

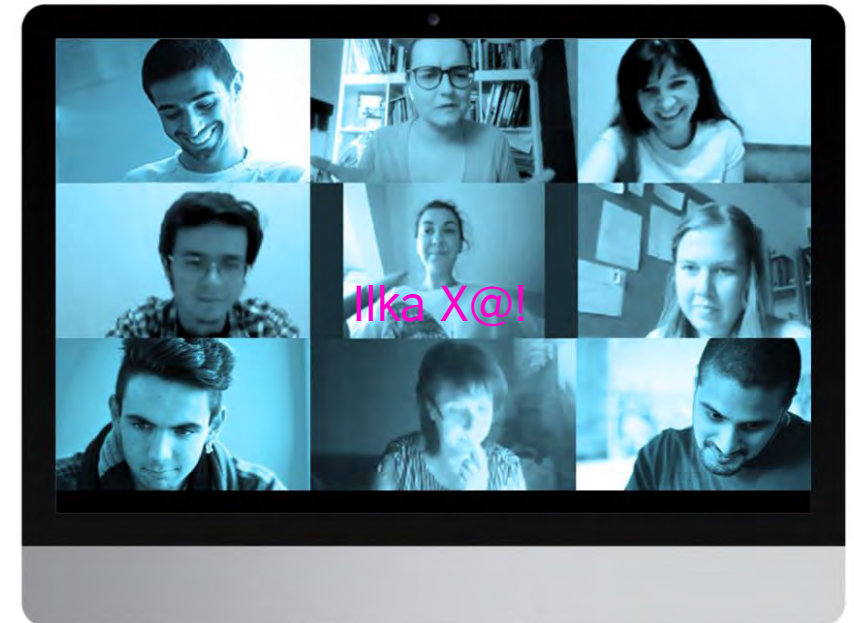
# Elections

Theme:  
Government and Politics



# Before we start, please make sure...

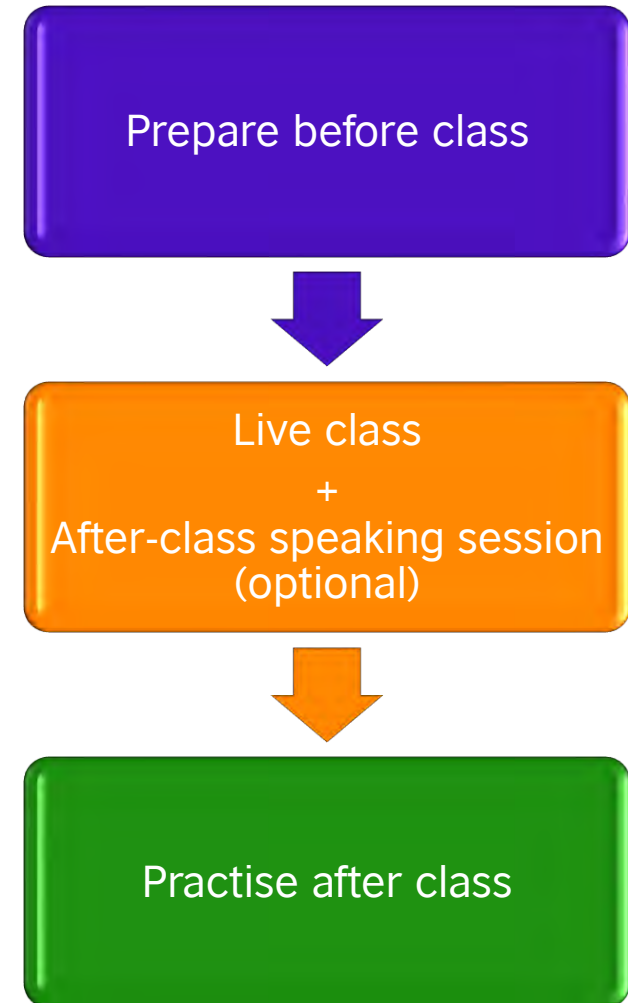
- ✓ your name on Zoom is clear (use Latin letters)
- ✓ your camera is on and mic is off (unmute when needed)
- ✓ you are in a quiet area that helps you focus
- ✓ you have a notebook or a note app ready to take notes



# Welcome to English Online

## How does it work?

You need to complete all three parts to get the most out of English Online.



# After-class speaking session

Stay back after class for 5 or 10 minutes to talk to your classmates from around the world.

**This extra speaking practice will help you...**

- improve your conversation skills
- practise using language learnt in class
- support and help your fellow students
- practise using English in a natural context
- become a part of a global learning community



After-class  
speaking  
sessions

# Pre-lesson activities

## Before the live lesson you...

- read an article on British elections.
- listened to a conversation between two people about their local MP.
- practised expressions of certainty and uncertainty.

### Prepare

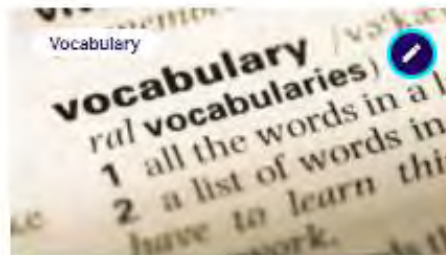


Article on British elections



Discussion about a local MP

### Practise



Expressing certainty and doubt



Expressing certainty

# Lesson objective

What do you expect to learn by the end of the lesson?



# Lesson objective

## In this lesson, you will...

- take part in an informal discussion to decide which candidate is most likely to win an election and why
- listen to a conversation about an election (**before** the lesson)
- practise language to express certainty and doubt
- read about the British electoral system
- review key vocabulary to do with elections you learned **before** the lesson

## Highlighted Skills

Speaking, Reading and Listening

## Language Focus

- vocabulary about politics and elections
- expressing certainty and doubt



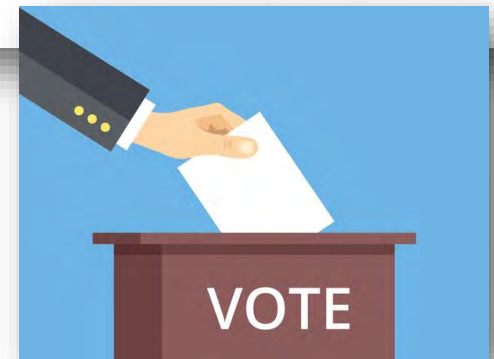
**Elections  
Advanced**



# Lead-in

Work with your partner and discuss these questions:

- 1 Is voting important? On a scale of 1–10, with 10 as the highest, how would you rate the right to vote? Why?
- 2 Would you ever want to stand for election? Why/why not?
- 3 What are elections generally like in your country? Has the number of voters been increasing or decreasing in recent years? Why?



**Elections  
Advanced**



# Language Focus 1

## Vocabulary: Politics and Elections

**These are some sentences from the reading you did in the preparation task, complete the sentences with those words.**

1. The House of Commons, the House of Lords and the ruling monarch are known as the ...Parliament..... .
2. The majority of the House of Lords are appointed by the monarch on the advice of the .....Prime Minister..... .
3. To stand in a general election, you must be nominated by at least ten of the registered ...electors..... in the constituency.
4. You must pay £500 deposit when you register as a ...candidate..... .
5. Political parties..... have many different candidate selection methods.

**opposition**

**party (ies)**

**elector(s)**

**candidate(s)**

**Parliament**

**Prime Minister**

**Head of State**

**Elections  
Advanced**

# Language Focus 2

## Expressing Certainty and Doubt

In the preparation task, you have listened to a conversation.  
What was it about?

Match the expressions from the listening with one of the options on the right

1. He doesn't stand a chance. I'm certain about that.

expressing certainty
2. I think there'll be another hung parliament.

expressing uncertainty
3. I can't make up my mind.

expressing uncertainty
4. How do you know?

asking about certainty and uncertainty
5. There's no doubt about it in my mind.

expressing certainty
6. He must have a death wish.

expressing certainty

- expressing certainty
- expressing uncertainty
- asking about certainty and uncertainty

# Language focus

## Expressing Certainty and Doubt

expressing certainty

expressing uncertainty

asking about certainty and  
uncertainty



**Elections  
Advanced**

Decide if the expressions (1–14) are used for expressing certainty (C), uncertainty (U) or asking about both (B).

1. Do you suppose he's right? (C) / (U) / (B)

2. I don't believe that he can do it. (C) / (U) / (B)

3. I'm convinced of it. (C) / (U) / (B)

4. He doesn't stand a chance of winning. (C) / (U) / (B)

5. Without doubt, he's one of the best candidates we have. (C) / (U) / (B)

6. I'm in two minds whether or not to vote for him. (C) / (U) / (B)

7. Are you absolutely sure? (C) / (U) / (B)

8. Maybe I'll vote for her, maybe I won't. (C) / (U) / (B)

9. He's possibly the worst candidate. (C) / (U) / (B)

10. Obviously ... (C) / (U) / (B)

11. Do you think so? (C) / (U) / (B)

12. I'm a bit uncertain about this. (C) / (U) / (B)

13. It's up to you. (C) / (U) / (B)

14. I don't know whether to accept it or not. (C) / (U) / (B)

# Task



# Pre-task

New Town is a marginal constituency, one that can be won by any of three parties. Read the profile carefully and make notes of the needs of this constituency in order to vote later for the right candidate.

New Town is a mixture of service industries, such as accounting and retail, and small light engineering factories. It also has a university and several colleges of further education. The inner city has some problems with a high population of unemployed who have inadequate housing. The outer suburbs have recently been affected by a downturn in the economy, which has led to many redundancies. Students are unhappy that their tuition fees have increased. Nevertheless, New Town was recently voted one of the most comfortable and prosperous cities in its region.

# Task

an informal discussion to decide which candidate in an election is most likely to win

In your groups, you are going to have an informal discussion about three possible candidates for New Town.

- You will be given the profiles of three candidates.
- You will also be given a personal profile to use.
- Discuss the profiles of these three candidates, and decide who you'd vote for.





# Task

an informal discussion to decide which candidate in an election is most likely to win

## Tristram Tompkins, Purple Party (Incumbent)

### Policies:

- Reduce the rate of corporation tax, so companies can afford to take on more workers.
- Provide 10,000 extra university places this year, paid for by cutting the rate of tax on graduates so they can afford to pay back their student loans.
- Reduce welfare dependency by making the unemployed take any job available, and not ones they are qualified for or have experience in.

## Caroline Coombs, Pink Party (University lecturer)

### Policies:

- Increase the National Minimum Wage so low-paid workers are better-off.
- Every young person guaranteed education or training until 18, with a small living allowance grant.
- Retrain anyone unemployed for more than two years.
- Stimulate growth in rural areas by investing in projects to support the rural economy.

## Eddie Evers, White Party (Local Businessman)

### Policies:

- Reduce personal income tax, to be paid for by a tax on all properties worth more than £2 million.
- Phase out university tuition fees within six years. Scrap fees for final-year students immediately.
- Flexible working extended to all employees, so more part-time jobs.
  - Increase penalties for benefit fraud.

# Task

an informal discussion to decide which candidate in an election is most likely to win

## Friend 1

You have just graduated from university and are now looking for a job. You're highly skilled but unfortunately you don't have much experience. Therefore, you're finding it difficult to get a job.

## Friend 2

You are at university and Caroline Coombs is one of your lecturers. You think she's absolutely great but you're not convinced by her policies because she's not doing much for university students.

## Friend 3

Eddie Evers is a family friend. He looked after you when you were a child and there is absolutely no way you will vote for anyone else. The trouble is, you can't really tell your friends you're going to vote for him because he's a family friend.

# Feedback

# Review

# Lesson materials

## Make sure you have

- downloaded the \*.pdf with this presentation
- saved the Zoom Chat



# How can you make more progress?

Complete the Progress activities online.



Review one of the language rules we have practised today.



<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/intermediate-to-upper-intermediate/the-future-degrees-of-certainty>

# After-class speaking session

You can talk about any topic that interests you!

Use these questions as a guide, if needed.

- What type of political system governs your country?
- Do you think too much money is spent on election campaigns?
- What is your opinion about actors or actresses who run for a position in politics?
- Have your political views changed much during your lifetime?
- What makes a good leader?

For help, contact:

[support.englishonline@britishcouncil.org](mailto:support.englishonline@britishcouncil.org)

## Dos

- ✓ Treat everyone with respect
- ✓ Keep your camera on and participate
- ✓ Let others share ideas too
- ✓ Listen to everyone
- ✓ Click 'Leave' if you cannot stay back

## Don'ts

- ✗ Don't take pictures or record
- ✗ Don't share personal details
- ✗ Don't let your children be visible onscreen

After-class  
speaking  
sessions

