

constitutionI
[ˌkɒnstɪˈtʃuːʃ(ə)n] *n*

- 1) конституция, основной закон
- 2) устав
2. *уст.* указ, установление, уложение (*особ. церковное*)

II
[ˌkɒnstɪˈtʃuːʃ(ə)n] *n*

1. телосложение, склад, конституция
he has a strong [a robust, a poor] constitution - у него здоровый [крепкий, слабый] организм
the constitution of his mind and character - склад его ума и характера
2. 1) состав, строение
constitution of the air - состав воздуха
- 2) *физ.* строение
physical constitution of the Sun - физическое строение Солнца

constitution

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

con-sti-tu-tion **AW** [constitution constitutions] *BrE* [ˌkɒnstɪˈtʃuːʃ(ə)n] *NAmE*[ˌkɑːnstəˈtuːʃ(ə)n] **noun**

1. **countable** the system of laws and basic principles that a state, a country or an organization is governed by
 - your right to vote under the constitution
 - According to the constitution...
 - to propose a new amendment to the Constitution
 - the South African Constitution
 - A two-thirds majority is needed to amend the club's constitution.
2. **countable** the condition of a person's body and how healthy it is
 - to have a **healthy/strong/weak constitution**
3. **uncountable, countable (formal)** the way sth is formed or organized
Syn: ↑structure
 - the genetic constitution of cells
4. **uncountable (formal)** the act of forming sth
Syn: ↑establishment, **Syn:** setting up
 - He recommended the constitution of a review committee.

Word Origin:

Middle English (denoting a law, or a body of laws or customs): from Latin **constitutio(n-)**, from **constituere** 'establish, appoint', from **con-** 'together' + **statuere** 'set up'.

Culture:**the British Constitution**

Britain is a **constitutional monarchy**: it is ruled by a king or queen who accepts the advice of **Parliament**. It is also a **parliamentary democracy**, a country whose government is controlled by a parliament that has been elected by the people. The highest positions in government are taken by elected **Members of Parliament**, also called MPs. The king or queen now has little real power.

The principles and procedures by which Britain is governed have developed over many centuries. They are not written down in a single document that can be referred to in a dispute. The British Constitution is made up of **statute law** (= laws agreed by Parliament), **common law** (= judges' decisions made in court and then written down) and **conventions** (= rules and practices that people cannot be forced to obey but which are considered necessary for efficient government). The Constitution can be altered by **Acts of Parliament**, or by general agreement.

Similarly, there is no single document that lists people's rights. Some rights have been formally recognized by Parliament through laws, e.g. the right of a person not to be **discriminated** against (= treated differently) because of his or her sex. The Human Rights Act 1998 made all the rights established in the European Convention on Human Rights part of British law. It is generally understood that these rights are part of the Constitution.

A government department, the Department for Constitutional Affairs, was set up in 2003 with responsibility for the areas of government where there are constitutional changes, for example the reforms in the ↑**House of Lords** and relations with the ↑**Scottish Parliament** and the ↑**Welsh Assembly**. This is now part of the Ministry of Justice.

Culture:

The US Constitution was created after the ↑**American Revolution** when leaders from each state held a meeting called the **Constitutional Convention** to agree on a document describing the new system of government and limiting its powers, which was signed in 1789. This established the **three branches of government**: the **legislative** branch which consists of ↑**Congress**, the **judicial** branch which is the ↑**Supreme Court** and lower courts created by Congress and the **executive** branch which consists of the ↑**president**, vice-president and government departments. The Constitution contains details about the responsibilities of each branch and who can be elected to Congress. It says that the US government is responsible for protecting individual states. Since 1789 there have been 27 **amendments** (= changes) to the Constitution including the **Bill of Rights** (1791) which promised citizens a number of rights such as the right to free speech and freedom of religion. There is sometimes disagreement about how to **interpret** the Constitution, some people believing that it is better to follow exactly what the Constitution says and others that it is necessary to consider what the intention of each part was and how that relates to the situation today. The Supreme Court can

decide that a law is **unconstitutional** so that it cannot be used any more.

Example Bank:

- Britain does not have a written constitution.
- Parliament will vote to amend the constitution.
- The child had a weak constitution and was always ill.
- The constitution stipulated that a general election must be held within 120 days.
- The constitution was suspended and the army was placed in full control.
- The new constitution will be adopted next year.
- The president felt free to interpret the constitution as he saw fit.
- The president's actions violate the constitution.
- These principles are enshrined in the country's constitution.
- These rights are established in the federal constitution.
- Under the constitution, an election must be called every five years.
- plans to draft a new constitution
- A two-thirds majority is needed to amend the club's constitution.
- I have a strong constitution and my stomach can handle anything.

constitution

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

constitution AC /,kɒnstə'tju:ən, ,kɒnstɪ'tju:ən \$,kɑ:nstə'tu: BrE * AmE * noun

[countable]

1. (also **Constitution**) a set of basic laws and principles that a country or organization is governed by:

The right to speak freely is written into the Constitution of the United States.

2. your health and your body's ability to fight illness

(have) a strong/good/weak etc constitution

She's got a strong constitution – she'll recover in no time.

3. **formal** the parts or structure of something

constitution of

What's the chemical constitution of the dye?

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COLLOCATIONS

■ **adjectives**

- **the American/Russian etc constitution** the 1993 Russian constitution
- **a written constitution** A written constitution forms the fundamental law of the nation.
- **an unwritten constitution** (=a constitution that is not formally written down as a separate document) Britain's unwritten constitution allows for flexibility when circumstances change.
- **a draft constitution** (=one that is not yet in its final form) By 1908 China had a draft constitution.
- **a state constitution** There was an amendment to Arizona's state constitution.
- **a federal constitution** (=relating to a central government, not a state) Canada was granted a federal constitution in 1867.
- **a democratic constitution** Andorra voted in favour of a new democratic constitution.

■ **verbs**

- **draw up/draft a constitution** (=write one) The American constitution was drafted in 1787.
- **adopt/approve a constitution** (=agree one and start to use it) In 1984, the South African government adopted a new constitution.
- **amend/change the constitution** (=make changes to it) Congress amended the constitution more than 300 times during 1992.
- **violate the constitution** (=do something that is against it) Such discrimination violates the constitution.
- **suspend the constitution** (=stop it from continuing, usually for a short time) The army suspended the constitution and formed a military government.
- **a constitution requires something** The U.S. Constitution requires that a census be done every ten years.
- **a constitution provides for something** (=it says something must be done) Singapore's constitution provides for an elected president as head of state.
- **a constitution allows something** The Constitution allows police to seize property used in a crime.
- **a constitution forbids/prohibits something** Colombia's constitution forbids extradition.
- **a constitution guarantees something** (=says it must happen or exist) Hungary's constitution guarantees freedom of religion.

■ **phrases**

- **an amendment to the constitution** (=a change) the First Amendment to the American Constitution
- **the principles of the constitution** (=the ideas and aims that it is based on) the guiding legal principles of the constitution
- **a clause/provision in the constitution** (=a rule or condition in it) The provision in the European constitution that limited women's roles in the military was found to be discriminatory.

constitution

Freakuency Pack

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