UNIT 1

Government (A)

Word Form Chart

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Definitions and Examples

1. *parliament* [a national government assembly with the power to make laws]

   The British Parliament is divided into two assemblies which both meet at Westminster.

   England has had a parliamentary system of government since the fourteenth century.

2. *delegate* [a] [a representative; a person who acts for another]

   In a democracy, voters elect delegates to make laws for them.

   A delegation of students visited the university president to request a new examination policy.

   (b) [to give responsibility to another person]

   A good manager delegates responsibility to his employees; he does not try to do everything himself.

3. *address* [a] [to communicate directly with someone, especially in a formal speech]

   The queen addresses Parliament annually on the day of its official opening.

   The president of the United States delivers an annual address to the Congress to summarize the past year and announce plans for the next.

   (b) [1-6: the number and street where a house is]

   The official address of the head of England’s government is 10 Downing Street.

4. *federal* [belonging to a form of government where the power is divided between a central authority and regional authorities]

   The central authority in a federation is sometimes called the federal government.

   The U.S. government is a federal system. The federal government is responsible for defense, and the states are responsible for education.
5. municipal [related to a city or local government]
   
   A mayor is the head of a municipal government.
   "Municipality" is another word for "city."

6. bureau [a specialized administrative office, especially a department in a government]
   
   The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is a U.S. agency that investigates crimes against federal law.
   A travel bureau is an office that provides information about transportation fares and schedules, hotels, and interesting sights in a local area.

7. bureaucracy [the system of all government administrative offices which are staffed by nonelected officials]
   
   The people who work in a bureaucracy are bureaucrats.
   Bureaucrats have a reputation for being inflexible. They may be more interested in papers and rules than in helping people.

8. amend [to correct or improve, often by adding or subtracting information]
   
   The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of speech.
   Before Parliament passed the law, it was amended to include a tax reduction.

9. confirm (a) [to state again that something is true or correct]
   
   The morning paper announced new tax rates, and the president's noontime radio address confirmed the report.
   We ordered plane tickets by phone and received confirmation of the purchase in the mail.

   (b) [to make something certain by giving legal approval]
   
   The president announced the appointment of a new ambassador, but the appointment was not official until Parliament confirmed it.

10. propose [to suggest]
    
    A delegation of students proposed that their school save money by having fewer hours of class. Their proposal was not accepted by the school administrators.
    
    A marriage proposal is an offer of marriage. Traditionally, in the United States, the man proposes to the woman.
11. **resolution** [a] [a plan of action that has been decided on, often the result of a formal vote]
   
   The members of Parliament voted for a resolution to cut taxes by five percent over five years.
   
   I have resolved to exercise more and eat healthier foods.
   
   People often make New Year's resolutions which they do not keep.
   
   [b] [the solution to a complex problem; the conclusion of a complex story]
   
   Everyone hopes for a resolution to the problems in the Middle East. People want leaders who will resolve their country's problems.

12. **autonomous** [governed by oneself; independent]

   Regional governments may fight to win autonomy from a central authority. In Spain, for example, the Basques want to have an autonomous government in the north instead of being controlled by Madrid.

   During the Civil War in the United States in the 1860s, southern states declared an autonomous government, completely separate from the federal government in Washington.

13. **revenue** [the income of a government]

   A government cannot be autonomous without a reliable source of revenue.

   To get more revenue, a government can increase taxes.

14. **contribute** [to give or supply, together with others]

   I contribute money to my church to maintain the building and to help poor people.

   When the big project was completed, the boss thanked all of his employees for the extra time and effort they had contributed.

15. **call on** [a] [to visit, especially in an official way]

   Delegates from the major businesses in the city called on the new mayor to ask for his help.

   Good salesmen call on their customers regularly.

   [b] [to request someone to do something]

   Rich people are frequently called on to contribute money to many different causes.

   In times of war or other national difficulty, a government calls on all citizens for their support.

   If a student is sleeping in class, the teacher may call on him to answer a question in order to wake him up.
16. **come up with** [to think of or find, often in order to give to other people]

The person who first **came up with** the idea of a personal computer must be very rich.

I cannot take a vacation unless I can **come up with** $200 to buy a plane ticket.

17. **commerce** [the buying and selling of goods and services, especially between governments or other large organizations]

The U.S. Department of **Commerce** regulates and advises businesses and industries in the country.

**Commercialism** is an attitude that emphasizes making a profit.

The **commercial** areas of many American cities have moved from downtown to the suburban sections.

18. **commercial** [an advertisement on radio or television]

Television **commercials** are often louder than regular programs.

Before elections in the United States, voters hear radio and TV **commercials** that try to convince them to vote for certain people.

19. **point** (a) [the sharp end of something]

Knives, nails, and pins end in a **point**.

(b) [a small round mark, or a location indicated by that mark]

The shortest distance between two **points** is a straight line.

The general marked the **point** on the map where the bombs would fall.

(c) [4-21: the purpose; the reason]

There is no **point** in arguing with him, because he will never change his opinion.

(d) [4-21: to signal with your finger in order to show somebody something]

The man **pointed** to where our seats were.

(e) [4-21: a number in a score]

To win a volleyball game you must have fifteen **points**, and you must have two more **points** than your opponent.

20. **regime** (a) [a system of managing a government with strong, central (sometimes military) control]

Spain was a very conservative country during the **regime** of Francisco Franco.

In France, the era when the kings still had absolute power is known as the old **regime**.

(b) [a routine]

After my operation, the doctor insisted that I follow a strict **regime** of exercise and special diet.
21. **ruler** (a) [a person who controls or governs]

Genghis Khan was the ruler of a large area of Asia in the thirteenth century.

The ruling party in a country is the one with the most power.

(b) [3-1: rule: a law or regulation; what a person is or is not permitted to do]

Many schools have strict rules about students' behavior.

22. **stand up for** [to defend; to support in an argument]

My parents taught me always to stand up for the ideas that I believe in.

Improvements in education often lead to social change; when people learn about their legal rights, they begin to stand up for them.

23. **stand up to** [to be brave or strong when challenged or threatened]

The employee stood up to her boss when he asked her to overcharge a customer; she refused to participate in a dishonest policy, even though she might lose her job as a result.

24. **council** [a group of people who are assembled to lead, advise, or discuss certain issues]

Government leaders sometimes appoint special councils to investigate problems like drugs or crime.

My friend Joe Smith is a town councilor who is very popular with the citizens.

25. **draw up** {separable} [to prepare a document]

One of the main responsibilities of a corporation lawyer is to draw up contracts.

After government negotiators decided on the terms of the agreement, their staff members drew it up.

26. **hold off** [on] {separable} [to delay]

The mayor held off on making a decision until he had talked to his councilors.

Although the soldiers were tired, they were able to hold the enemy off until help arrived.
Introductory Exercises

A. Match each word or phrase with its definition.

1. a representative
   a. addressee
   b. amendment
   c. autonomous
   d. bureaucrats
   e. call on
   f. come up with
   g. commerce
   h. confirm
   i. contribution
   j. council
   k. delegate
   l. draw up
   m. federal
   n. hold off
   o. municipal
   p. parliament
   q. point
   r. proposal
   s. regime
   t. resolution
   u. revenue
   v. ruler
   w. stand up for
   x. stand up to

2. a correction or improvement
3. a suggestion
4. a national assembly that makes laws
5. a plan of action
6. the sharp end of something
7. a person who governs
8. to make something certain
9. the person to whom you are speaking
10. to think of
11. to defend
12. buying and selling
13. nonelected government officials
14. related to a city
15. income
16. to prepare
17. to be brave when threatened
18. independent
19. to delay

B. Answer each question with a word from the word form chart.

1. What person has the most power in a government?
2. What person represents other people?
3. If you believe strongly in an idea, what do you do?
4. What can you do if someone threatens you?
5. What government body can make laws?
6. What does a government get from taxes?
7. What is the system of offices that administers a government?
8. What is a very authoritarian government?
9. What should you do if someone requests money for a good cause?
10. If you are not sure of a decision, what should you do?
11. Who gives advice to the head of the government?
12. What do you do when you decide on a specific plan?
13. What can you do with your finger to show someone directions?
14. What can you see on television to make you buy something?
Study Exercises

C. Write T if the sentence is true and F if it is false.

   1. In a federal system, the central authority has complete power.
   2. A bureaucrat always works in a municipal government.
   3. Proposals are always accepted.
   4. A mayor is the head of a federal government.
   5. If something is proven to be true, it is confirmed.
   6. If you want something to happen quickly, you should hold off on it.
   7. A ruler is a prominent person in the government.
   8. When you participate in a discussion, you contribute your ideas.
  10. People's heads end in a point.
  11. Creative people rarely come up with new ideas.
  12. To stand up for something is the same as to back down.
  13. Egypt is on a point of land.
  14. A councilor is one of a group of people.
  15. A member of Parliament is a government official.

D. Change each underlined word to a word or phrase from the word form chart. Do not change the meaning of the sentence.

   1. The president's speech to the United Nations was shown on television.
   2. Many people in the Soviet Union suffered under the powerful government of Joseph Stalin.
   3. The councilors wrote an official plan to increase the government's revenue.
   4. Everyone in the office gave time and energy to the project.
   5. The newspaper editor accused local government workers of being corrupt.
   6. My landlord will make me move if I do not find and give him the rent before Friday.
   7. A representative group of citizens called on the president to ask for lower taxes.
   8. The president asked all of the citizens to help him improve the country's economy.
   9. A government councilor suggested an amendment to the Constitution.
  10. A good negotiator must be able to find solutions for disagreements quickly.
E. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

How does an idea become a law in the United States? First, one of the representatives in Congress must propose that the law be considered. This proposal is given to the appropriate committee; for example, the commerce committee would study a resolution to change sales taxes. The committee then makes recommendations to the whole assembly, and there is a period of discussion before the vote. During the weeks of discussion, delegations from groups who are interested in the resolution may call on representatives to stand up for their point of view. In special cases the president may be interested in the proposed law and may make a special address to Congress or the people. With all of these different people coming up with suggestions and making changes, a resolution rarely passes in its original form. Usually some amendments are added to make it more acceptable to more people.

If a resolution receives enough votes to pass in one assembly, it must then be considered in the other. Delegates from both assemblies may meet to draw up a compromise proposal. If they succeed, and the legislation is approved, it is then the responsibility of the bureaucracy to carry out all of the parts of the laws.

1. Write two words that are used in the passage to mean "a suggested law."

2. What is the role of special delegations?

3. What can the president do if he is interested?

4. Give two reasons why the final law may be different from the original proposal.
   a. 
   b. 

5. What is the role of nonelected government officials in this process?
**Follow-up**

**F.** Dictation: Write the sentences that your teacher reads aloud.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

**G.** Answer the following questions.

1. Does your country have a federal system of government? Explain.
2. Name some offices or departments in the bureaucracy of your country.
3. Would you like to have a bureaucratic job? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever been chosen as a delegate from a group you belong to? Explain.
5. Does your country have a parliament? Where does it meet?
6. Who is the head of your government?
7. Have you contributed money to any good cause lately? Which one?
8. Name something that is important for you to stand up for.
9. What is your government's main source of revenue?
10. What proposal would you like to make to the head of this school?
11. What is your favorite commercial on TV or radio?