















**First Reading:** At this stage the bill is introduced to the House of Commons. MPs read a written copy of the law. There is no debate at this level. Anyone (backbencher, cabinet, senate) can introduce a bill, but if it is someone outside of cabinet it is called “a private member’s bill”

**Second Reading:** Here the principal and the purpose of the bill undergo the most debate in the House of Commons

**Committee Stage:** Now a committee examines the bill clause by clause. Here they may make amendments (changes) to the bill.

**Report Stage:** Now Committee members report back to the House of Commons. House reviews amendments to the bill.

**Third Reading:** At the third reading, MPs have a final opportunity to review and amend the bill. Then they vote on whether the bill should pass through the House of Commons

**Senate**: Bill is sent to the senate where it is also debated and amended via the same procedure as the house.

**Royal Assent:** Last, the Governor General signs the bill and it becomes a law

**Free Vote:** Members get to vote by the own conscience rather than the ideas of the party. This is usually reserved for controversial votes (ie abortion, Euthanasia)

**Order in Council:** A law that passes without parliamentary vote, but instead is sent directly to the governor general to be signed on the advice of the Prime Minister. These are used sparingly and usually only for emergency situations or Senate appointments.

**Party Whip:** Person in the political party whose job is to make sure that members of their party are present in the house/legislature to support party interests.