# The Parliament of Great Britain





Upper House Lower House formed in 1707 by
the
Acts of Union
The oldest Parliament

The Parliament was

House of Lords
House of Commons
Oueen

# 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 the House of Commons
  - Lords.

Their work is similar Both must debate and vote

## The House of Commons

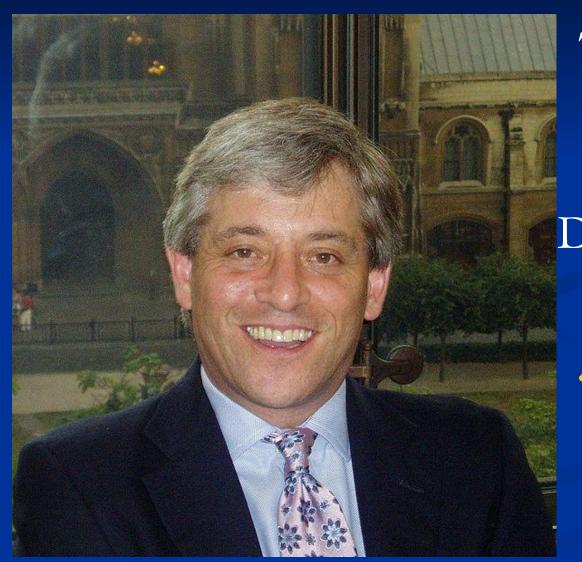


Meets at the Palace of Westminster

The Commons is publicly elected

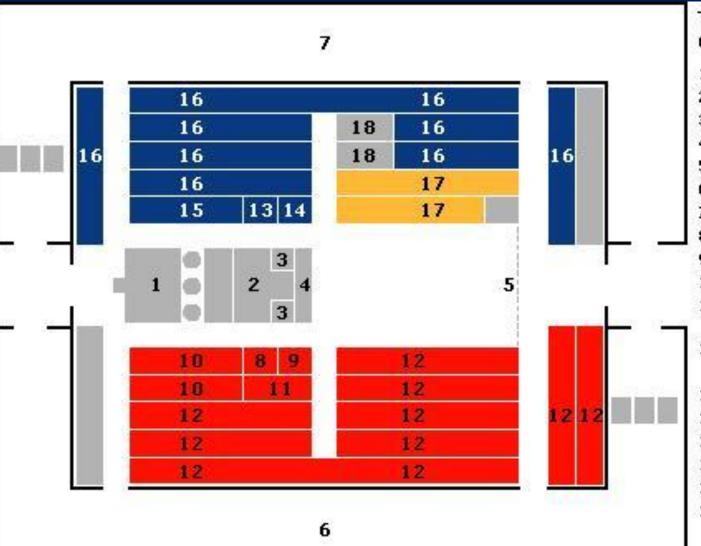
MPs in the House of Commons are elected for a period of five years

# 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 Backbenches
- 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

<u>Life Peers</u> Baron or Baroness, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 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