



ICEMUN 2026

UKHoC Rules of Procedure





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Debate Procedure

In the House of Commons, we will be using the following order of procedure:

1. Opening Addresses

Party Leaders and Cabinet Members are able to speak for up to 120 seconds; otherwise, all opening speeches are 90 seconds long.

2. General Speakers' List (GSLs)

3. Unmoderated Caucus

MPs are encouraged to bloc and write bills during this time. *Pre-writing Bills with other MPs is allowed and also highly encouraged in order to have more time for debate.*

4. Bill Debate

Bill Debate Specific Procedure

The bill debate will follow this procedure:

1. First Reading

An MP will say 'I move the bill to be read for the first time'. During the first reading, there is no actual debate. Just reading the bill.

2. Second Reading

After the reading of the bill is done, the main submitter of the bill will say, 'Move that the bill be read a second time.' After which the bill debate will actually begin. It'll follow the order of: Main Submitter Speeches (120 seconds), then for and against speeches, each being 60 seconds.

3. Committee Stage

After the second reading is done, then move (the HoC word for motion) that 'the bill be debated in committee,' which is where things like amendments will be debated and voted upon

4. Third Reading

Afterwards an MP will move that 'the bill be debated a third time'. Here, a short debate will occur



with the final version of the bill (when all amendments and such are considered). To move on to voting procedure, an MP must move that 'the question be put'. MPs will then vote on the bill as a whole. For more information on voting, please refer to the voting section

Referring to others & Heckling

Members of Parliament (MPs) can be referred to in three ways, which are by constituency, ministerial title, or 'my right honourable friend' / 'the member opposite'. For constituencies, MPs may use 'the MP for [insert constituency name]' or 'The Honourable member for [insert constituency name]'. For example, if you were referring to Andy Burnham, you could say: 'the MP for Macclesfield'. 'My right honourable friend' is used to refer to someone in your party, meanwhile 'the member opposite' is used for someone who is not in your party. And lastly, ministerial titles can be used such as 'Prime Minister', 'Leader of the Opposition', etc. MPs are highly discouraged from referring to other MPs by their name.

MPs are allowed to heckle (ie. as in shout) either 'rubbish' to show disapproval or 'hear, hear' to show their support for a point being made. If an MP were to heckle in a disrespectful way, it can be punishable by temporary ejection from the House, to be determined by the speakers. If heckling gets too loud, the speakers may call for order, to which MPs are expected to quiet down a bit

Chairs (referred to as 'Speakers of the House' or simply 'Speakers') are to be referred to as Mr. or Madam Speaker(s). There is no need to put any other words before that, such as 'This', 'Honourable', and/or 'Dear'.



House of Commons Government & Party Structure

The Main Parties

The House of Commons has two main parties: The Labour Party, which is left-wing, and the Conservative Party who is right-wing. As of now and in the timeframe that the topic takes place in, the Labour Party currently is the governing party (ie., Prime Minister).

The Conservative Party instead is the opposition party. Do note that the Conservative Party can sometimes be referred to as the 'Tories' or simply a 'Tory'. The governing party (in this case the Labour Party) sits to the right of the speakers (the chairs), and the opposition party (the Conservative Party) and all other parties sit to the left of the speakers.

The Other Parties

There are four other main parties (do note that other parties do also exist) in the House of Commons which are:

- The Green Party - A left-wing party
- The Liberal Democrats - A left-wing party
- Reform UK - A right-wing party
- Restore Britain - A far-right party

Do note that Restore Britain was only formed on June 30th 2025; therefore, cutoff dates will affect the existence of this party. The current leader of this party, Rupert Lowe, was in the Reform UK party prior to him forming Restore Britain



Frontbenchers and Backbenchers

In the House of Commons, there are two types of seating categories: Frontbenchers and backbenchers

- Frontbenchers are anyone who sits on the first bench of the House of Commons and is usually reserved for the Prime Minister, party leaders of major parties, secretaries of state, shadow ministers, and shadow secretaries of state.
- Backbenchers are everyone else not mentioned in the frontbenchers section, which includes MPs who are not party leaders or who have no leadership roles. Basically the “regular MPs”

Constituencies

Each MP in the House of Commons is elected to a constituency (basically a region). During debate, some MPs [use their constituents as examples for issues or as an anecdote of sorts to get a point across](#) (Video of this attached as an example).

Speeches & Points

Speeches

The House of Commons will feature the following speeches. The following list will highlight each type of speech and their speaking times:

Opening Address

120 seconds for the Prime Minister, cabinet members, and party leaders; 90 seconds for everyone else

GSLs

Optional speech; up to 90 seconds for everyone

Main Submitter Speech

120 seconds



For/Against Speech

60 or 30 seconds depending on time constraints.

Speeches in the House of Commons can include things such as personal pronouns, British slang, jokes, or even quotes from MPs.

Points

The following list will cover all the different points an MP can make during debate:

Point of Information (POI)

To make a POI, an MP must stand up either during or before a speech (do note that only 1 to 3 (depending on the speaker's discretion) mid-speech POIs can be made per speech). POIs are preferred to be kept concise if possible. If you already made a mid-speech POI, you may not make a post-speech POI.

Point of Order (POO)

Can be raised if an MP believes one of their fellow MPs isn't following procedure.

Point of Personal Privilege (PPP)

Can be raised if an MP has to leave the committee room or requests something like turning down the AC, going to the toilet, etc.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry (PPI)

Can be raised if an MP is unsure of the procedure.

Point of Factual Inquiry (PFI)

An MP can raise this if they believe a fellow MP has false information or unfactual statements. After a fact check done by the speakers, if successful, the speakers may ask the MP who said the misinformation to retract or amend the statement.

Right to Reply (RR)

If an MP believes that they or their constituency has been personally insulted, up to the Speaker's discretion, they may have 30 seconds to reply to said insult



Voting

Voting in the House of Commons is verbal. Everyone voting for will shout 'aye', and everyone voting against will shout 'nay'. If the speaker(s) cannot discern who was louder, they will call a division (HoC version of splitting the house) where everyone voting 'aye' will stand on the right of the speaker(s) and vice versa.

Motions

'I move that the house does adjourn'

Used at the end of a session to temporarily stop debate

'I move that time for debate to be extended'

Used when a member wishes to extend the debating time

'I move that the question now be put'

Used to move onto voting procedure

'I move that the bill be read a first/second/ third time.'

Used to start a stage of the bill debate

'I move that the bill be committed to a committee of the whole House.' Used when a member wishes to see their bill debated in committee.

Bills

Bills in the House of Commons use the Palatino Font and are split into parts, chapters, clauses, sub-clauses, and sub-sub clauses.

For reference, your bill should look something like [this](#)

Note that font sizes, boldness, etc. can be adjusted on your actual bill



Research Advice & Tips

To find out the general position of your MP, visit theyworkforyou.com to find your MPs' voting record and other information

Browsing their social media accounts (eg. X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, Facebook) or taking a look at their website is another good way to get their stance on issues and statements they have released

Make sure you understand your constituency's relation to the issue, and the scale at which it impacts your MP's constituency!

MPs are essentially like local representatives of their region, so speakers will highly value MPs using anecdotes and stories from their constituency to get a certain point across or to try to make their constituents happy.

Watch videos and read articles from reputable sources, such as the [HoC debates](#) or the BBC.