1. ambassador (n): a high-ranking official sent to another country to serve as his or her government’s representative
   • example: The U.S. ambassador met with a representative from India to discuss new policies for trade between their two nations.

2. bill (n): a proposed law presented to a lawmaking body for discussion and approval
   • example: The spending bill was sent to the president for his signature after both houses of Congress voted to approve it.

3. budget (n): a plan used to decide the amount of money that can be spent and what it will be spent on
   • example: The governor sent a new budget to the state legislature that included money to improve the transit system.

4. Cabinet (n): a group of officials who advise a leader
   • example: President Abraham Lincoln liked hearing different viewpoints before making key decisions, so he chose a Cabinet whose members often disagreed with each other and with him.

5. deploy (v): to send into combat
   • example: The general deployed additional soldiers to help troops defending against a surprise attack.

6. executive branch (n): the branch of government responsible for enforcing laws; in the U.S., the president, vice president, and advisers of the Cabinet make up the executive branch
   • example: The executive branch, which is headed by the U.S. president, oversees such federal agencies as the departments of Defense, Justice, Education, and Agriculture.

7. judicial branch (n): the branch of government responsible for dealing with all legal cases involving the government
   • example: The federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, make up the judicial branch of the national government.

8. legislation (n): a law or group of laws made by a government
   • example: Eighteen state governments passed legislation requiring higher minimum wages.

9. legislative branch (n): the branch of government having the duty and power of making laws; in the U.S., Congress (the House of Representatives and the Senate) is the legislative branch
   • example: Article I of the Constitution, which focuses on the legislative branch, spells out the powers and responsibilities of the U.S. Congress.

10. ratify (v): to give legal or formal approval, often by a vote
    • example: The workers ratified their union’s new contract by a vote of 133 to 15.
11. **superpower (n):** an extremely powerful and influential nation  
   • *example:* For most of the 20th century, the world’s two **superpowers**, the United States and the Soviet Union, dominated international headlines.

12. **treaty (n):** a negotiated agreement between two or more governments that is formally signed by their leaders  
   • *example:* The **treaty** that officially ended the American Revolution was signed in France in 1783.

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**Directions:** Use the space below to list any other words from this article whose definitions you’re unsure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Write a definition for each word below and one example sentence.