

Making a Speech

How do parliamentarians communicate their ideas to the media, to the public and to their colleagues? One way is by giving speeches and addressing crowds on a regular basis.

Try your hand at writing a speech! Remember, people prefer short, easy sentences and ideas. Use your imagination. Choose one of these scenarios:

- In the Senate Chamber: Write a speech to be given by a Senator in support of an issue that he or she has been investigating in committee.
- In the House of Commons: Write a speech to be given by an MP during Question Period, either questioning a member of Cabinet or responding to a question from another member of the House.
- At a public event or news conference: Write a speech to be given by the Prime Minister or a Cabinet Minister about a new piece of legislation.

Keep in mind that parliamentarians usually adapt their speech to appeal to their audience. Use the following outline to help you organize your ideas.

Before writing your speech, brainstorm some ideas. Your speech should include these points:

My audience is:

.....

Introduce yourself:

.....

What is your point?

.....

.....

Why is your point valid?

.....

.....

Why should your audience care about this issue?

.....

.....

If applicable, what have members of the opposition done to oppose your proposal?

.....

.....

Compliment and thank your audience, telling them what they can do (e.g. vote for a bill, give you support).

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.....

Now that you have your ideas organized, write the good copy of your speech!



In the House: Game Questions

These questions are drawn from Section 3: Canada's Democracy in Action and Section 4: The Business of Parliament of *Our Canada, Our Parliament* and are specifically related to the careers of Members of Parliament.

1. According to the *Constitution Act*, national elections must be held at least once every two years. **FALSE**
2. Canada is divided into a number of electoral districts or constituencies called ridings. **TRUE**
3. People running in an election who do not belong to a party are called unassociated candidates. **FALSE**
4. On Election Day, the candidate who gets the most votes in a riding wins and becomes that riding's Member of Parliament. **TRUE**
5. The political party with the most elected MPs usually forms the Government. **TRUE**
6. The leader of the party in power and the Head of Government is called the Prime Minister. **TRUE**
7. The number of ridings has remained the same since Confederation. **FALSE**
8. If a majority of MPs vote to defeat the Government in the House of Commons on a vote of confidence, Parliament is usually dissolved and an election is held. **TRUE**
9. During an election campaign, candidates are not allowed to put up campaign signs or canvass door-to-door. **FALSE**
10. Candidates may spend as much money as they want during a campaign. **FALSE**
11. Youth are allowed to help out candidates during campaigns. **TRUE**
12. Canada has many different political parties. **TRUE**
13. To vote in a federal election, you must be a Canadian citizen and at least 21 years of age. **FALSE**
14. To vote in a federal election, you must publicly announce for whom you want to vote. **FALSE**
15. The only way to vote is by going to a polling station on Election Day. **FALSE**
16. The Members of Parliament who do not belong to parties that form the Government are called Opposition MPs. **TRUE**
17. The Official Opposition is usually the party with the second most elected members after the winning party. **TRUE**
18. Canada has a bicameral parliamentary system, meaning there are two separate Chambers: the Senate for Senators and the House of Commons for Members of Parliament. **TRUE**
19. When MPs meet in the House of Commons in Ottawa, it is said that the House is in session or is sitting. **TRUE**
20. The governing party sits to the left of the Speaker of the House of Commons. **FALSE**
21. Only Senators take part in question period, a daily period of time during which parliamentarians ask the Government questions about its activities or important issues. **FALSE**
22. Opposition MPs are not allowed to introduce new bills. **FALSE**
23. The first and only female Speaker of the House of Commons was the Right Honourable Jeanne Sauvé. **TRUE**
24. The House of Commons has a red carpet to represent Canada. **FALSE**



In the House: Game Point Cards

Print and cut out these cards.

<p>The Prime Minister briefs you on a new policy direction.</p> <p>WIN 3 POINTS</p>	<p>You rehearse question period materials with your staff.</p> <p>WIN 1 POINT</p>	<p>You find time to answer a few letters.</p> <p>WIN 2 POINTS</p>	<p>Your assistant brings you a sandwich.</p> <p>WIN 1 POINT</p>	<p>You find your missing binder in your desk.</p> <p>WIN 1 POINT</p>
<p>Your assistant trades your Thursday afternoon House duty with another MP; you can take an earlier flight home.</p> <p>WIN 3 POINTS</p>	<p>You make it safely home and your kids are still awake to say goodnight!</p> <p>WIN 2 POINTS</p>	<p>Your Committee meeting runs late and you miss lunch.</p> <p>WIN 0 POINTS</p>	<p>One of your staff calls in sick.</p> <p>WIN 0 POINTS</p>	<p>The party whip calls to make sure you'll be in the House this afternoon.</p> <p>WIN 0 POINTS</p>
<p>A breaking news story changes your question period strategy. You form a new strategy with your staff.</p> <p>WIN 0 POINTS</p>	<p>You draw House duty on a Thursday afternoon and have to miss a lunch with friends.</p> <p>WIN 0 POINTS</p>	<p>You attend three different receptions—at the same time!</p> <p>WIN 0 POINTS</p>	<p>You misplace all your correspondence for the day.</p> <p>WIN 0 POINTS</p>	<p>You spill coffee on your Blackberry and lose all your contact numbers and scheduling information.</p> <p>WIN 0 POINTS</p>
<p>A snowstorm delays your flight home.</p> <p>WIN 0 POINTS</p>	<p>You are asked by the Prime Minister to join the Cabinet.</p> <p>WIN 3 POINTS</p>	<p>Your party wins the election.</p> <p>WIN 2 POINTS</p>	<p>You are invited as a guest of honour to a celebration in your riding.</p> <p>WIN 1 POINT</p>	<p>You propose a bill that passes.</p> <p>WIN 2 POINTS</p>
<p>The budget passes successfully!</p> <p>WIN 1 POINT</p>	<p>You are elected as Speaker of the House of Commons.</p> <p>WIN 2 POINTS</p>	<p>You are praised in your riding's newspaper for your great work!</p> <p>WIN 3 POINTS</p>	<p>The Prime Minister invites you to lunch.</p> <p>WIN 2 POINTS</p>	<p>You are selected to sit on a committee you want to join.</p> <p>WIN 3 POINTS</p>

Bill on the Hill

Cut out the steps for passing a bill and re-arrange them in the correct order. Glue the steps in the correct order on a blank sheet of paper and show how each step is connected using arrows.

<p>A parliamentarian has a good idea and writes it down to become the Good Idea Bill.</p>	<p>The changed Good Idea Bill C has its Third Reading.</p>	<p>The Good Idea Bill C goes to the Senate, where it goes through a similar legislative process (Introduction and First Reading, Second Reading, Committee Stage, Report Stage, Third Reading), and passes.</p>	<p>The Good Idea Bill C passes in the House of Commons!</p>	<p>The Good Idea Bill is introduced (First Reading) in the House of Commons, printed and given a number that starts with a C.</p>
<p>The Committee reports on the Good Idea Bill C. Changes to the bill are considered and voted on.</p>	<p>The Good Idea Bill receives Royal Assent from the Governor General.</p>	<p>The Good Idea Bill C goes to committee, where it is examined line by line.</p>	<p>The Good Idea Bill is now the Good Idea Law.</p>	<p>The Good Idea Bill C has its Second Reading, during which it is debated and voted on in principle.</p>

Note: If the bill was introduced in the Senate, it would be given the letter S followed by a number.

Make it Law

My bill:

Why is this idea good for Canadians?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Are there any reasons this idea might be difficult to pass?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Does this bill fit with the rights and freedoms in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*?

.....

What extra information would help me better understand this idea?

.....

How can I get more information about this idea?

.....

How can this bill be changed to make it better?

.....

Write your new, amended bill here:

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