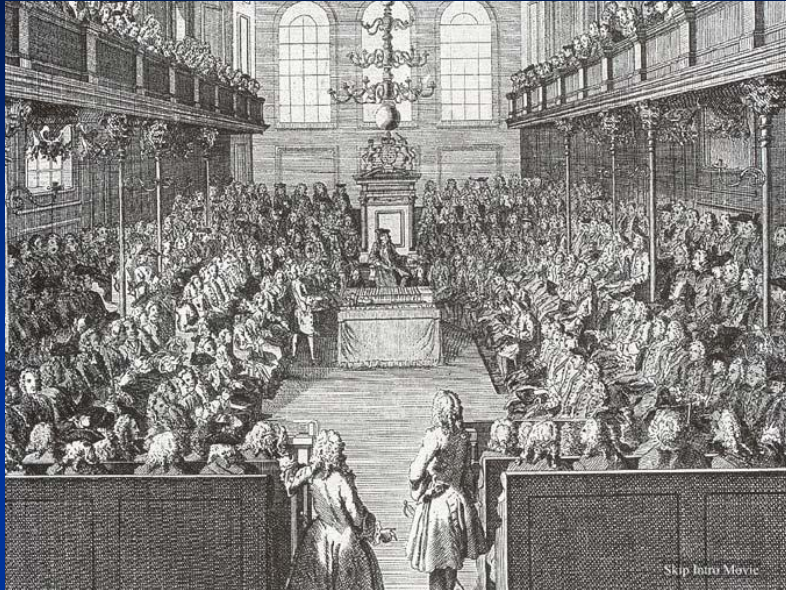


# The Parliament of Great Britain



The Parliament was  
formed in 1707 by  
the  
Acts of Union  
The oldest Parliament



Upper House

Lower House

House of Lords

House of Commons

Queen

# Parliament has three main functions:

- Examining and challenging the work of the government
- To debate the major issues of the day and passing all laws
- Enabling the government to raise taxes

# The business of Parliament takes place in two Houses:

- the House of Commons
- the House of Lords.

Their work is similar

Both must debate and vote

# The House of Commons



Meets at the Palace of  
Westminster

The Commons is publicly  
elected

MPs in the House of Commons are elected  
for a period of five years



# Speaker

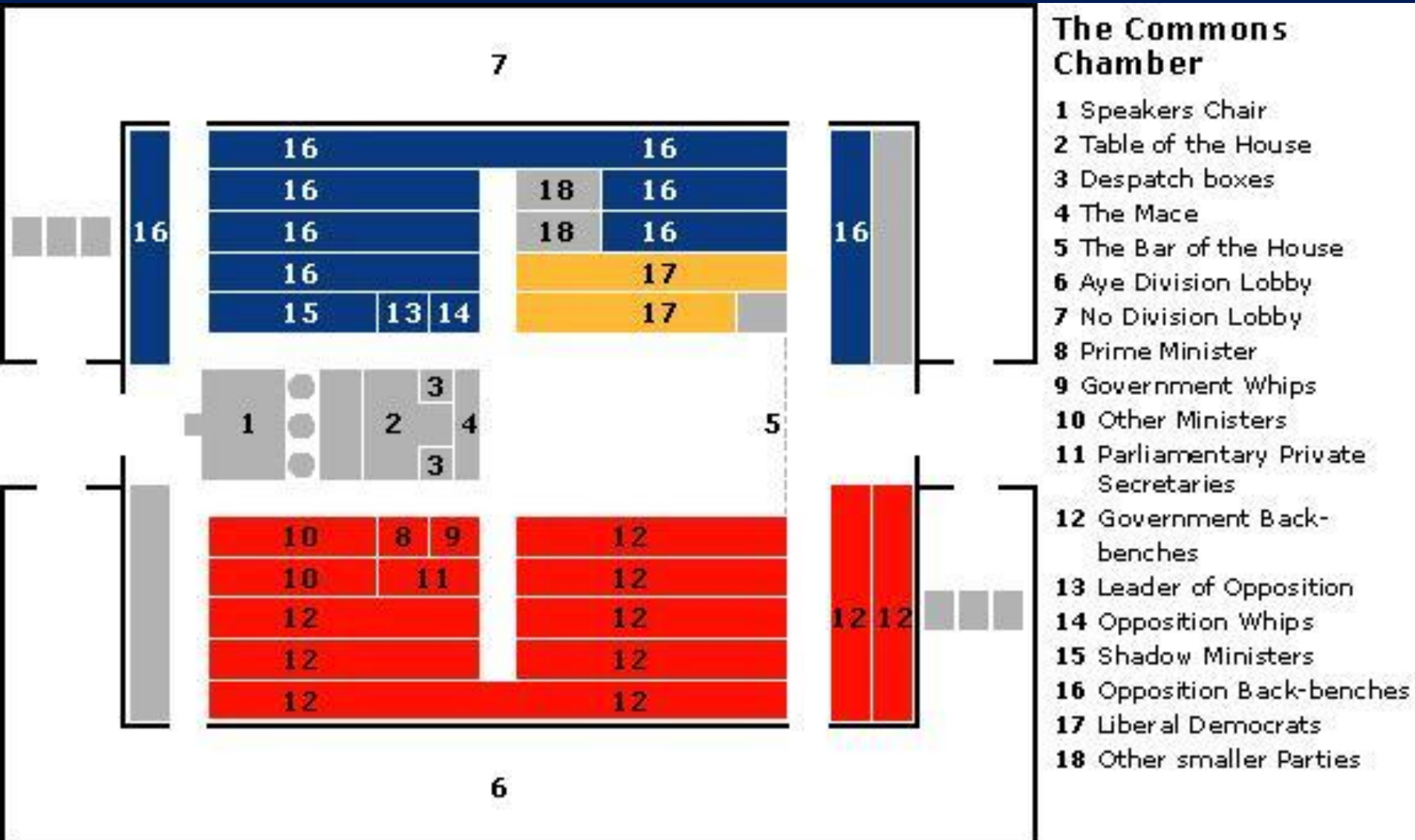


The House of  
Commons  
elects a speaker  
Doesn't take part in  
debate nor vote

**John Bercow**

since 22  
June 2009.

# The Commons Chamber





# The House of Lords

Members are appointed  
by the Queen

Life Peers Baron or  
Baroness,  $\frac{1}{4}$  are women

Hereditary Peers  
inherit their seats





# To become law ...

- A Bill must be agreed by both Houses
- The members of Parliament must debate and vote, the Speaker reads the result
- Second Reading, it is sent to a Committee for detailed
- After days the Bill comes back to The House of Commons
- Third reading, the final text is approved or rejected
- The Bill goes through the same stages in the House of Lords
- When a Bill is given Royal Assent it becomes an Act of Parliament