



## So, what is a Coalition Government?

After we have voted we usually expect there to be a winner and they get to be Prime Minister, so what has happened this time?



## How parliament and elections work

Parliament is made up of MPs, members of parliament. They can belong to any party, even a very small party.



We vote in each area for our local MP. They win by getting more votes in the area than anyone else and they go and take a seat in parliament with others from their party.



In our parliament we now have 11 different parties all with one seat or more, this is because Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own small parties or some areas vote for a small party.



Being in parliament does not mean they or their party are in power. The party in power is the one who has more MPs than all the others added together.



When you are in power you get to be the Government. This means you are running the country and your leader gets to be the Prime Minister, at the moment we don't have this.



### So what happened this time?

The Conservatives got the most seats with 306, if the others all joined together up against them they would have 343.



The work in parliament is always done by voting, this means they could vote to stop them doing anything or even vote them out so another election would need to be called.



So for a while Parliament was 'hung', nothing much happened in government and the old Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, had to stay on.



## Joining together to make a Government

We needed someone to be in charge, a party that was able to get enough votes.



This meant one of the big parties joining together with the Liberals to make one big group who could then make up a new government.



The Liberals looked to see which party gave them the best deal. So even though they didn't get many votes they had a lot of power.



They talked with the others to see what they had to offer. The Conservatives were best and they agreed to work together.



So now the Conservatives and Liberals have joined together, they call this a coalition. As a big group they have enough votes to be in charge and make the Government.

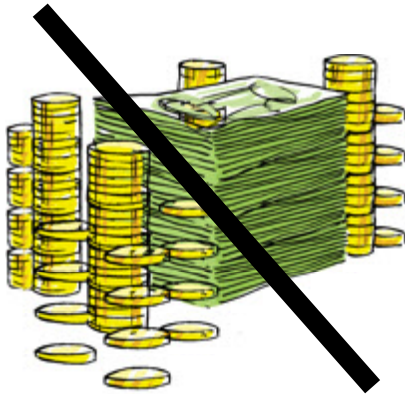


This has meant that both of these parties have had to give up some of the things they believe in and this is where it could go wrong.

<b>2015</b>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



If they change their minds and fall out it could mean an election called again. But if it works the next election will be in 5 years in 2015.



The first thing that is happening, which will affect a lot of us are cuts. They are going to cut £6 Billion of government spending. We don't know what services this will include yet.



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