

## English vocabulary relating to politics and political discussions,

Words to understand the language used in politics, by ESL learners

Word	Meaning
<b>Ballot</b>	A system of voting, especially secret. To vote by ballot.
<b>Ballot paper</b>	Paper or card marked by a person who votes.
<b>Ballot box</b>	A box in which voters deposit their market ballots.
<b>Bill</b>	Draft of a proposed law to be discussed in parliament where it will be amended, passed or thrown out.
<b>Bipartisan</b>	Involving two political parties.
<b>Campaign</b>	Planned activities in an organised effort to win an election.
<b>Coalition</b>	Alliance of two or more political parties, usually to form a government.
<b>Constitution</b>	A statement of the fundamental principles and laws by which a country or state is governed.
<b>Coup d'etat</b>	Sudden, often violent, change of government when a group, such as the military, takes control.
<b>Democracy</b>	A form of government where elections are held and people vote for the candidate of their choice to represent them.
<b>Dictatorship</b>	A form of government in which a single individual, who has often seized power by force, exercises political authority using arbitrary and oppressive methods.
<b>Dissolution</b>	The termination of the current parliament, which takes place before a general election.
<b>Election</b>	The process of voting for a candidate or representative.
<b>Electorate</b>	All the people who can vote in an election.
<b>Gerrymander</b> <b>Gerrymandering</b>	Rearrange the voting districts in order to ensure more votes for the party in power.
<b>Government</b>	A political body that exercises authority over a nation or state and has the power to make and enforce laws.
<b>Grass roots</b>	Ordinary people in a society, as opposed to those who are in power.
<b>Hustings</b>	The political activities, meetings and speeches that happen before an election.
<b>Incumbent</b>	Person currently holding an official position.
<b>Landslide victory</b>	Win an election with a large majority of votes.
<b>Law</b>	A rule or regulation established by the government.
<b>Lobby</b> <b>Lobbying</b>	Group of people who try to influence an elected official, or the act of doing so, generally to support or oppose proposed legislation.
<b>Monarchy</b>	System of government in which the head of state is a king or a queen.
<b>Nominee</b>	Person chosen by a political party to run for election.
<b>Opposition</b>	Political party or parties opposing the government.
<b>Policy</b>	Political party or parties opposing the government.
<b>Political asylum</b>	Protection given by a State to a person who has left their own country because they oppose its government.
<b>Political party</b>	A political organisation with stated beliefs, aims and policies, that puts forward candidates in elections.
<b>Politician</b>	Person who has been elected and works professionally in politics.
<b>Politics</b>	The ideas and activities associated with the governing of a country, region, city, etc.
<b>Poll</b>	1) Voting at an election. 2) A survey of public opinion by questioning a selection of people.
<b>Polling day</b>	The day on which elections are held.
<b>(The) polls</b> <b>Polling station</b>	Place where people vote.
<b>Prime Minister</b>	The head of the government in a parliamentary political system.
<b>Regime</b>	System of government: a communist, fascist, etc. regime.
<b>Republic</b>	System of government in which power is held by elected representatives and an elected president.
<b>Run for election</b>	Be a candidate in an election.
<b>Spin doctor</b>	A spokesperson who gives a favourable interpretation of events to the media, especially on behalf of a political personality or party.
<b>Turnout</b>	The number of people who go to vote in an election.
<b>Vote</b>	Choose a candidate in an election.