

begins in this House. The House of Commons has only 427 seats. When it is full a lot of people have to stand!

- **The House of Lords**  
This is Parliament's second chamber. Its main function is to check new laws, which were proposed in the House of Commons. The House of Lords has 786 members who come from a variety of backgrounds. This House has limited power to stop a proposed statute from becoming law, but it can slow it down. Members of this House are not elected. Most members get their seats from the monarch (the King or Queen) on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- **The Monarchy**  
The monarch has to give permission before a new statute becomes law. This is because the

King or Queen is the Head of State. This permission is called giving the 'Royal Assent'. However, the monarch always accepts the advice of his or her government. In fact, the monarch does not even have the full text of the proposed statute, only the title of it. The last monarch to reject a proposed statute was Queen Anne, who died in 1715.

There are three words for the law made by Parliament. They refer to the same thing. They are:

- **Statute.** This is often called statutory law
- **Acts of Parliament**
- **Legislation.** This is the collective word for all the laws Parliament creates.

**Example:** The law that comes from the decisions of judges and is based on precedent. Common law

- a The main law-making body in England. \_\_\_\_\_
- b Members of Parliament. \_\_\_\_\_
- c A law made in Parliament. \_\_\_\_\_
- d Chosen by the people to be a political representative. \_\_\_\_\_
- e A word meaning all of the laws made by Parliament. \_\_\_\_\_
- f A system of choosing new Members of Parliament. All of the people have a vote. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 2

Read the text about statute carefully and decide if the following statements are true or false.

a	A statute is the same thing as an Act of Parliament.	True	False
b	A statute always starts in the House of Lords.	True	False
c	Members of the House of Commons are elected but members of the House of Lords are not.	True	False
d	The King or Queen often stops a new statute if they disagree with it.	True	False
e	Legislation is another word for a single statute.	True	False