

**My Vote**   
*My Voice*

# **Easy Read Guide to the King's Speech**





Each year, there is an event called the **Monarch's Speech**. It is also called the **Queen's** or **King's Speech**.

The Speech is made during the **State Opening of Parliament**. This marks the start of Parliament's working year.



**Parliament is where all the country's laws are made.**

Parliament is also called "**Westminster**" because it meets at the **Palace of Westminster** in London.



Parliament sits between one general election and the next. It organises its work into **sessions**, which run for about a year.

There are usually **four or five sessions of Parliament** from one general election to another.



The State Opening of Parliament takes place on the first day of a **new Parliamentary session**.

It is an important ceremony from history, going as far back as the 16th Century.



The State Opening of Parliament is attended by all three parts of Parliament.



These are the **House of Commons**, the **House of Lords**, and the **Monarch**.



The **House of Commons** is where MPs meet, represent people, ask the Government questions, and debate laws.



The **House of Lords** is where peers meet. **Peers** are also called “lords” and are members of the House of Lords.

Peers do similar work to MPs, like asking the Government questions and debating laws.



The **Monarch**, also called the King or Queen, is **the head of Parliament**.

The Monarch has the final say on new laws and must say it is okay for them to start.



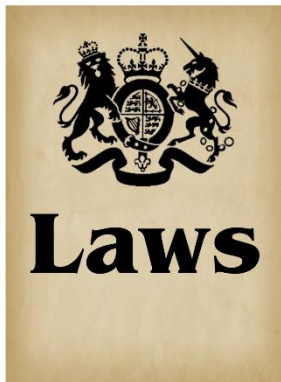


As the head of Parliament, **the Monarch opens new sessions of Parliament every year** during the State Opening of Parliament.



During the event, the Monarch will read the **Monarch's Speech** from their throne in the House of Lords.

Although it is the Monarch who delivers the Speech, **it is written by the Government.**



In their speech, the Monarch talks about **the laws that the Government is planning for the next Parliamentary session.**



Some of the laws that are planned for next year want to **ban smoking** and give **criminals longer prison time.**



The King will also talk about the main issues facing the country, like the **cost-of-living crisis** and **war in Ukraine**.



After the Monarch's Speech is made, **Parliament is officially opened** for its next session and politicians get back to work.



**Politicians** are people who make laws and are involved in politics. These are people like MPs and peers.



The King's Speech is then debated and voted on in Parliament.

This is to agree on what laws to make first and to organise Parliament's work for next year.

**My Voice My Vote is on a mission to encourage people with learning disabilities and autistic people to vote in the 2024 General Election.**

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