



Illustration 1



Illustration 2



Illustration 3



Illustration 4



Illustration 5

Parliament brings end to 700 years of hunting.

The British Parliament have voted to end almost 700 years of fox-hunting in England and Wales and a total ban on hunting with dogs will come into force. Pro-hunt supporters promised a series of protests against the decision. 1,000 people demonstrated outside Windsor Castle where the Queen was hosting a dinner for the French president and the British prime minister.

The British prime minister accepted that his efforts to delay the ban until after the general election had failed. There are 318 registered **hound** packs in England and Wales, including 184 foxhound packs. Around 8,000 jobs depend on hunting, while 15,000 to 16,000 people, such as hotel owners, could also be affected by the **ban**. The government and police forces around the country must now prepare for the possibility of protests.

There was a lot of political manoeuvring by both pro- and anti-hunters in Parliament as each side tried to present the other side as the enemies of **compromise** and common sense. The government made one final attempt to reach a compromise, trying to delay the measure in order to give hunts time to adjust to their closure. Some Labour MPs suspected that the government was trying to avoid the promised **ban** on hunting. Finally the **rural** affairs minister persuaded MPs to vote to offer the compromise measure to the House of Lords for approval.

By a majority of 151 the MPs agreed to delay the implementation of the fox-hunting bill. The House of Lords voted to reject the delay. This meant that the House of Commons had no alternative but to use the Parliament Act of 1949 to **overrule** the decision made by the House of Lords.

The British prime minister said he regretted the outcome of the votes. He accepted that hunting would now be a legal and election issue: "There are people who feel passionately that hunting is an essential part of their way of life. There are people who feel equally passionate that it is **barbaric** and cruel."

There is now the possibility of a conflict between police, hunters and landowners before the next UK general election. The rural affairs minister called on pro-hunt supporters to accept the decision of Parliament. "The hunting community say they are **law-abiding** people, so we expect those involved in hunting to cease their activity when they are required by law to do so," he said. However, the Conservative rural affairs spokesman called for mass **disobedience**.

The chief executive of the Countryside Alliance, was **furious** to see his seven-year battle fail. The alliance began a legal **challenge** against the ban, saying it was confident it could prove that the 1949 Parliament Act had always been illegal, although it has been used four times.

Meanwhile there was further confusion last weekend when the home secretary said police would need more time to gather information about pro-hunt protestors and suggested that riders would not be prosecuted for killing foxes unless it was clearly intentional. He said he had wanted a delay on the ban to allow detailed preparations to deal with the expected mass disobedience. Police say that opposition to the new law will mean a huge amount of work for small **rural** police forces.

Patrick Wintour

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TASK1 Complete the sentences with the words in bold from the text about fox hunting.

1. _____ means extremely violent and cruel .
2. A _____ is a way of solving an argument in which both sides accept they cannot have everything they want.
3. _____ means very, very angry .
4. A _____ person is one who always obeys the law.
5. A _____ is a hunting dog.
6. A _____ is an official statement ordering people not to do something.
7. _____ means relating to the countryside .
8. _____ means not obeying orders or rules.
9. A _____ is an action that questions whether something is true, accurate or legal.
10. If you _____ someone, you officially change a decision that someone else has made.

TASK2 Find the information in the text as quickly as possible:

1. For how many years have people hunted foxes with dogs in England and Wales? _____
2. How many people protested outside Windsor castle? _____
3. How many registered hound packs are there in England and Wales? _____
4. How many jobs depend on hunting? _____
5. How many other people could be affected by the ban on hunting? _____
6. What is the new law? _____

TASK3 What do the following words collocate with? Find collocations in the text.

- 1 hound _____
- 2 _____ compromise
- 3 rural _____
- 4 rural _____
- 5 _____ the ban
- 6 challenge _____
- 7 overrule _____
- 8 _____ disobedience

TASK4 How do you understand the collocations? Work with a partner and provide translations.