

## **What do you need to know about the UK ?**

1. The national anthem is God Save the King.
2. The British flag is named The Union Jack.
3. The British Monarchy can : name knights and lords / give Royal Assent for bills to become law / represent the UK in foreign affairs
4. The formal body of advisers to the monarch is called the Privy Council.
5. MP means Member of Parliament.
6. The House of Parliament which is appointed is the House of Lords.
7. There are over 800 Lords and Peers in the House of Lords.
8. Recently, the UK decided to put an end to Life Peers.
9. The House of Lords contributes to law-making by : reviewing and suggesting amendments to legislation / providing expertise and scrutiny of government actions / initiating new legislation
10. During the General Election, people elect the members of the House of Commons.
11. General Elections are held every 5 years.
12. When a vacant seat has to be filled between General Elections, there is a by-election.
13. When an election is called earlier than the scheduled date, it is called a snap election.
14. The MP that presides the sessions of the House of Commons is called the Speaker of the House. That of the House of Lords is called the Lord Speaker.
15. A Parliament which has no party with an outright majority is called a hung Parliament.
16. A member of the House of Lords who does not belong to any political party and contributes based on their expertise is called a crossbencher (peer).
17. An MP who does not hold government office or shadow government position is called a backbencher.
18. The Commonwealth was created in 1926.
19. It counts 56 members.
20. Northern Ireland joined the UK in 1921.
21. The Capital City of Northern Ireland is Belfast.

22. The political deal designed to bring an end to 30 years of violent conflict in Northern Ireland, known as The Troubles, on April 10, 1998 is called the Good Friday Agreement or Belfast Agreement.
23. The Capital City of Wales is Cardiff.
24. The Capital City of Scotland is Edinburgh.
25. Glasgow is the host city of the July 2026 Commonwealth Games.
26. Those Games are held every 4 years.
27. They are nicknamed the Friendly Games.
28. They were created in 1930.
29. Throughout their history they have successively been named : The British Empire Games / The British Empire and Commonwealth Games / The British Commonwealth Games
30. The Games are traditionally preceded by the King's Baton Relay.
31. Originally the state of Victoria, AUS, was supposed to host the 2026 edition of the Games.
32. Several sports have been cut from the 2026 edition : Rugby Sevens / Field Hockey / Badminton / Triathlon / Cricket / Squash / Diving / Table Tennis / Beach Volleyball / Rhythmic Gymnastics / Wrestling
33. The 2030 Games will be held in India.
34. The current British PM is Keir Starmer.
35. He belongs to the Labour Party.
36. Nigel Farage is the head of Reform UK.
37. The transfer of power to regional governments is called Devolution.
38. Devolved powers are for example education, health, housing...
39. Reserved powers are for example foreign policy, defence and national security, immigration, monetary policy...
40. Brexit happened in 2020, the referendum took place in 2016.
41. Immigration in the UK has increased since Brexit.
42. The current government has proposed a digital identity to fight against illegal work called the Britcard.
43. Civil liberties groups are concerned about the risk that the Britcard might create a surveillance state, thus moving closer to authoritarianism.
44. "Stop the Boats!" is the phrase used by politicians to target illegal immigration across the English Channel.

45. The main two reasons why people are increasingly defiant regarding immigration are crime and housing.
46. Tommy Robinson, a far-right activist, organized a march in the streets of London, the rallying cry of which was "United the Kingdom".
47. To control immigration, the UK set up a points-based system.
48. At borders and for public service access, the UK government is increasingly using facial recognition.
49. The current Chancellor of the Exchequer is Rachel Reeves.
50. The UK government accepted financial contributions from Meta amid ongoing discussions about social media bans.
51. The UK signed a new defense and security pact with Germany to strengthen NATO's northern flank against external threats.
52. Keir Starmer's authority has been progressively weakened despite Labour's victory in 2024 because of political missteps, ideological divisions and strategic uncertainty.
53. On May 17, 2026, Wes Streeting resigned as health secretary to vie for the PM position after the debacle of the regional elections.
54. The current leader of the Conservative Party is Kemi Badenoch.
55. In late April 2026, Banksy, a famous street artist, unveiled a statue of a man blinded by a flag in central London.
56. Peter Mandelson, a member of Keir Starmer's party, was implicated with Epstein, which gave rise to a scandal.
57. The leading political party in Scotland is the SNP (Scottish National Party).
58. The new nationalist party supported by Elon Musk is called Restore Britain.
59. In 2024, the UK refused to officially apologize for its colonial past.