

# ELECTIONS IN BRITAIN

Put each of the following words or phrases in its correct place in the gapped passage below. To help you, three dictionary definitions have been given.

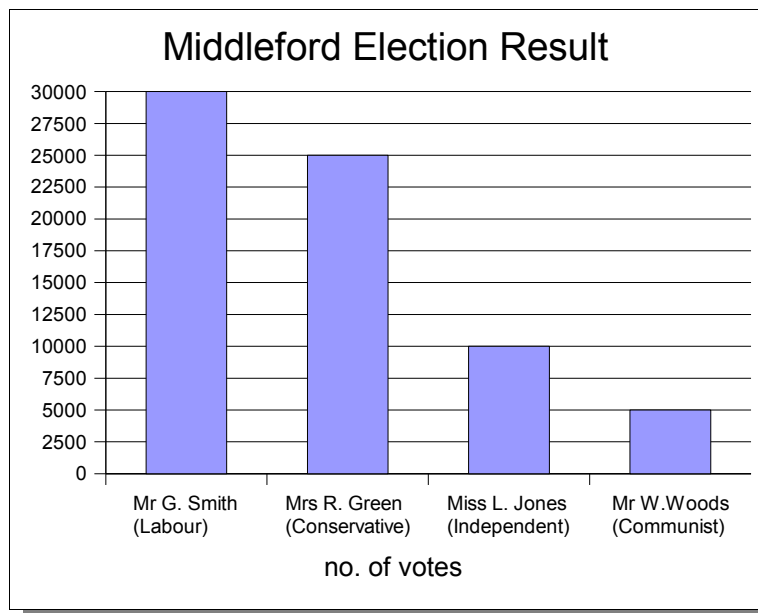
proportional representation / Member of Parliament / call an election /

House of Commons / stand for election / General Election

polling day / canvassing / secret ballot / constituents / constituencies /

polling stations / by-election / eligible / deposit / campaigns / turn-out

<p><b>constituency</b> - A constituency is an area for which someone is elected as the representative in a parliament.</p>	<p><b>secret ballot</b> - A secret ballot is a secret vote in which people select a candidate in an election, or express their opinion about something.</p>	<p><b>House of Commons</b> - The House of Commons is the more powerful of the two parts of parliament in Britain. Its members are elected by the adult population of the country.</p>
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(a) \_\_\_\_\_ has just taken place all over the United Kingdom. These must take place every five years unless the Prime Minister decides to (b) \_\_\_\_\_ earlier. Above is the result in Middleford, one of the approximately 635 (c) \_\_\_\_\_ into which the country is divided for this purpose. (d) \_\_\_\_\_ was last Thursday, when the election (e) \_\_\_\_\_ and door-to-door (f) \_\_\_\_\_ stopped and the people of Middleford went to the (g) \_\_\_\_\_ to make their choice, in a (h) \_\_\_\_\_, from the four candidates (anyone over the age of 21 can (i) \_\_\_\_\_, on payment of a (j) \_\_\_\_\_ of £500, which is returned if he or she receives at least 5% of the votes cast). Voting is not compulsory and the number of people (k) \_\_\_\_\_ to vote in Middleford (everyone over 18) was 100,000, so the (l) \_\_\_\_\_ was 70%. Now Mr Smith will become the (m) \_\_\_\_\_ for Middleford, which means he will represent the people of Middleford in the (n) \_\_\_\_\_ in London. If he should die or be forced to give up his seat, the people of Middleford will have to vote again, in a (o) \_\_\_\_\_ to replace him. It is a very simple system and Mr Smith will try to represent all his (p) \_\_\_\_\_ fairly, whether they voted for him or not. However, the fact remains that most voters in Middleford voted for candidates (and parties) other than Mr Smith, and their votes are now lost. It is seats which are important in Parliament, not votes, and it is easy to see why the smaller parties would like a system of (q) \_\_\_\_\_, in which the number of votes they won was reflected in the number of seats they received in Parliament.