

When people think of government, they generally think of national, state, and local organizations that control public affairs. The term *government* has a much broader application, however. Whenever people attempt to work together, a form of government arises. Groups and organizations cannot operate without some structure to make decisions, carry out tasks, and regulate change. Families, businesses, and schools are only a few of the groups that use different forms of government.

Each of the words in this lesson is related to government. Studying these vocabulary words will increase your understanding of how governments developed, why they are necessary, and how they function.

WORD LIST

anarchy  
authoritarian  
conservative  
delegate  
dominion  
impeach  
inaugurate  
liberal  
Spartan  
tyrant

DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each vocabulary word, write the word on the line to the right.

1. **anarchy** (än'ər-kē) *noun* a. Political and social disorder resulting from an absence of governmental control. b. Chaos; confusion. (From the Greek *an-*, meaning "without," and *arkhos*, meaning "ruler")

**Related Word** anarchist *noun*

**Example** The country was in a state of *anarchy* after its ruler died.

2. **authoritarian** (ə-thôr'ī-târ'ē-ən) *adjective* Requiring complete obedience to the rule of one person or group. *noun* A person who believes in authoritarian policies.

**Related Words** authoritarianism *noun*; authority *noun*

**Example** Under an *authoritarian* government, individual freedom is greatly limited.

3. **conservative** (kən-sûr'və-tīv) *adjective* a. Favoring traditional values and existing conditions; tending to oppose change. b. Traditional in style or manners. *noun* A person who is moderate, cautious, and restrained. (From the Latin word *conservare*, meaning "to preserve")

**Related Words** conservatism *noun*; conservatively *adverb*

**Example** The *conservative* politician did not support hasty revisions in the income-tax code.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORY CUE: An *authoritarian* leader wields absolute *authority*.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. **delegate** (dĕl'ĭ-gĭt) *noun* A person chosen to speak and act as the representative of another person or of a group. *verb* (dĕl'ĭ-gāt') To commit or entrust to another: *to delegate tasks*. (From the Latin word *delegatus*, meaning "dispatched")

**Related Word** **delegation** *noun*

**Example** Sonya was delighted to be her school's *delegate* to the international conference.

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. **dominion** (də-mĭn'yən) *noun* a. Control or power, particularly of one country over another. b. A territory or area of control; domain; realm. (From the Latin word *dominus*, meaning "lord")

**Example** Some parts of Africa were once under French *dominion*.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. **impeach** (ĭm-pĕch') *verb* To accuse a public official of unacceptable conduct in office. (From the Latin word *impedicare*, meaning "to entangle")

**Related Word** **impeachment** *noun*

**Example** Andrew Johnson was *impeached* by the House of Representatives in 1868, but the Senate did not find him guilty.

6. \_\_\_\_\_  
USAGE NOTE: To *impeach* is to accuse. An *impeached* official must then stand trial.

7. **inaugurate** (ĭn-ŏ'gyə-rāt') *verb* a. To install in office by formal ceremony. b. To initiate or make a formal beginning.

**Related Words** **inaugural** *adjective*; **inauguration** *noun*

**Example** The new officers were *inaugurated* at a banquet.

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. **liberal** (lĭb'ər-əl) *adjective* a. Having political views that favor individual rights, social and economic progress, and the protection of civil liberties. b. Tolerant of others; broad-minded. c. Tending to give generously. d. Generous in amount: *a liberal allowance*. *noun* A person with liberal opinions. (From the Latin word *liber*, meaning "free")

**Related Words** **liberalism** *noun*; **liberalize** *verb*; **liberally** *adverb*

**Example** The senator supports *liberal* health-care policies.

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. **Spartan** (spär'tn) *adjective* Resembling the Spartans of ancient Greece by living in a simple and self-disciplined way.

**Example** The athlete followed a *Spartan* routine of training.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. **tyrant** (tĭ'rənt) *noun* A ruler who exercises power in a harsh, cruel manner; an oppressor.

**Related Words** **tyrannical** *adjective*; **tyrannize** *verb*; **tyranny** *noun*

**Example** The *tyrant* forbade all subjects to leave the country without his permission.

10. \_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE 1 WRITING CORRECT WORDS**

On the answer line, write the word from the vocabulary list that fits each definition.

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Favoring traditional values; a moderate and cautious person  | 1. _____  |
| 2. Disorder resulting from an absence of governmental control   | 2. _____  |
| 3. To accuse a public official of unacceptable conduct in office  | 3. _____  |
| 4. Requiring complete obedience   | 4. _____  |
| 5. Living in a simple and disciplined way   | 5. _____  |
| 6. To install a public official by formal ceremony  | 6. _____  |
| 7. Having political views that favor individual rights, progress, and the protection of civil liberties; broad-minded | 7. _____  |
| 8. A harsh ruler  | 8. _____  |
| 9. A person who represents others   | 9. _____  |
| 10. Control or power; an area of control  | 10. _____ |

**EXERCISE 2 USING WORDS CORRECTLY**

Each of the following questions contains an italicized vocabulary word. Decide the answer to the question, and write *Yes* or *No* on the answer line.

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Is a <i>tyrant</i> a ruler who grants citizens a variety of liberties?                                  | 1. _____  |
| 2. Would a <i>conservative</i> dresser be likely to choose colorful plaids?                                | 2. _____  |
| 3. Does <i>anarchy</i> consist of confusion caused by the absence of government?                           | 3. _____  |
| 4. Is a <i>delegate</i> a presidential candidate?  | 4. _____  |
| 5. If you <i>inaugurate</i> a new activity, do you begin it?   | 5. _____  |
| 6. Is a <i>liberal</i> person narrow-minded?   | 6. _____  |
| 7. If public officials are <i>impeached</i> , are they placed in office?                                   | 7. _____  |
| 8. Does a <i>Spartan</i> lifestyle lack luxuries?  | 8. _____  |
| 9. Would an <i>authoritarian</i> person favor independent decision-making by people under him or her?      | 9. _____  |
| 10. When the thirteen American colonies were ruled by Britain, did they have <i>dominion</i> over Britain? | 10. _____ |

**EXERCISE 3 CHOOSING THE BEST DEFINITION**

For each italicized vocabulary word in the following sentences, write the letter of the best definition on the answer line.

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. England once held <i>dominion</i> over a quarter of the world's people.                   | 1. _____ |
| a. fear                      b. confusion              c. control              d. discipline |          |

2. To prevent *anarchy*, the Constitution of the United States provides for the orderly transfer of power if a president dies.  
a. disorder      b. ambition      c. dictatorship      d. jealousy      2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The *authoritarian* ruler jailed several political opponents.  
a. demanding complete obedience      3. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. inspiring disobedience  
c. demanding sincere opinions  
d. widely respected
4. During the 1930s President Franklin Roosevelt *inaugurated* several social welfare programs.  
a. stopped      b. designed      c. increased      d. began      4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Our waitress was so efficient that we left her a *liberal* tip.  
a. light      b. generous      c. traditional      d. wrong      5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The convention *delegates* cheered when the nominee was introduced.  
a. supporters      b. workers      c. opponents      d. representatives      6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The builder gave us a *conservative* estimate for building an addition to our house.  
a. brief      b. expensive      c. cautious      d. incomplete      7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Angry citizens demanded that the governor be *impeached*.  
a. informed of their objections      c. supported      8. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. accused of wrong-doing      d. encouraged
9. The king was a *tyrant* who cared nothing about the rights of his subjects.  
a. harsh ruler      c. ineffective ruler      9. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. weak ruler      d. kind ruler
10. The campers followed a *Spartan* schedule that began at 5:00 A.M.  
a. healthy      b. entertaining      c. disciplined      d. Greek      10. \_\_\_\_\_

#### EXERCISE 4 USING DIFFERENT FORMS OF WORDS

Decide which form of the vocabulary word in parentheses best completes the sentence. The form given may be correct. Write your answer on the answer line.

1. Some tourists avoid traveling in countries that have \_\_\_\_\_ governments.  
(*authoritarian*)      1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Three articles of \_\_\_\_\_ had been proposed against President Nixon before he resigned in 1974. (*impeach*)      2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The president's \_\_\_\_\_ takes place on January 20. (*inaugurate*)      3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Pamela tries to \_\_\_\_\_ her younger brother. (*tyrant*)      4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. During the children's play period, the room seems to be in a state of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(*anarchy*)      5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Hortense, who now dresses \_\_\_\_\_, used to wear ribbons or feathers with every outfit. (*conservative*)      6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Grant's room took on a \_\_\_\_\_ appearance after he moved his furniture out. (*Spartan*)      7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Our school sent a \_\_\_\_\_ of five students to the city council meeting. (delegate) 8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Britain once considered its \_\_\_\_\_ over the seas to be its best defense. (dominion) 9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Max sprinkled his salad \_\_\_\_\_ with lemon juice. (liberal) 10. \_\_\_\_\_

## READING COMPREHENSION

Each numbered sentence in the following passage contains an italicized vocabulary word or related form. After you read the passage, you will complete an exercise.

### TWO ANCIENT GOVERNMENTS: ATHENS AND SPARTA

Ancient Greece was for a long time made up of loosely organized tribes of people. (1) Each tribe was governed by a chieftain whose *dominion* included the army and the priesthood. Once warfare among tribes stopped and trade began to develop, the tribes united to form city-states.

Athens and Sparta were two of the largest and most important city-states. At first, both were governed by aristocrats who were concerned primarily with their own wealth and power. These wealthy landowners believed that the majority of people were not able to make good decisions and should not participate in government. This view led to the development of two very different forms of government in Athens and Sparta.

In Athens supporters of citizen participation in government finally overthrew the aristocrats. (2) Athenians called their new leaders *tyrants* because they had seized political power unlawfully. The tyrants, however, were capable individuals who actually improved conditions in Athens.

(3) By 600 B.C. Athenians had removed the tyrants from office and *inaugurated* constitutional government. The constitution established nine rulers, ten generals, a council divided into separate committees, and citizen assembly. (4) The rulers and the *delegates* to the council were chosen annually by drawing lots; the generals were the only elected officials. (5) Built into the constitution was a provision for *impeaching* ineffective leaders. If the majority of citizens voted against an official, he was banished from Athens for ten years.

The citizen assembly, which passed laws, consisted of five hundred citizens. However, the Athenian idea of citizenship was narrowly defined. Only free male Athenians had rights and privileges; non-Athenians, women, and slaves could neither vote nor participate in government.

Unlike Athens, Sparta never developed a democracy. (6) Under the *authoritarian* rule of two kings, Spartans did not participate in government. Citizenship was based on the

ability to pay high taxes. Because most people could not pay the taxes, they were slaves. (7) The aristocratic rulers of Sparta tightly controlled the lives of the people because they feared that *anarchy* would occur if the slaves revolted. From age twenty to thirty, each free male served as a cadet and policed the countryside. (8) The *Spartan* lifestyle developed and was reinforced to serve the government of the city-state.

Because other Greek city-states copied the Athenian form of democracy, Sparta felt called upon to defend its positions as the strongest city-state. Several decades of war among the city-states resulted, weakening Greece. (9) *Conservative* Sparta, having concentrated on developing military strength and personal endurance, made few contributions to culture.

(10) *Liberal* Athens, though, with its devotion to democracy and its openness to new ideas, made important advances in the arts and sciences.

## READING COMPREHENSION EXERCISE

Each of the following statements corresponds to a numbered sentence in the passage. Each statement contains a blank and is followed by four answer choices. Decide which choice fits best in the blank. The word or phrase that you choose must express roughly the same meaning as the italicized word in the passage. Write the letter of your choice on the answer line.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the chieftain included the army and the priesthood.  
a. area of popularity                      c. usefulness  
b. area of control                          d. changes  
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Greek leaders who had seized power unlawfully were regarded as \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. oppressors      b. giants              c. gods              d. weaklings  
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Constitutional government had \_\_\_\_\_ by 600 B.C.  
a. begun                      c. changed  
b. been destroyed              d. been discussed  
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Council \_\_\_\_\_ were chosen by drawing lots.  
a. witnesses      b. directions      c. visitors              d. representatives  
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The constitution had a provision for \_\_\_\_\_ ineffective leaders.  
a. predicting      b. accusing              c. supporting      d. rewarding  
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Under the \_\_\_\_\_ rule of two kings, Spartans did not take part in government.  
a. weak              b. undemocratic      c. conflicting      d. liberal  
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The rulers were afraid that \_\_\_\_\_ would occur if the slaves revolted.  
a. applause      b. hunger              c. disorder              d. anger  
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle served the government of the city-state.  
a. superior      b. luxurious              c. pleasant              d. disciplined  
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Sparta had little to leave behind.  
a. Cautious      b. Military              c. Ancient              d. Democratic  
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Athens left us many important contributions.  
a. Fearful              b. Creative              c. Tolerant              d. Peaceful  
10. \_\_\_\_\_

## WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Imagine that a group of teachers, students, and administrators has met to discuss the need for student government at your school. The members have asked you to write a proposal in which you describe a form of student government that would be fair and effective. They want you to explain why a student government is necessary, how decisions would be made in the form of government you propose, and how student representatives would be selected. Include at least five of the vocabulary words from this lesson in your proposal and underline them.