

Parliament brings end to 700 years of hunting

Level 2 | Intermediate

1 Key Vocabulary

Fill the gaps using these key words from the text:

hound	ban	compromise	rural	overrule
barbaric	law-abiding	disobedience	furious	challenge

1. _____ means 'extremely violent and cruel'.
2. A _____ is a way of solving an argument in which both sides accept they cannot have everything they want.
3. _____ means 'very, very angry'.
4. A _____ person is one who always obeys the law.
5. A _____ is a hunting dog.
6. A _____ is an official statement ordering people not to do something.
7. _____ means 'relating to the countryside'.
8. _____ means not obeying orders or rules.
9. A _____ is an action that questions whether something is true, accurate or legal.
10. If you _____ someone, you officially change a decision that someone else has made.

2 Find the information

Find this information in the text as quickly as possible:

1. How many years have people hunted foxes with dogs in England and Wales?
2. How many people protested outside Windsor castle?
3. How many registered hound packs are there in England and Wales?
4. How many jobs depend on hunting?
5. How many other people could be affected by the ban on hunting?
6. When was the Parliament Act passed?

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Parliament brings end to 700 years of hunting.

Patrick Wintour

The British Parliament have voted to end almost 700 years of fox-hunting in England and Wales and a total ban on hunting with dogs will come into force. Pro-hunt supporters promised a series of protests against the decision. 1,000 people demonstrated outside Windsor Castle where the Queen was hosting a dinner for the French president and the British prime minister.

The British prime minister accepted that his efforts to delay the ban until after the general election had failed. There are 318 registered hound packs in England and Wales, including 184 foxhound packs. Around 8,000 jobs depend on hunting, while 15,000 to 16,000 people, such as hotel owners, could also be affected by the ban. The government and police forces around the country must now prepare for the possibility of protests.

There was a lot of political manoeuvring by both pro- and anti-hunters in Parliament as each side tried to present the other side as the enemies of compromise and common sense. The government made one final attempt to reach a compromise, trying to delay the measure in order to give hunts time to adjust to their closure. Some Labour MPs suspected that the government was trying to avoid the promised ban on hunting. Finally the rural affairs minister persuaded MPs to vote to offer the compromise measure to the House of Lords for approval.

By a majority of 151 the MPs agreed to delay the implementation of the fox-hunting bill. The House of Lords voted to reject the delay. This meant that the House of Commons had no alternative but to use the Parliament Act of 1949 to overrule the decision made by the House of Lords.

The British prime minister said he regretted the outcome of the votes. He accepted that hunting would now be a legal and election issue: "There

are people who feel passionately that hunting is an essential part of their way of life. There are people who feel equally passionate that it is barbaric and cruel."

There is now the possibility of a conflict between police, hunters and landowners before the next UK general election. The rural affairs minister called on pro-hunt supporters to accept the decision of Parliament. "The hunting community say they are law-abiding people, so we expect those involved in hunting to cease their activity when they are required by law to do so," he said. However, the Conservative rural affairs spokesman called for mass legal disobedience.

The chief executive of the Countryside Alliance, was furious to see his seven-year battle fail. The alliance began a legal challenge against the ban, saying it was confident it could prove that the 1949 Parliament Act had always been illegal, although it has been used four times.

Meanwhile there was further confusion last weekend when the home secretary said police would need more time to gather information about pro-hunt protestors and suggested that riders would not be prosecuted for killing foxes unless it was clearly intentional. He said he had wanted a delay on the ban to allow detailed preparations to deal with the expected mass disobedience.

Police say that opposition to the new law will mean a huge amount of work for small rural police forces.

The Guardian Weekly, 26.11.2004, page11

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3 Comprehension check

Choose the best answer:

1. **Why did the House of Commons use the Parliament Act?**
 - a. to delay the ban on fox-hunting
 - b. because the House of Lords had rejected the compromise
 - c. because many people are against a ban on fox-hunting
2. **Why did the government try to delay the ban?**
 - a. to give hunts more time to adjust to their closure
 - b. to avoid the ban completely
 - c. to protect law-abiding people
3. **Why is fox-hunting a controversial issue?**
 - a. because there are 318 registered hound packs in England and Wales
 - b. because some people believe that it is barbaric
 - c. because there are very strong views on both sides
4. **What do pro-hunt supporters plan to do?**
 - a. accept the ban
 - b. protest strongly
 - c. remain within the law

4 Vocabulary prepositions

Fill the gaps using prepositions. Check your answers in the text.

1. The ban will come _____ force soon.
2. Pro-hunt supporters plan to protest _____ the decision.
3. Around 8,000 jobs depend _____ hunting.
4. Hunts will need time to adjust _____ their closure.
5. There is now the possibility of a conflict _____ police, hunters and landowners.
6. The Countryside Alliance has begun a legal challenge _____ the ban.
7. Riders may not be prosecuted _____ killing foxes.
8. Police will need time to deal _____ the expected mass disobedience.

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5 Vocabulary - word building

Complete the table:

	Verb	Noun
1.	demonstrate	_____
2.	protest	_____
3.	confuse	_____
4.	disobey	_____
5.	suggest	_____
6.	prepare	_____
7.	adjust	_____
8.	suspect	_____

6 Grammar focus - gerund or infinitive

Fill the gaps using either the *-ing* form or the infinitive of the verb in brackets.

1. Pro-hunt supporters promised _____ against the ban. [PROTEST]
2. The government tried _____ the decision. [DELAY]
3. The House of Lords voted _____ the ban. [REJECT]
4. Riders may not be prosecuted for _____ foxes. [KILL]
5. Some groups may plan to continue _____ despite the ban. [HUNT]
6. Police will need more time _____ information about protestors.
[GATHER]

7 Discussion

Should hunting with dogs be made illegal?

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KEY

1 Key words

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. barbaric | 2. compromise | 3. furious |
| 4. law-abiding | 5. hound | 6. ban |
| 7. rural | 8. disobedience | 9. challenge |
| 10. overrule | | |

2 Find the Information

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|--------|----------------|
| 1. 700 | 2. 1,000 | 3. 318 | 4. About 8,000 |
| 5. 15,000 to 16,000 | 6. 1949 | | |

3 Comprehension Check

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

4 Vocabulary Prepositions

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|--------|---------|
| 1. into | 2. against | 3. on | 4. to |
| 5. between | 6. against (to) | 7. for | 8. with |

5 Vocabulary Word Building

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. demonstration | 2. protest | 3. confusion |
| 4. disobedience | 5. suggestion | 6. preparation |
| 7. adjustment | 8. suspicion (a suspect – person) | |

6 Grammar Focus Gerund or infinitive

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. to protest | 2. to delay | 3. to reject |
| 4. killing | 5. hunting | 6. to gather |