

People of Parliament: Whips

Cloze Passage

Read through the following passage and select the word or phrase from the table that best fits in each space. You can use each word or phrase only once.

different	1789	decisions	respond	present
opposition	votes	members	report	advance
hunting hounds	order	chamber	whip	tellers

The term _____(1) comes from an English hunting expression. The 'whipper-in' was the person responsible for keeping the _____(2) together as a pack. The term was first used in parliament in _____(3), when a member of England's House of Commons described intense lobbying over a particular decision as a 'whipping-in' of _____(4).

Both the government and _____(5) appoint members as party whips. Whips are responsible for organising the _____(6) of members who want to speak in debates. They make sure members of their party _____(7) to quorum calls and attend divisions, so that their _____(8) will be counted. During divisions they act as _____(9), reporting their party's votes to the Speaker.

If a member wants to cast a vote that is _____(10) to the vote of their party, they must advise their whip in _____(11). The whips also keep track of which members are not _____(12) on the precinct or will not attend the chamber that day, so they can accurately _____(13) the party's vote.

Whips often move around the chamber speaking to colleagues, the Clerks or the _____(14), organising the business of the party and making _____(15) with the whips from the opposing party.