

- 1 Complete the text with the correct form of the words below. Use a dictionary to help you.

candidate coalition constituency general election
hung parliament majority member of parliament
prime minister proportional representation vote (n)

BRITISH ELECTORAL SYSTEM

How often do elections take place?

¹ _____ in Britain take place at least every five years.

How is voting in Britain organised?

The country is divided up into ² _____. In each of these areas, various people offer themselves as ³ _____ to represent a particular political party while others stand independently. Each candidate hopes to become the ⁴ _____ for that constituency.

How are the votes for each party counted?

The British system is not ⁵ _____, where the total number for each party is taken into account. Instead, it's called 'first past the post', where the winner in each constituency is elected and all the other ⁶ _____ count for nothing. If a party wins a ⁷ _____ of seats in parliament, they form a government and their leader becomes ⁸ _____.

What happens if no party gets a clear majority?

If no party has a majority, then it is a ⁹ _____, and two parties may agree to form a ¹⁰ _____. But this is uncommon in a 'first past the post' system.