

1 Voting and elections

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

boycotted	hung	opposition
coalition	landslide	rigging
dictatorship	main	

- I didn't like the government's policies, so I voted for one of the parties.
- There are three parties in our country.
- The government won the election by a
- The last election resulted in a parliament where no-one won an overall majority.
- The biggest party formed a with some of the smaller right-wing parties.
- The government was accused of the election so they would win.
- One political party the election because they didn't think it would be fair.
- We used to have a in our country.
Free and fair elections are relatively new.

Now complete these sentences with nouns from the sentences above. Use some nouns more than once.

- They abandoned the they outlined in their manifesto.
- Iraq had a for the best part of 40 years.
- The government rushed the bill through
- The three-party collapsed after a year.
- The opposition is in total disarray.
- They've called an for 8th August.
- They invaded us and installed a puppet !
- We need more women standing for
- The scandal nearly brought down the

2 It's a fine line

If you say *it's a fine line* between two things, you think there's not much difference between them and it's easy to cross that line – move from one thing to the other.

Match the sentence beginnings with the endings.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. It's a fine line between smooth and | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. It's a fine line between liberator and | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. It's a fine line between genius and | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. It's a fine line between news and | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. It's a fine line between helping and | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. It's a fine line between outbreak and | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. It's a fine line between enough and | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. It's a fine line between fear and | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-
- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| a. propaganda. | d. smarmy. | g. occupier. |
| b. insanity. | e. exhilaration. | h. interfering. |
| c. too much. | f. epidemic. | |

3 Talking about politicians

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

charismatic	flustered	shifty
direct	hypocrite	spark
down-to-earth	passionate	

- He's got an aura about him. He's very
- He's a real man of the people. He's got no pretensions about him. He seems very
- He comes across as being really
I mean, he seems to really believe in what he's talking about.
- He's very straight with people, I'll give him that. He's very – always says what he thinks.
- He never gives a straight answer. He's just really
- He comes across as a bit dull. He hasn't got the to get elected.
- He doesn't practise what he preaches. He's such a !
- He's very smooth. I've never seen him get in front of the cameras.

4 Sentences starting with *What*

Rewrite the sentences so that they start with *What* and a verb to emphasise how you feel. The first one has been done as an example.

1. He won't admit to having made mistakes, which is really annoying.
What really annoys me is the fact that he won't admit to having made mistakes.
2. The lack of investment in education is worrying.
3. They've been ploughing an enormous amount of money into nuclear weapons! It's very disturbing.
4. The guy actually took responsibility for the cock-up and resigned, which was a pleasant change.
5. Proposing to introduce trial without jury is a concern.
6. I know mistakes happen – that's fair enough – but this wasn't an isolated incident. That's the scary thing.
7. He speaks down to people all the time. I get really angry about it.

5 Word building: *elect*

Complete the sentences with the words in the box. You will need to use some words more than once.

elected	elective	re-elected
election	electoral	unelectable
electioneering	electorate	

1. The upcoming general promises to be very closely contested.
2. The party is a shambles. They're totally
3. There's pressure to reform the system.
4. None of the European commissioners are, but they wield a lot of power nevertheless.
5. The President needs to appeal to a wider section of the if he's going to be for a second term.
6. After the disaster, the opposition was accused of when they criticised the government's performance. The government said the opposition were exploiting the tragedy for their own benefit.
7. The Conservatives suffered their worst defeat ever.
8. My wife decided to have an caesarean when she had our second child.

6 Collocations

Complete the sentences with the missing collocations from page 50 of the Coursebook.

1. I tried to a joke about the situation, but it flat.
2. The government only 37 per cent of the vote, which isn't exactly a vote of in their policies.
3. The meeting to approve the plans to build a new airport was very It was repeatedly by protesters.
4. In the to the elections there were allegations that the mayor was trying to the election.
5. The government has a controversial policy at getting people off the dole and into work.
6. The government's stance on immigration has completely public opinion. They've even admitted that there are of opinion in the cabinet.

7 Stance on

Complete the sentences with these words.

abortion drugs	education foreign policy	pensions
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1. Their stance on is a bit confused. First they want to introduce a national curriculum, and then they want to increase parental choice regarding school selection.
2. I like their stance on They want to extend the retirement age and force companies to make higher contributions.
3. Their stance on seems far too liberal. I think it should be banned.
4. They take a hard line on, which I approve of. They want to toughen the law and increase prison sentences for possession.
5. I'm dead against their stance on It's very isolationist. They want to withdraw from various international agreements, put up trade barriers and become more inward-looking.

Find examples of these kinds of collocations:

verb–noun adjective–noun noun–noun