

but these give only summaries of the topics discussed and decisions taken. They do not mention who agreed or disagreed. The principle of **collective responsibility** means that the Cabinet acts **unanimously** (= all together), even if some ministers do not agree. When a policy has been decided, each minister is expected to support it publicly or **resign**. In recent years, prime ministers have changed the members of their Cabinet quite often in Cabinet **reshuffles**. Some members are dropped, new ones are brought in, and the rest are given new departmental responsibilities.

The leader of the main opposition party forms a **shadow cabinet** of **shadow ministers**, each with a particular area of responsibility, so that there is a team ready to take over immediately if the party in power should be defeated.

Committees are appointed by the Cabinet to examine issues in more detail than the Cabinet has time for. Members of these committees are not necessarily politicians. The **Cabinet Office** led by the Secretary to the Cabinet, the most senior **civil servant** in Britain, prepares agendas for Cabinet meetings and committees.

In the US the Cabinet consists of the heads of the 15 departments that make up the **executive branch** of the **federal government**. Each president appoints the department heads, called **secretaries**, from his or her own party, and they give advice on policy. Since the Cabinet was not established by the **Constitution**, the President can add, remove or combine departments, and can decide when to ask the Cabinet for advice, and whether or not to follow it.

State governments are usually organized in a similar way to the national government, and most have a cabinet.

Example Bank:

- Past reports are kept in the filing cabinet in my office.
- The Prime Minister reshuffled= changed his Cabinet yesterday.
- The affair led to a mid-term Cabinet reshuffle.
- The defeat in the vote forced the Cabinet to change its policy on immigration.
- The inner Cabinet is to meet again today.
- The prime minister reshuffled his Cabinet yesterday.
- There was a meeting of the full Cabinet this afternoon.
- a glass china cabinet
- He is a member of the Shadow Cabinet.
- Several cabinet ministers have been implicated in the scandal.
- She lost her position as Health Minister in a recent cabinet reshuffle.
- The issue was discussed at yesterday's cabinet meeting.
- There's a medicine cabinet in the bathroom.

cabinet

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

cab **net** **S2 W2** /'kæbənət, 'kæbɪnət/ **BrE** **AmE** **noun** [countable]

[Date: 1500-1600; Language: French; Origin: 'small room', from Old North French cabine 'room for gambling']

1. (also **Cabinet**) [also + plural verb] **British English** the politicians with important positions in a government who meet to make decisions or advise the leader of the government:

- a cabinet meeting
- a member of the Cabinet ⇒ **Shadow Cabinet** at **shadow**³(2)

2.



a piece of furniture with doors and shelves or drawers, used for storing or showing things **SYN** **cupboard**:

the medicine cabinet

⇒ **filing cabinet**

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COLLOCATIONS

■ cabinet + NOUN

- **a cabinet meeting** A cabinet meeting will consider the government's environmental policies.
- **a cabinet member / a member of the cabinet** Two senior cabinet members have resigned.
- **a cabinet minister** Cabinet ministers voted against the proposal.
- **a cabinet reshuffle** (=when members of a cabinet are given a different job) Putin promoted his Defence Minister in a surprising cabinet reshuffle.
- **a cabinet post** (=a job in a cabinet) She accepted a cabinet post with the new Conservative government.

■ verbs

- **appoint a cabinet** The Prime Minister appoints the cabinet.
- **form a cabinet** Ministers remain in office until a new cabinet is formed.
- **join a cabinet** Lee was considered a likely candidate to join the cabinet.
- **the cabinet meets** The cabinet will meet again on April 30th.

■ adjectives

- **the inner cabinet** (=only the most important members) He was a member of Howard's inner cabinet.
- **the full cabinet** (=all the members) There was a meeting of the full cabinet.
- **the shadow cabinet** (=the most important members of the opposition party) He joined the shadow cabinet as transport spokesman.

cabinet

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