

LISTENING COMPREHENSION – Elections in Australia (1'45 min)

You are going to hear a news report about forthcoming elections in Australia.

John Howard (Liberal Party) is the current Prime Minister.*

Kevin Rudd (Labour Party) is his strongest opponent.*

I) Before listening, read the list of vocabulary and make sure that you understand the four statements below:

Vocabulary:

polling station	the place where you cast your vote in political elections (<i>Wahllokal</i>)
the Howard government	the government with John Howard as Prime Minister
serve (for 11 years)	be in charge of the government (for 11 years)
to ride high on a boom	to take advantage of a good economic situation
draw an era to a close	bring an end to a (political) period
self-satisfaction	if you don't have anything to complain about
a genuine rarity	something that doesn't happen very often
deliver political change	bring a new government
constituency	the area which a politician is responsible for (<i>Wahlkreis</i>)
a revival	if things looked bad, but now they are beginning to be better again
in the polls	according to surveys amongst the population (<i>Umfragen</i>)
compulsory voting	if you must go to the polls
to be eligible	to have the right to do something
to cast your ballot	to vote (in political elections)
early exit polling	the supposed results of the election (<i>erste Hochrechnungen</i>)
a mutinous mood	an unhappy feeling about the current situation

- *“Political sea changes don't happen very often.”*

- *“I think that the last government has been there too long and we just need a change.”*

- *“John Howard has done a good job and deserves to be reelected.”*

- *“It's not just time to change government, but it's now save to do so.”*

II) Now listen to the recording twice; take notes while listening and then summarize the text, answering all the questions below IN YOUR SUMMARY:

1. Do Australians like radical changes in politics?
3. Which arguments are mentioned in favor of John Howard to remain Prime Minister?
3. Which arguments are mentioned in favor of Kevin Rudd as new Prime Minister?
4. What is said about the popularity of the present PM, John Howard?
5. How many people are going to vote? Do they have to go to the polling stations?
6. What is the possible outcome of the election according to early exit polls, and why are many people unhappy with the current government?

*NOTE: On December 3rd, 2007, Kevin Rudd became Australia's new PM, replacing John Howard.