



# A difficult decision for Mr Clegg

## INSTRUCTIONS

Write down the numbers 1-12. Then match the words below with the blanks in the article.

unpopular

Cameron

257

stations

Minister

57

angry

share

Election

306

Nick

difficult

The 2010 General 1)\_\_\_\_\_ was very unusual. Days after the vote it was still unclear who would be the next Prime 2)\_\_\_\_\_.

The Conservative Party gained 3)\_\_\_\_ MPs. This was the most of any party but not enough to form a strong government on its own. David 4)\_\_\_\_\_, who leads the Conservatives, therefore offered to work with the Liberal Democrats who gained 5)\_\_\_\_ MPs.

The Liberal Democrat leader 6)\_\_\_\_\_ Clegg then had to decide whether he wanted to do a deal with the Conservative Party. If not, he could decide to work with the Labour Party led by Gordon Brown which gained 7)\_\_\_\_ MPs.

This was a 8)\_\_\_\_\_ decision for Mr Clegg. On one hand, the Liberal Democrats probably 9)\_\_\_\_\_ more ideas with the Labour Party. On the other hand, millions of voters in Britain stopped supporting Labour in the election and Mr Clegg did not want his party to be blamed for keeping an 10)\_\_\_\_\_ government in power.

While Mr Clegg was making his mind up, the senior people who ran the election were dealing with another problem. They had to explain why thousands of people who had queued to vote were unable to do so before polling 11)\_\_\_\_\_ closed. Many of them were very 12)\_\_\_\_\_ about this.



## QUESTIONS

- 1) What was still unclear days after the General Election?
- 2) Name the leader of: a) The Conservatives b) Liberal Democrats c) Labour
- 3) Why did David Cameron offer to work with the Liberal Democrats?
- 4) From the final paragraph above, explain why many voters were very angry.

## NEWS CHALLENGE

1. Which political party ended up with the most MPs after the 2010 General Election? *(The chart on the right may help.)*
2. Which party ended up with the second-most MPs?
3. Which party does Nick Clegg lead and why was the 2010 election very disappointing for him?
4. The part of the country a Member of Parliament represents is called a constituency. True or false?



5. Name the politician shown on the right.
6. A seat where it is difficult to predict who will win is called a 'marginal seat'. True or false?
7. Caroline Lucas became the UK's first G\_\_\_\_ Party MP. Complete.
8. What do the letters SNP stand for?
9. Now write down some facts about the General Election and what has happened since. Try to think of five facts if you can.



306  
MPs



258  
MPs



57  
MPs



28  
MPs



Con Lab Lib Dem Others

(N.B. one result still to be declared)

General Election  
6 May 2010

