

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



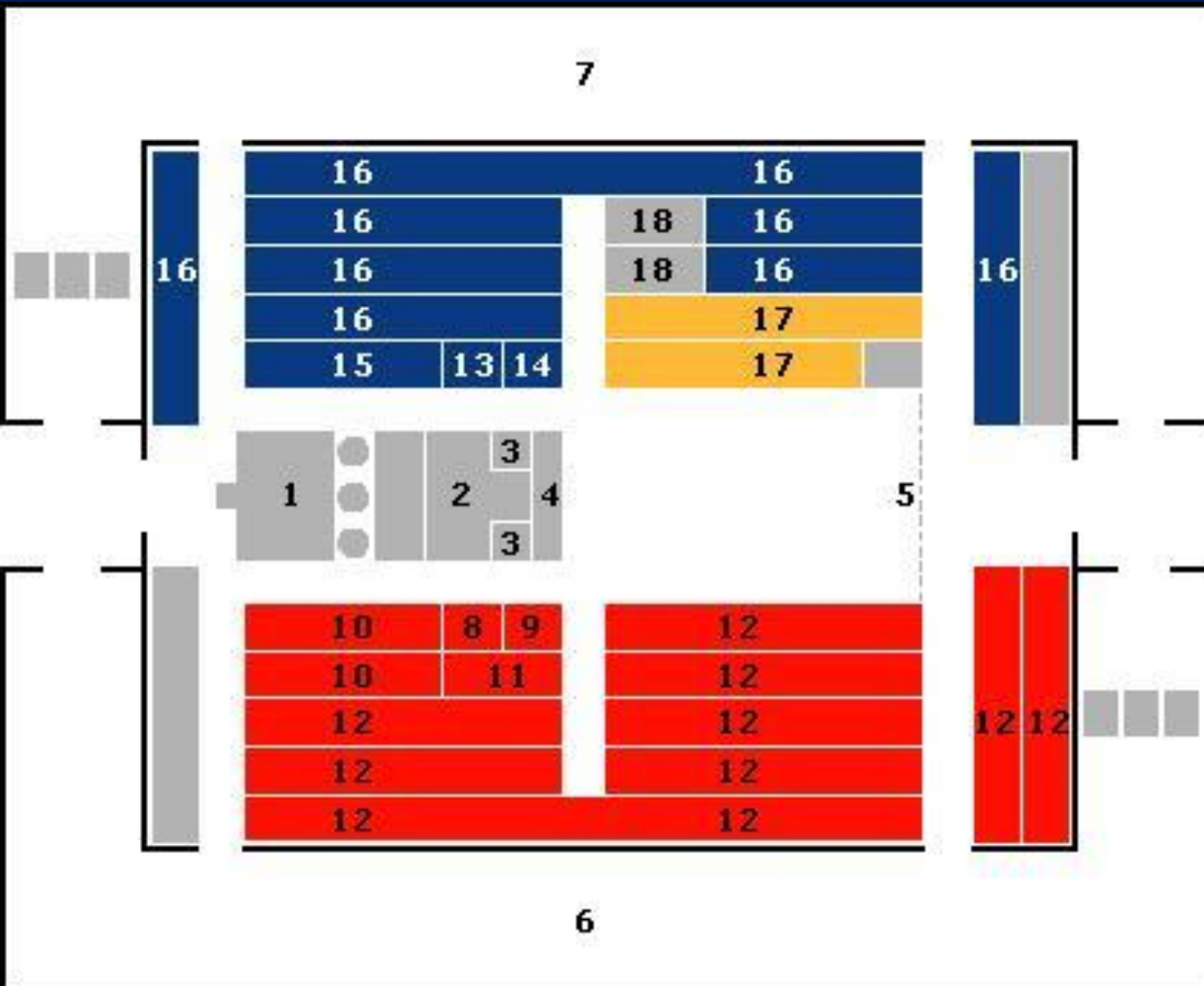
The House of
Commons
elects a speaker
Doesn't take part in
debate nor vote

John Bercow

since 22

June 2009.

The Commons Chamber



The Commons Chamber

- 1 Speakers Chair
- 2 Table of the House
- 3 Despatch boxes
- 4 The Mace
- 5 The Bar of the House
- 6 Aye Division Lobby
- 7 No Division Lobby
- 8 Prime Minister
- 9 Government Whips
- 10 Other Ministers
- 11 Parliamentary Private Secretaries
- 12 Government Back-benches
- 13 Leader of Opposition
- 14 Opposition Whips
- 15 Shadow Ministers
- 16 Opposition Back-benches
- 17 Liberal Democrats
- 18 Other smaller Parties

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