

Starmer is new PM, Farage enters parliament

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Landslide: "We did it! You campaigned for it, you fought for it, you voted for it, and now it has arrived. Change begins now," Keir Starmer said this morning.

Will Labour revive Britain? Keir Starmer has become only the fifth Labour leader ever to win a general election. He now leads a country facing hard times.

What's happening?

Labour has won the UK general election, with a huge victory. As of 8am on Friday morning, the party has won 410 out of 650 seats, with the Conservatives down to just 119 so far.

This means Labour leader Keir Starmer will this morning be named the prime minister. Rishi Sunak will leave power.

It ends 14 years of Conservative rule. During this time there have been five prime ministers, Brexit, a pandemic and wars abroad.

Find out more

This is one of the worst results for the Conservatives in history.

But Labour did not get it all their own way. Their 34% of the vote was only slightly higher than in their crushing 2019 loss.

So what will happen next?

Some think the result will lead to more calls for a new voting system. The Liberal Democrats have won 70 seats on 12% of the vote, while Reform picked up just four on 14%. This is due to the First Past The Post system. Some may now want change.

In the Conservative corner, the party will be looking for change. Before the election, many asked if they might even disappear completely.

With his huge victory, Keir Starmer is now one of the most powerful prime ministers in history. Supporters are hopeful he can use that power to fix a broken country.

But the size of that majority could cause its own problems. Labour now represents voters with many different views. It cannot keep them all happy.

Either way, Labour cannot afford to be too confident. Starmer himself is not hugely popular. Three in five people say they dislike him. And he will have to make difficult choices as prime minister.

If the voters are unhappy with those choices, they could take away this big majority as easily as they gifted it.

Will Labour revive Britain?

Some say

Yes! Labour has been waiting for this moment since 2010. The people of Britain have put their trust in Keir Starmer. The party can ease a crisis in Britain and deliver on their promises.

Others think

No! Labour faces a very tough job. In their campaign, they spoke about keeping taxes low and NOT borrowing money. But fixing many of Britain's biggest problems may involve lots of spending. This puts them in a difficult position.

Some people say

"Democracy substitutes election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few."

George Bernard Shaw (1856 – 1950), Irish playwright

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What do you think?

Six steps to discovery

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - Do you think this was the right result?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: Should we care about politics?

3. Investigate

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

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - Imagine you are Keir Starmer, gearing up for your first day in office. What is the first thing you do?

5. Express

What do others believe? - Get in a small group and work together to write a list of the top five things you think the new government should do to improve the country.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - It is 2029 and the next general election looms. Do you think Labour will win again? Discuss as a class.

Glossary

Labour - Britain's main left-of-centre political party.

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.

Conservatives - A traditionally right-wing or centre right political party in the UK. Members are sometimes called Tories.

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

Rishi Sunak - A British politician who was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 2022 to 2024.

Brexit - The UK's departure from the European Union.

Liberal Democrats - Also known as the Lib Dems, a liberal political party in the UK.

Reform - Officially Reform UK, a political party set up in 2018 as the Brexit Party. Its most prominent figure is Nigel Farage.

First Past the Post - A voting system in which the winner is simply whoever comes first in each area. As such, the winning party almost never has a majority of the vote, and sometimes might even win a smaller share of the vote than its opponent.

Majority - More than half.

Confident - When you are very sure of yourself or your ability to do something.

Revive - Bring back.