th century when conflicts between the parliament and the crown accumulated in a civil war during the 1640s. After the defeat of King Charles 1, the Commonwealth of England was declared, the nation remained under the power of The Lord Protector of England, Oliver Cromwell. Following this an Act of Parliament abolished The House of Lords.

**Members**

The members of The House of Lords consist of: Conservative Party 252 members, Labour Party 202 members, Crossbenchers 178 members, Liberal Democrats 102 members, non-affiliated 31 members, Democratic Unionist Party 3 members, UK Independence Party 3 members. Ind. Labour 2 members, Ulster Unionist Party 2 members, Green Party 2 members, Green party 1 member, Ind. Social Democrat 1 member, Ind. Ulster Unionist 1 member, Plaid Cymru 1 member. There are also 26 Bishops who sit with the government.