



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

New British Prime Minister
英国的新首相

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Conservative David Cameron Wins 保守党的戴维·卡梅伦获胜

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

After days of **political horse-trading** the UK finally has a new government and a new Prime Minister, following the **resignation** of **Labour's** Gordon Brown on Tuesday evening.

Since last Thursday's **general election** resulted in a **hung parliament**, a situation in which none of the **political parties** has an **overall majority**, British politicians have been attempting to form a **coalition government**.

Such a government is **comparatively rare** in the UK. Indeed this is the first coalition since the Second World War.

So how did it happen?

Last week's general election saw the **public vote** split amongst the political parties in such a way that no party achieved the 326 **seats** required to gain a majority and therefore form a government.

This situation is known as a hung parliament, and means that two or more of the opposing parties have to **unite** in order to have more than 326 seats between them.

The Conservative party won 306 seats while Labour and the **Liberal Democrats** got 258 and 57 seats **respectively**.

This meant that the Liberal Democrats effectively became '**kingmakers**', with the power to choose which **rival** to form a coalition with.

Both Labour and the Conservatives attempted to **woo** the Lib Dems with various offers over the last few days, but in the end Gordon Brown resigned both as Prime Minister and as Labour leader, **paving the way** for the new government.

Many have seen the Lib Dems as the real winners in this situation, given the fact that their leader Nick Clegg has been appointed **Deputy Prime Minister** and four others have received **ministerial appointments**.

However, it remains to be seen how effectively David Cameron's Conservatives can work with their new partners.

Glossary 词汇表

political horse-trading 政治交易、讨价还价	resignation 辞职
Labour 工党	general election 大选
hung parliament 无党派占绝对多数的议会/悬空议会	political parties 政党
overall majority 占绝大多数	coalition government 联合执政政府
comparatively rare 相对少见的	public vote 公众投票
seats 议席	unite 联合
Liberal Democrats 自由民主党	respectively 分别地
kingmakers 拥立国王的人	rival 对手
woo 求得赞同、讨好	paving the way 铺平道路
Deputy Prime Minister 副首相	ministerial appointments 部长级的任命

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. Gordon Brown has been elected Prime Minister. **True / False**
2. There was no clear winner in last week's election. **True / False**
3. It is necessary to get 300 votes to win a British election. **True / False**
4. The coalition is between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats. **True / False**
5. The Liberal Democrats have five jobs at minister level. **True / False**

2. Jumbled Sentences 打乱词序的句子

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

请将下列句子中的单词重新排列，组成一个正确的句子。

1. 60 It more is the in the coalition UK for first than government years.

2. decide party now The have on to Labour a new will leader.

3. and Lib Dems together will work government to form Conservatives a new.

4. Prime David Minister the Britain Cameron is of Great new.

5. Lib Dems are a of with jobs There important in the number government.

6. knows coalition together Nobody well work how the parties will.

3. Prepositions 介词

Complete the following sentences by writing the correct preposition after the verb.

完成下列句子，把正确的介词填入空格中。

1. In the UK politicians are elected _____ parliament to represent the country.
2. Not enough people voted _____ any one single party to achieve a stable government.
3. After the election Labour Prime Minister Gordon Brown visited the Queen in order to hand _____ his resignation.
4. Some Liberal Democrat politicians have been rewarded _____ top jobs in the government.
5. This is a way that the Conservatives can thank the Liberal Democrats _____ the support they are giving them in parliament.
6. Now the Conservatives will have to work hand _____ hand with the Liberal Democrats to run the country.
7. Most British people hope that the new government will work to get the country _____ of economic difficulties.
8. Normally a general election in the UK is a battle _____ the Conservative and Labour parties.

with	to	in	in	between	for	out	for
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4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with British government in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (→), vertically (↓) or diagonally (↘)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与英国政府有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的(→) 垂直的(↓) 或对角的(↘)形式出现。

c	o	m	m	o	n	s	a	e	c	f	w
a	s	i	v	f	r	r	d	b	h	j	e
m	y	n	b	q	u	e	e	n	r	e	s
p	v	i	r	b	h	e	b	s	h	y	t
g	h	s	n	c	z	w	a	b	t	s	m
y	u	t	b	v	c	d	t	a	g	e	i
f	e	e	w	e	e	l	e	c	t	u	n
k	j	r	y	f	s	w	d	v	t	v	s
v	o	t	e	b	r	t	s	w	i	o	t
l	k	i	b	c	z	a	w	d	g	t	e
s	w	e	v	g	t	p	m	n	u	k	r
l	o	r	d	s	r	t	c	h	y	s	e

queen	lords	commons	westminster	mp
pm	minister	debate	vote	elect

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

- Gordon Brown has been elected Prime Minister. **False**
- There was no clear winner in last week's election. **True**
- It is necessary to get 300 votes to win a British election. **False**
- The coalition is between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats. **True**
- The Liberal Democrats have five jobs at minister level. **True**

3. Prepositions 介词

- In the UK politicians are elected **to** parliament to represent the country.
- Not enough people voted **for** any one single party to achieve a stable government.
- After the election Labour Prime Minister Gordon Brown visited the Queen in order to hand **in** his resignation.
- Some Liberal Democrat politicians have been rewarded **with** top jobs in the government.
- This is a way that the Conservatives can thank the Liberal Democrats **for** the support they are giving them in parliament.
- Now the Conservatives will have to work hand **in** hand with the Liberal Democrats to run the country.
- Most British people hope that the new government will work to get the country **out** of economic difficulties.
- Normally a general election in the UK is a battle **between** the Conservative and Labour parties.

2. Jumbled Sentences 打乱词序的句子

- It is the first coalition government in the UK for more than 60 years.
- The Labour party will now have to decide on a new leader.
- Conservatives and Lib Dems will work together to form a new government.
- David Cameron is the new Prime Minister of Great Britain.
- There are a number of Lib Dems with important jobs in the government.
- Nobody knows how well the coalition parties will work together.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

c	o	m	m	o	n	s				w
		i				d				e
m		n		q	u	e	e	n		s
p		i				b				t
		s				a				m
		t				t				i
		e			e	l	e	c	t	n
		r								s
v	o	t	e							t
										e
						p	m			r
l	o	r	d	s						