

## UK and US political vocabulary and political systems

*Are the things below about the UK/ USA/ both? (Most are only about one of those countries)*

- Backbenches/ Backbenchers
- Buck House
- Buckingham Palace
- Cabinet
- Camp David
- Chancellor (of the Exchequer)
- Chequers
- Coalition government
- Confirmation hearings
- Congress
- Cross-bench
- Downing Street
- Filibustering
- Foreign Secretary
- Governor
- Heir to the throne
- His Majesty's Government
- Home Secretary
- House of Commons
- House of Lords
- House of Representatives
- Houses of Parliament
- Independent candidates
- Labour (= The Labour Party)
- Leader of the House
- Leader of the Opposition
- Mayor
- Member of Parliament
- Monarch
- MP
- Number 10
- Number 11
- Peers
- PM
- President
- Primaries
- Prime Minister
- Senate
- Speaker
- Supreme Court
- Term limits
- The Conservatives (= The Conservative Party)
- The Constitution
- The Democrats (= The Democratic Party)

- The GOP
- The Palace of Westminster
- The King's Speech
- The Republicans (= The Republican Party)
- The right to bear arms
- The First Amendment
- The Tories
- The White House
- Two-party system
- Westminster
- Whips
- Whitehall

*Which things above are different words for the same thing?*

*Which things in the two different systems are more or less equivalent?*

*These things have different meanings in the two countries. What are they?*

- Red
- Blue
- Conservative
- Liberal

*Which country's system seems more similar to your country's? What are the similarities and differences?*

*Try to explain your own country's political system.*

*Explain what you know about recent political stories, using vocabulary from above if you can.*

### Answer key

- Backbenches/ Backbenchers – UK
- Buck House/ Buckingham Palace – UK
- Cabinet – Both (though only the UK has a real cabinet system)
- Camp David – US equivalent to Chequers – UK
- Chancellor (of the Exchequer) – UK
- Coalition government – UK
- Confirmation hearings – US
- Cross-bench – UK
- Downing Street/ Number 10 – UK equivalent to White House - US
- Filibustering – both (though only formally part of the debates in the US)
- Foreign Secretary – UK
- Governor – US (though most British overseas territories and Commonwealth countries still have governors)
- Heir to the throne – UK
- Her Majesty's Government – UK
- Home Secretary – UK
- House of Commons – UK equivalent to House of Representatives – US
- House of Lords – UK equivalent to Senate – US
- Houses of Parliament/ Westminster/ The Palace of Westminster – UK equivalent to Congress – US
- Independent candidates – both
- Labour (= The Labour Party) equivalent to the Democrats – US
- Leader of the House – US
- Leader of the Opposition – UK
- Mayor – both
- Member of Parliament/ MP – UK
- Monarch – UK
- Number 11 – UK
- Peers – UK
- PM/ Prime Minister – UK
- President – US
- Primaries – US
- Speaker – both
- Supreme Court – both
- Term limits – US
- The Conservatives (= The Conservative Party)/ The Tories – UK equivalent to Republicans/ GOP – US
- The Constitution – US
- The King's Speech – UK
- The right to bear arms – US
- The First Amendment – US
- Two-party system – US (though the UK system usually works out that way)
- Whips – UK
- Whitehall – UK