They are usually held every 5 years

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Voters are able to choose from candidates from different political parties

Political parties campaign for around 4-6 weeks on manifestos – these contain promises that they aim to implement if they win.

To win a constituency (also referred to as a seat), candidates must win a simple majority of the votes cast. They then become the MP for that constituency.

To win the election, parties must win an absolute majority of the 650 seats in the Commons. This is 326 seats. Their leader becomes Prime Minister and they will choose other MPs from their party who will be the government.

If no party wins 326 seats, the largest party can form a government, either on its own (called a minority government) or by having an agreement to work with a smaller party who will support the government. The smaller party will usually want concessions from the larger party in order to secure their support. This is called a coalition.

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