

This could be the year... Labour runs Britain

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Changing places: Britain has had as many prime ministers since 2010 as it had 1974 to 2010.

Will it make much difference? Right now the chance of Labour win in the next UK election is as high as 80%. But some say the chance of real change afterwards is much lower.

What's happening?

At some point in 2024, there will be a **general election** in the UK. Voters will have a chance to choose who they want to run the country for the next five years.

We do not know exactly when it will take place, but British **prime minister Rishi Sunak** has suggested it will probably be in the autumn. And most experts think that the **Labour Party** will win.

Find out more

The **Conservative Party** has been in power in Britain for more than 13 years. In that time, they have had five leaders and the country has had five prime ministers.

Today, they are not doing well in the **polls**. Many are unhappy with how the country is being run. It looks likely, experts say, that Labour, led by **Keir Starmer**, will win the next election.

This could lead to big change, say some. Starmer has promised 10 years that will put Britain back on track — focusing on the economy, public services and important things like buildings, transport and roads.

But others say Labour may find it hard to make big plans. In 1992, after 13 years of Conservative power, everyone thought Labour would win — but they lost. This might mean that Keir

Starmer does not want to promise anything too big this time, in case voters fear that his big plans might mean a rise in **taxes** too.

Will it make much difference?

Some say

Yes! Labour says it wants to rebuild Britain. It will only stay in power if it makes good on its promises. Britain in 2029 will be like a new country.

Some people say

"People never lie so much as after a hunt, during a war or before an election."

**Otto von Bismarck (1815 – 1898),
German statesman**

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What do you think?

Others think

No! Starmer wants to make changes but without spending much money. He cannot do both. He may win, but voters might not notice the change.

Six steps to discovery

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - How do you think a change in leader might affect your life?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: How do people choose who to vote for?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain and one thing we cannot say for sure from this story.

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - You meet Keir Starmer for five minutes. What advice do you give him?

5. Express

What do others believe? - What are the biggest problems in Britain — or your country? Discuss as a class.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - What would you do if you became leader of your country? Write a plan for your first day.

Glossary

General election - In the UK, when an election is held for all 650 members of the House of Commons. One must take place every five years.

Prime minister - A prime minister is the head of government in a country with a parliamentary system.

Rishi Sunak - Britain's Conservative prime minister. He took office in October 2022.

Labour party - The main left-wing political party in the UK.

Conservative party - A British political party. Members are known as Tories.

Polls - When people are asked what their opinion is on a certain topic or who they are voting for in an election.

Keir Starmer - The leader of the UK Labour Party since 2020.

Taxes - There are three main ways for governments to obtain money: print it, borrow it or collect taxes.