

House of Commons debate

The style of debate in the House has traditionally been based on cut-and-thrust; listening to other Members' speeches and intervening in them in spontaneous reaction to opponents' views. It is thus very different from the debating style in use in some other legislatures, where reading of set-piece speeches from a podium or from individual desks is much more often the norm. This style of debate can make the Commons Chamber a live, rather noisy place, with robustly expressed opinion, many interventions, expressions of approval or disapproval, and sometimes of repartee and banter.

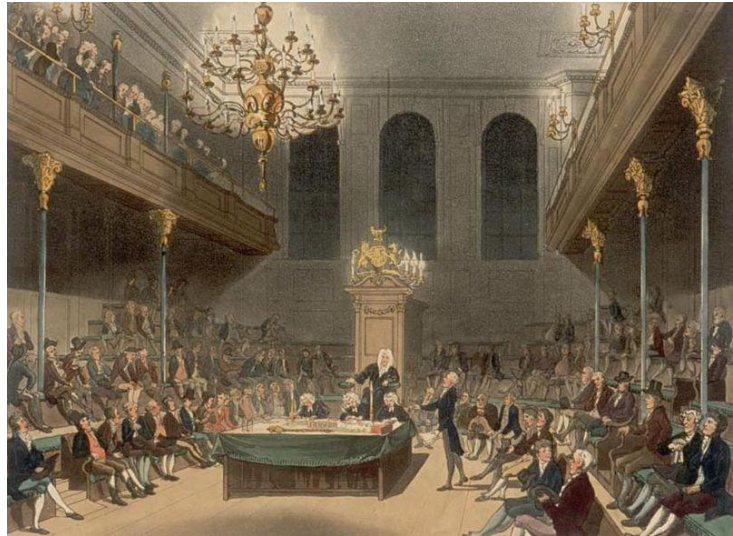


Figure 1 House of Commons (source: [Wikimedia Commons](#).)

If you want to see a sample: Click [here](#) for an example of the Lok Sabha in India or [here](#) for the House of Commons in Canada or an example from the real House of Commons in Britain [here](#) and if you are interested in the details of the British House of Commons a [20 minute movie](#) explaining the functioning of the House.

As a debating style:

A House of Commons debate is short while arguments are exchanged in a rather quick fashion.

The House of Commons style of debate is possibly the most known format for a debate. Put two rows in front of one another. One row is in favor of the statement issued while the other is against it.

If you want to speak you rise. However, you may only speak if you are given the floor by the discussion leader (or the Speaker of the House).

It takes about 10 minutes per statement/topic.

Advantages:

- Everyone can interact
- It is easy to participate with a lot of interaction
- Beautiful one-liners, anecdotes and witty remarks are important

Disadvantages:

- Discussions may remain superficial or shallow
- The success may depend heavily on the discussion leader being able to generate debate

You are either requested to supply your statement or proposal prior to the debate in order to have it discussed, agreed and/or opposed or they may be supplied to you prior to the gathering.

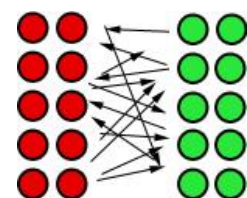


Figure 2 Seating arrangement in a House of Commons debate with proposing and opposing sides