

Parliament brings end to 700 years of hunting

Level 1 | Elementary

1 Key Vocabulary

Find the correct word

pack	vote	fox	hound
hunting	barbaric	illegal	ban

- _____ is the activity of chasing and killing wild animals.
- A _____ is a wild animal, similar to a small dog, with red fur and a thick tail.
- A _____ is a hunting dog.
- A _____ is a large group of dogs.
- If you _____, you make a formal choice between two or more people or issues.
- If something is _____, it is violent and cruel.
- If something is _____ it is not allowed by the law.
- A _____ is an official statement ordering people not to do something.

2 Find the information

Find this information in the text as quickly as possible:

- How many people demonstrated outside Windsor Castle?
- How many hound packs are there in the UK?
- How many people do jobs connected with hunting?
- How many other people might have problems because of the ban on fox-hunting?
- What is the name of the lower house of the British Parliament?

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Patrick Wintour

Last week the British Parliament decided to end almost 700 years of fox-hunting in England and Wales. Early next year it will be illegal to hunt foxes with dogs. Pro-hunt supporters immediately promised to protest against the decision and on the same day 1,000 people demonstrated outside Windsor Castle where the Queen was meeting the French president, Jacques Chirac, and Tony Blair.

Mr. Blair wanted to delay the ban on fox-hunting until after the next general election in the UK. Many people in the countryside want to continue hunting foxes but many people living in towns and cities are against it. There are 318 registered hound packs in England and Wales. About 8,000 people do jobs connected with hunting, and the ban might also cause problems for 15,000 to 16,000 other people, such as hotel owners. Now the government and the police must prepare for the possibility of protests over the next three months.

There was a long debate in the British Parliament between pro-hunters and anti-hunters. The government tried to find a solution and wanted to delay the ban until 2006 or 2007. But some Labour MPs thought that the government was trying to avoid the promised ban on hunting. After a long discussion, the lower house of the British Parliament, the House of Commons, voted to delay the ban until July 2006.

But a few hours later the upper house, the House of Lords, voted against the 18-month delay. This meant that the House of

Commons had to use an old law, the Parliament Act of 1949, to block the decision of the House of Lords.

Tony Blair said he was sorry about the result of the vote. He explained that he wanted to find a middle way between people with very strong opinions on both sides of the argument about fox-hunting. "There are people who feel very strongly that fox-hunting is an essential part of their way of life" he said. There are other people who feel equally strongly that fox-hunting is barbaric and cruel."

There is now the possibility of a conflict between police, hunters and landowners before the next UK general election. One government minister said pro-hunt supporters must accept the decision of Parliament. "People who support fox-hunting say they respect the law, so we expect them to stop hunting foxes when the law says they must stop," he said.

The chief executive of the Countryside Alliance was angry about the ban on fox-hunting. Within 24 hours the group began a legal action against the ban, saying the 1949 Parliament Act was illegal, so the vote in Parliament was not valid.

Meanwhile there was more confusion last weekend when the Home Secretary said police need more time to gather information about pro-hunt protestors. He also said that killing foxes would not be illegal if foxhunters did not mean to kill them. Police say that opposition to the new law will mean a large amount of work for small police forces in the countryside.

The Guardian Weekly 26-11-2004, page 11

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3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer:

1. When did fox-hunting begin in England and Wales?
 - a. 70 years ago.
 - b. 700 years ago.
 - c. 7,000 years ago.
2. When will the ban on hunting begin?
 - a. early next year.
 - b. in the middle of next year.
 - c. late next year.
3. Why did Tony Blair want to find a middle way?
 - a. because he is against fox-hunting.
 - b. because most people support fox-hunting.
 - c. because there are strong opinions on both sides.
4. What will the new law mean for the police?
 - a. a lot of work.
 - b. more respect for the law.
 - c. more time to gather information about pro-hunt protestors.

4 Vocabulary prepositions

Which prepositions follow these words? Check your answers in the text.

1. protest _____
2. connected _____
3. prepare _____
4. conflict _____
5. angry _____
6. information _____
7. opposition _____
8. ban _____

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5 Vocabulary - word building

Complete the table

	Verb	Noun
1.	decide	_____
2.	oppose	_____
3.	solve	_____
4.	promise	_____
5.	demonstrate	_____
6.	protest	_____
7.	discuss	_____
8.	argue	_____

6 Grammar focus

Verbs followed by infinitives. Look at this example:

The British Parliament decided to end 700 years of fox-hunting.

Fill the gaps using the correct form of one of these verbs:

promise want try expect

1. Tony Blair _____ to delay the ban on fox-hunting.
2. The government _____ to find a solution.
3. The government _____ people to stop hunting foxes.
4. Mr Blair _____ to find a middle way.
5. Pro-hunt supporters _____ to demonstrate against the decision.

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KEY

1 Key words

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|---------|
| 1. hunting | 2. fox | 3. hound | 4. pack |
| 5. vote | 6. barbaric | 7. illegal | 8. ban |

2 Find the Information

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. 1,000 | 2. 318 | 3. About 8,000 |
| 4. 15,000 to 16,000 | 5. The House of Commons | |

3 Comprehension Check

1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. a

4 Vocabulary Prepositions

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. protest against | 2. connected with | 3. prepare for | 4. conflict between |
| 5. angry about | 6. information on | 7. opposition to | 8. ban on |

5 Vocabulary Wordbuilding

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. decision | 2. opposition | 3. solution | 4. promise |
| 5. demonstration | 6. protest | 7. discussion | 8. argument |

6 Grammar focus

1. Tony Blair wanted to delay the ban on fox-hunting.
2. The government tried to find a solution.
3. The government expects people to stop hunting foxes.
4. Mr Blair wanted to find a middle way.
5. Pro-hunt supporters promised to demonstrate against the decision.