

Unit 6

Elections

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| ballot paper (n) C | /bələt ˈpeɪpə/ | scheda elettorale | The result of the election is announced when the ballot papers have been counted. |
| candidate (n) C | /kændɪdeɪt; /kændɪdət/ | candidato | Voters may choose only one candidate . |
| constituency (n) C | /kənˈstɪtjuənsi/ | circoscrizione elettorale | Britain is divided into about 650 constituencies . |
| general election (n) C | /dʒenrəl ɪˈlekʃn/ | elezione generale | General elections usually take place every four years in Britain. |
| Member of Parliament (n) C | /ˈmembə əv ˈpɑːləmənt/ | deputato al Parlamento | Each district elects one Member of Parliament (MP). |
| polling station (n) C | /ˈpɒlɪŋ ˌsteɪʃn/ | seggio | The polling stations close at the end of the day. |
| stand for (v) | /stænd fɔː/ | candidarsi | Arnie cannot stand for president unless the law is changed. |
| turnout (n) C | /ˈtɜːnaʊt/ | affluenza | Voting is not compulsory and the turnout is sometimes very low. |

Embarrassment

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| acutely (adv) | /əˈkjuːtli/ | profondamente | She was acutely embarrassed every time her parents opened their mouths. |
| ashamed (adj) | /əˈʃeɪmd/ | vergognarsi (v) | Don't be ashamed of making mistakes. |
| bright (adj) | /braɪt/ | paonazzo | He went bright red when he realized he'd forgotten his wallet. |
| blush (v) | /blʌʃ/ | arrossire | I always blush when my tummy makes a funny noise. |
| humiliating (adj) | /hjuːˈmɪli,eɪtɪŋ/ | umiliante | I find it really humiliating that I can't find a job. |
| self-conscious (adj) | /self ˈkɒnfəs/ | imbarazzato | She's very self-conscious about her haircut. |
| squirm (v) | /skwɜːm/ | essere sulle spine | He squirmed with embarrassment when his phone went off during the film. |

-isms

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|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| ageism | /eɪdʒɪzəm/ | discriminazione in base all'età | Ageism is the practice of treating older people in an unfair way. |
| elitism | /ɪˈliːtɪzəm/ | elitarismo | Elitism is the belief that a small group of people with advantages should keep the most power and influence. |
| idealism | /aɪˈdɪə,lɪzəm/ | idealismo | Idealism is a strong belief in something which is good but probably impossible to achieve. |
| nationalism | /næʃnə,lɪzəm/ | nazionalismo | Nationalism is the belief that your country is better than other countries. |
| optimism | /ˈɒptɪ,mɪzəm/ | ottimismo | Optimism is the tendency to be hopeful and to expect good things to happen. |

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| pacifism | /ˈpæsiˌfɪzəm/ | pacifismo |
| pessimism | /ˈpesəˌmɪzəm/ | pessimismo |
| racism | /ˈreɪˌsɪzəm/ | razzismo |
| realism | /ˈrɪəˌlɪzəm/ | realismo |
| sexism | /ˈseksɪzəm/ | discriminazione sessuale, sessismo |
| socialism | /ˈsəʊʃəlɪzəm/ | socialismo |

Pacifism is the belief that violence is wrong.

Pessimism is the tendency to think that bad things will happen.

Racism is a way of thinking or behaving that treats people belonging to some races unfairly.

Realism is the ability to accept events and situations as they really exist and to deal with them in a practical way.

Sexism is the belief that men and women should be treated in a different way.

Socialism is a political system that aims to create a society in which everyone has equal opportunities.

Other words & phrases

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| action hero (n) C | /ˈækʃn ˌhɪərəʊ/ | protagonista di film d'azione |
| ad (n) C | /æd/ | inserzione |
| alienate (v) | /ˈeɪliəˌneɪt/ | alienare, allontanare |
| amend (v) | /əˈmend/ | emendare |
| approachable (adj) | /əˈprəʊtʃəbl/ | avvicinabile |
| assailant (n) C | /əˈseɪlənt/ | assalitore |
| banner (n) C | /ˈbænə/ | vessillo |
| banter (n) U | /ˈbæntə/ | ironia |
| barely (adv) | /ˈbeəli/ | a stento |
| big time | /ˈbɪɡ ˌtaɪm/ | alla grande |
| bodybuilder (n) C | /ˈbɒdiˌbɪldə/ | bodybuilder, culturista |
| bribe (v) | /ˈbraɪb/ | corrompere |
| brush (sth) off (v) | /ˈbrʌʃ ˈɒf/ | ignorare |
| centre-right (adj) | /ˌsentəˈraɪt/ | centro-destra |

Schwarzenegger used to be the world's greatest **action hero**.

He was asked to write the **ad** for the new receptionist.

Quotas will simply **alienate** an awful lot of people.

Arnie's fans are campaigning to **amend** the constitution.

She should also be open, friendly and **approachable**.

Prescott turned around and punched his **assailant** in the face.

Maria is a Democrat and Arnie has always stood under a Republican **banner**.

He's not popular with the new boss, what with all his sexist jokes and laddish **banter**.

He arrived in the States at the age of 21 and **barely** speaking English.

Frank has really messed it up **big time**.

Arnold Schwarzenegger is a **bodybuilder**, film star, millionaire and governor of the State of California.

Oelschläger told Gloystein he was not going to be **bribed**.

Instead of **brushing it off** with a false smile, he wheeled around and promptly punched his assailant full in the face.

Gloystein caused acute embarrassment to the **centre-right** Christian Democrat party.

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| chairman (n) C | /tʃeəməŋ/ | presidente, direttore | George Bush senior appointed him as chairman to the President's Council on Physical Fitness. |
| chancellor (n) C | /tʃɑːnsələ/ | cancelliere | If you ask yourself why the Germans elected a woman chancellor , it's because the political parties there also have a quota system. |
| childcare (n) U | /tʃaɪldkeə/ | assistenza all'infanzia | She thinks that politicians should talk about equal pay and childcare . |
| close range | /kləʊs 'reɪndʒ/ | distanza ravvicinata | The man threw an egg at John Prescott from close range . |
| commit to (v) | /kə'mɪt tuː/ | impegnarsi a | Arnie was committed to making a career for himself as an actor. |
| competent (adj) | /kəm'pɪtənt/ | competente | Many politicians are bad enough without replacing them with people who are even less competent . |
| compulsory (adj) | /kəm'pʌlsəri/ | obbligatorio | Voting is not compulsory and the turnout is sometimes very low, especially in places that are considered to be safe seats for one of the big parties. |
| condescending (adj) | /kɒndrɪ'sendɪŋ/ | condiscendente | I find the idea of quotas, as a woman, condescending and offensive. |
| constitution (n) C | /kɒnstɪ'tjuːʃn/ | costituzione | Arnie's fans are campaigning to amend the constitution . |
| cruise (v) | /kruːz/ | dirigersi, essere destinato | With the government cruising to another victory, the General Election campaign was of little interest. |
| deputy leader (n) C | /depjʊtɪ 'liːdə/ | vice primo ministro | Peter Gloystein was deputy leader of the German state of Bremen. |
| deserve (v) | /dɪ'zɜːv/ | meritare | I don't think he deserves to lose his job over it. |
| determine (v) | /dɪ'tɜːmɪn/ | stabilire | In 1905 Grover Cleveland said that the positions of men and women in society had been determined by God. |
| disagreement (n) C | /dɪsə'ɡriːmənt/ | disaccordo | There's not much disagreement about the fact that we need more women in politics. |
| disastrously (adv) | /dɪ'zɑːstrəsli/ | disastrosamente | His attempt at a joke went disastrously wrong. |
| discrimination (n) U | /dɪ'skrɪmɪ'neɪʃn/ | discriminazione | She thinks that excellence is the best way to fight discrimination . |
| dismissal (n) C | /dɪs'mɪsl/ | licenziamento | Do you think writing a sexist advert is suitable grounds for dismissal ? |
| dollar bill (n) C | /dɒlə 'bɪl/ | biglietto da ...dollaro / i | Sheppard is a well-known historical figure who can be seen on a ten- dollar bill in New Zealand. |
| embodiment (n) C | /ɪm'bɒdɪmənt/ | personificazione | Schwarzenegger is, to many, an embodiment of the American dream. |
| engineer (n) C | /endʒɪ'nɪə/ | tecnico, ingegnere | Frank's very good at his job – he's an excellent engineer . |
| fair (adj) | /feə/ | lecito, onesto | Is it fair grounds for dismissal? |
| foot and mouth disease (n) U | /fʊt ən 'maʊθ dɪ'ziːz/ | afta epizootica | He was protesting about the government's lack of support for farmers during an outbreak of foot and mouth disease . |
| fuss (n) U | /fʌs/ | confusione | The organization's taking us to court and you call it a lot of fuss about nothing?! |

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| give (sb) the sack | /gɪv ðə 'sæk/ | licenziare | 'Frank's been given the sack. 'The sack? Really? Are you sure?' |
| governor (n) C | /gʌvənə/ | governatore | Arnold Schwarzenegger is governor of the State of California. |
| graduate (n) C | /grædʒuət/ | laureato | The receptionist job would suit a young graduate . |
| grounds (n pl) | /graʊndz/ | ragioni, motivi | Do you think writing a sexist advert is suitable grounds for dismissal? |
| have your sights set on | /hæv 'saɪts set ɒn/ | aspirare a | If his fans win, Arnie will have his sights set on the White House. |
| have your way (v) | /hæv weɪ/ | spuntarla | If Arnie's fans have their way , he'll be president. |
| heel (n) C | /hi:l/ | tacco | What did he put in the ad? Attractive blonde, 5-inch heels essential? |
| horrified (adj) | /hɒrɪfaɪd/ | inorridito | Cleveland would be horrified to know that women had the right to vote. |
| issue (n) C | /ɪʃu:/ | problema | Women Members of Parliament would give more attention to issues like childcare and health. |
| laddish (adj) | /lædɪʃ/ | da ragazzo, immaturo | He's not popular with the new boss, what with all his sexist jokes and laddish banter. |
| launch (n) C | /lɔ:ntʃ/ | inaugurazione | Gloystein, Bremen's finance minister at the time, was attending the launch of the German Wine Week. |
| liability (n) C | /laɪə'bɪləti/ | peso | 'Don't you feel sorry for Frank?' 'Sorry for him? The man's a liability .' |
| macho (adj) | /mætʃəʊ/ | maschilista | You're forever complaining about his bad jokes and macho behaviour. |
| magnum (n) C | /mæɡnəm/ | magnum | He thought it would be funny to pour a magnum of champagne over the head of a homeless man. |
| make history (v) | /meɪk 'hɪst(ə)ri/ | entrare nella storia | And so, can family man Arnold Schwarzenegger, American citizen since 1983, make American history and become the first president with a foreign accent? |
| make matters worse | /meɪk mə'tɜ:z 'wɜ:s/ | peggiore la situazione | He made matters worse by attempting to be 'friends' with Mr Oelschlager. |
| memo (n) C | /meməʊ/ | appunto | He obviously hadn't read the memos about age discrimination. |
| mess (sth) up (v) | /mes 'ʌp/ | creare confusione | Frank has really messed it up big time. |
| object to (sth) (v) | /əb'dʒekt tu:/ | obiettare a (q.cosa) | People object to the quota system because they say that it is another form of discrimination. |
| offensive (adj) | /ə'fensɪv/ | offensivo | I find the idea of quotas, as a woman, condescending and offensive . |
| on purpose (adv) | /ɒn 'pɜ:pəs/ | apposta | Poor Frank. I mean, it's not as if he did it on purpose . |
| outbreak (n) C | /aʊtbreɪk/ | epidemia | He was protesting about the government's lack of support for farmers during an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. |
| outcome (n) C | /aʊtkʌm/ | esito, risultato | We're not really arguing about the end, the outcome , it's about how we get there. |
| oversee (v) | /əʊvə'si:/ | sorvegliare, controllare | Are you saying that he can't actually do his job without someone overseeing everything he does? |

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| pour (v) | /pɔ:/ | versare | 'Here's something for you to drink,' he said as he poured . |
| press charges (v) | /pres 'tʃɑ:dʒz/ | insistere con l'accusa | The police, however, decided not to press charges against either the deputy prime minister or Craig Evans, his assailant. |
| proceedings (n pl) | /prə'si:diŋz/ | dibattiti | With the government cruising to another victory, the general election campaign was of little interest to many people, until John Prescott, the deputy prime minister, brought a spark of life to proceedings . |
| promptly (adv) | /prɒmptli/ | con prontezza | Instead of brushing it off with a false smile, he wheeled around and promptly punched his assailant full in the face. |
| prospect (n) C | /prɒspekt/ | prospettiva | Good promotion prospects . |
| punch (v) | /pʌntʃ/ | dare un pugno | Prescott turned around and punched his assailant in the face. |
| quota system (n) C | /kwəʊtə ,sɪstəm/ | sistema delle quote, contingentamento | If only they'd introduced the quota system earlier! |
| red-faced (adj) | /red'feɪst/ | rosso in volto | A red-faced Gloystein made matters worse by attempting to be 'friends' with the man. |
| refer to sth (v) | /rɪ'fɜ: tu:/ | indicare (q.cosa) | The quota system is sometimes referred to as 'positive discrimination'. |
| resign (v) | /rɪ'zam/ | dare le dimissioni | A spokesman confirmed that Gloystein had resigned from his various posts. |
| right (n) C | /raɪt/ | diritto | Cleveland would be horrified to know that women had the right to vote. |
| run for office | /rʌn fə 'ɒfɪs/ | candidarsi a un incarico politico | They are campaigning for a US born outside the United States to run for office . |
| scribble (v) | /skrɪbl/ | scarabocchiare | Frank scribbled something down and didn't think to ask anyone to check it. |
| secretarial (adj) | /sekrə'teəriəl/ | da segretaria | The ideal candidate will have excellent secretarial skills, a good phone manner and a smart appearance. |
| show promise | /ʃəʊ 'prɒmɪs/ | dimostrarsi promettente | Arnie trained hard with his local team and showed promise . |
| spark (n) C | /spɑ:k/ | scintilla | John Prescott, the deputy prime minister, brought a spark of life to proceedings. |
| spin doctor (n) C | /spɪn ,dɒktə/ | portavoce | The spin doctors of Prescott's party squirmed with embarrassment. |
| stable (adj) | /steɪbl/ | stabile | A long, stable relationship certainly helps win votes. |
| stand by (v) | /stænd baɪ/ | sostenere | They may not share political views (Maria is a Democrat and Arnie has always stood under a Republican banner) but she always stands by him. |
| step aside (v) | /step ə'saɪd/ | farsi da parte | How would you feel as a man if you had to step aside just because someone decided that it ought to be a woman in the job? |

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| suffragette (n) C | /sʌfrə'dʒet/ | suffragetta | Kate Sheppard was a New Zealand suffragette who campaigned for women's right to vote. |
| supervise (v) | /su:pəvaɪz/ | sorvegliare | Frank's supposed to be supervising other people's work, not having his work supervised . |
| sure as hell | /ʃɔ: əz 'hel/ | sicuro come l'oro | 'Is it fair grounds for dismissal?' ' Sure as hell should be.' |
| tackle (v) | /tækəl/ | affrontare | In order to tackle the problem, many political parties and some national governments have introduced or are considering the introduction of quota systems. |
| tearful (adj) | /tiəfl/ | lacrimoso | A tearful Oelschlager refused the offer. |
| un-PC (adj) | /ʌn pi:'si:/ | non politicamente corretto | Anne thinks Frank is a sexist pig and totally un-PC . |
| victory (n) C | /vɪktəri/ | vittoria | With the government cruising to another victory , the General Election campaign was of little interest. |
| wheel around (v) | /wi:l ə'raʊnd/ | voltarsi di scatto | Prescott wheeled around and punched his assailant in the face. |