

# English for Tax Administration 1


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# Revision



Administration of Justice

# Answer the questions

1. What types of proceedings involve the state?
  2. Which parties are called the same in criminal and civil proceedings, and which are called differently?
  3. Who participates in family proceedings and what are the parties referred to as?
  4. What about commercial disputes?
  5. What is ADR?
  6. What is the difference between mediation and arbitration?
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# Parliament and Legislation



Unit 9

# British Parliament



The Palace of Westminster

# **The British Parliament**

## **The House of Commons**

650 MPs

## **The House of Lords**

825 members

## **The Queen**



# The House of Commons

- ▶ 650 Members of Parliament (**MPs**)
- ▶ salaried
- ▶ elected in the national election by the people
- ▶ each MP represents the voters in his **constituency**
- ▶ ‘first past the post’ electoral system
  - the candidate with the most votes in each constituency wins and goes to Parliament, the others lose

# The House of Lords

- ▶ ca. 800 members (most of whom – **peers**)
- ▶ non-salaried (may claim expenses)
- ▶ appointed by the Queen (at the proposal of the Prime Minister)

## **Lords Spiritual**

bishops (max. 26)

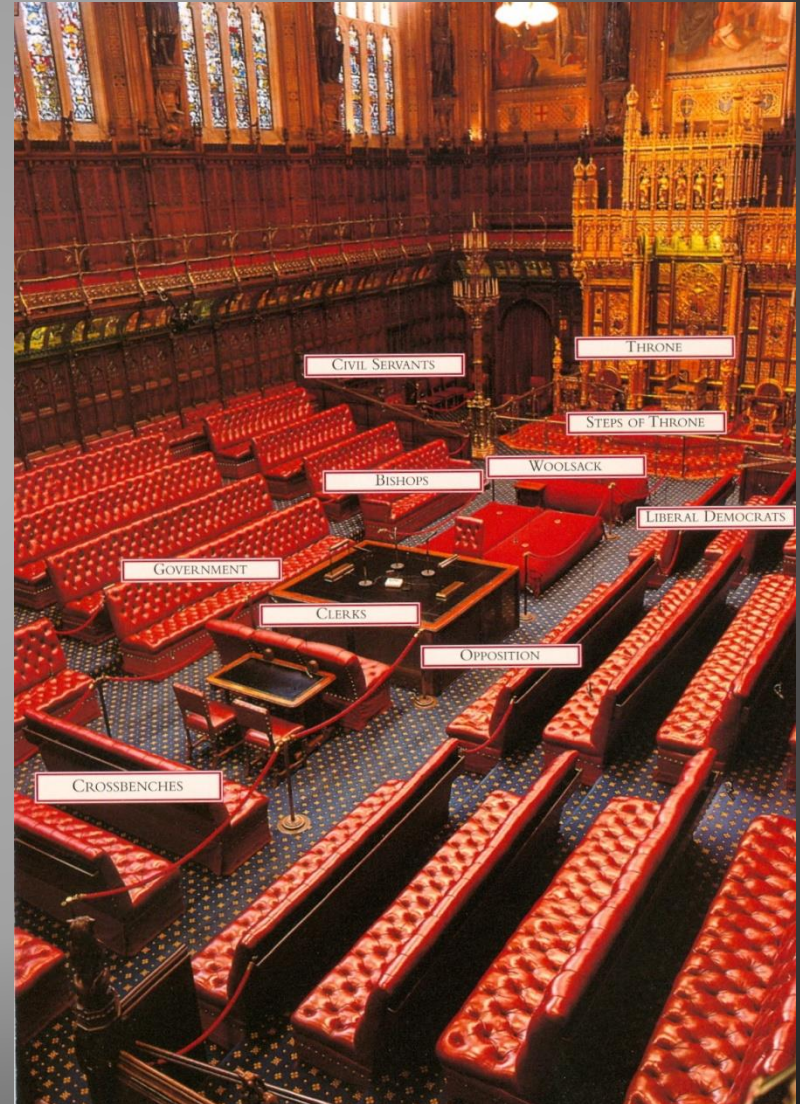
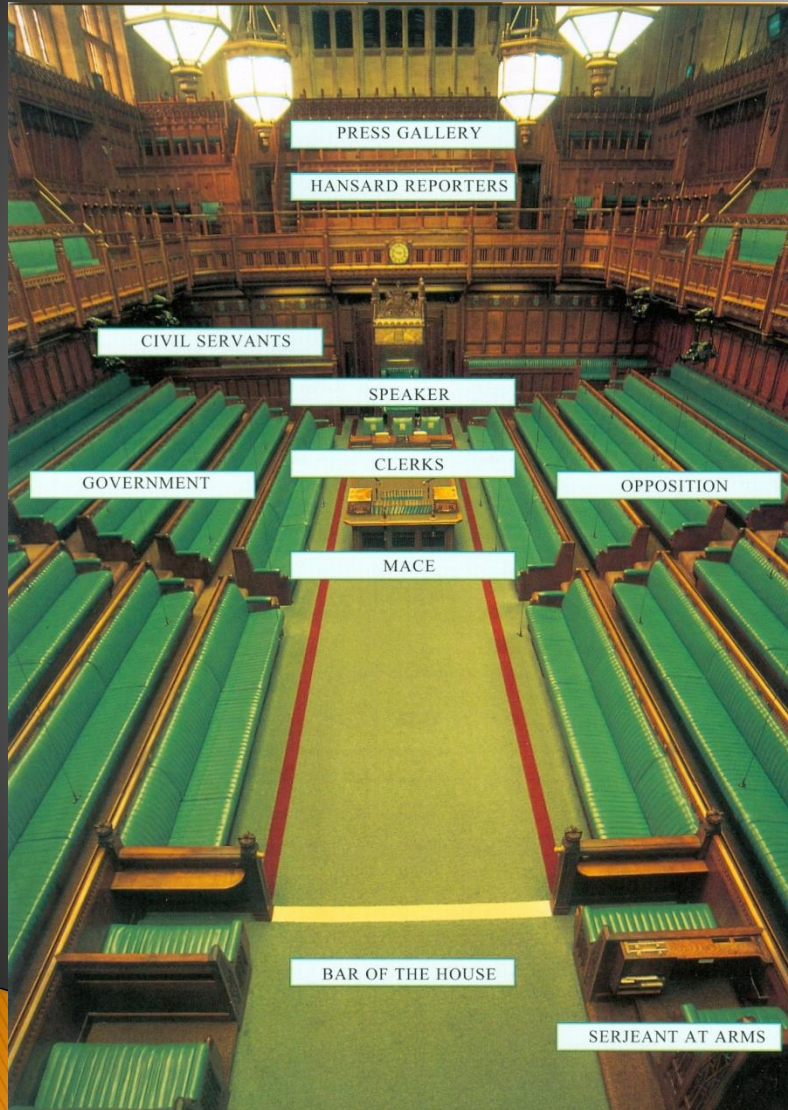
## **Lords Temporal**

life peers (no limit)

hereditary peers (max. 92)



# The Commons and the Lords



# Some peculiarities

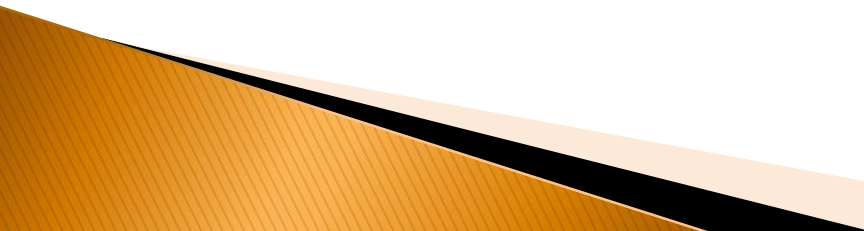
## **The Commons**

- ▶ Searjant at Arms
- ▶ the Mace
- ▶ the Bar of the House
- ▶ the red lines – two sword lengths
- ▶ the Speaker of the House of Commons

## **The Lords**


- ▶ the Throne
  - ▶ the Woolsack
  - ▶ the Lord Speaker
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# The House of Commons

- ▶ checks and challenges the work of the Government (government **scrutiny**)
  - ▶ enacts **statute law** (legislation)
  - ▶ **debate** important issues of the day
  - ▶ check and approve Government spending (**taxes** and **state budget**)
  - ▶ meet **constituents** and discuss matters that concern them
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# The House of Lords

- ▶ gives advice on public policy, representing the British society
  - ▶ revises legislation passed by the Commons
  - ▶ possibility for persons who have contributed to the public life of Britain to participate in government
  - ▶ acts as a constitutional check
- 


# More on statute law

- ▶ PARLIAMENT has supreme law-making power
- ▶ ‘No limits’ to its law-making capacity – an act enacted by Parliament which has undergone the proper procedure **may not be overturned!** (no constitutional court!)
- ▶ However, in enacting laws, the following must be taken into account: **EU law** (not true after Brexit!) and the **European Convention on Human Rights** (via the Human Rights Act 1998)

# Legislative procedure

- ▶ An Act of Parliament starts as a **BILL** (a legislative proposal)
  - ▶ There are normally **three readings** for each bill, including a **committee stage** and a **report stage**
  - ▶ The procedure starts in the Commons and a largely similar procedure is followed in the Lords
  - ▶ Bills may be returned to the Commons for revision and amendments and the procedure may be repeated
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# Legislative procedure

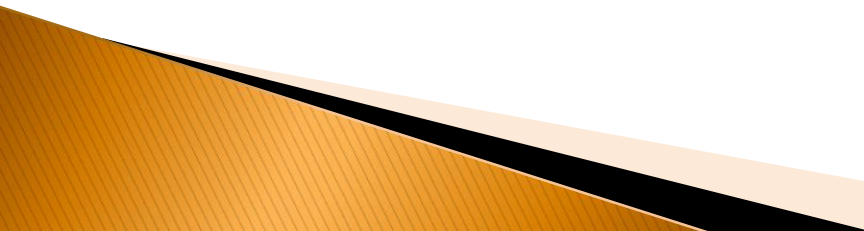
- ▶ The Lords may not reject a Bill, they can only delay its enactment for up to one year
  - ▶ When the final agreement is reached and the final version of the Bill is approved, the Bill is given the Royal Assent (the monarch's approval)
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# The Queen's role

- ▶ The role of the Queen is to give the **Royal Assent** to a Bill in order for it to become an Act of Parliament, i.e. enter into force
- ▶ Royal Assent has not been refused since 1707 (today the Queen no longer signs bills with her own hand nor is she even consulted)
- ▶ today: given automatically by clerks representing the Sovereign, the Queen NOT involved or consulted

# The Queen's role

- ▶ At the beginning of each **session of Parliament** (usually November) and after a **General Election**, the Queen reads a speech outlining legislative proposals for the coming year
  - ▶ This speech is written by the Prime Minister
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# Watch the video clips

- ▶ Queen opening Parliament

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xk\\_pi\\_nq838](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xk_pi_nq838)

- ▶ Introduction to Parliament

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbLTwQwXqWc> (1:30)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qs-9B3FRXCA> (7:37)

- ▶ House of Commons

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS\\_SLF92e5A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS_SLF92e5A)

- ▶ House of Lords

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-U0LhurGW0c>

# Parliament and Legislation

- ▶ Read the text on pp. 74-76
- ▶ Do exercises III-VI (pp. 77-78)

**Thank you for your attention!**

