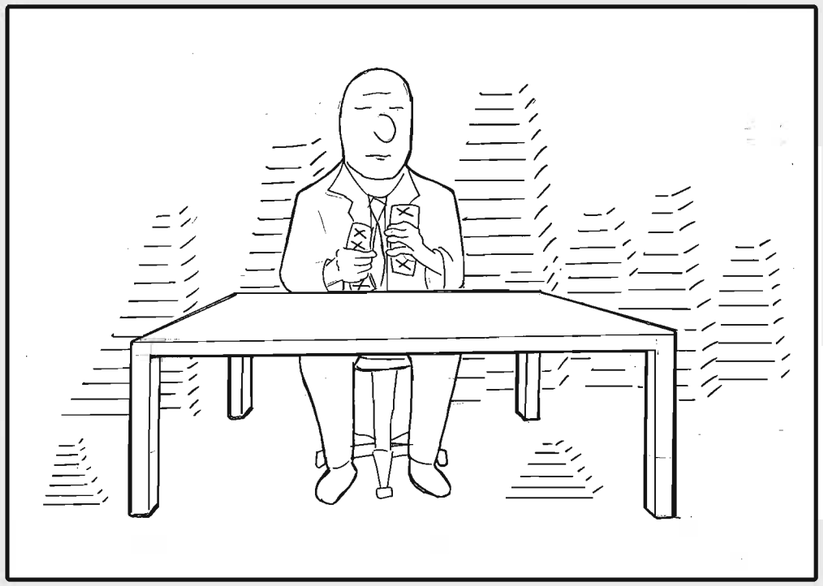
INTRODUCTION

1

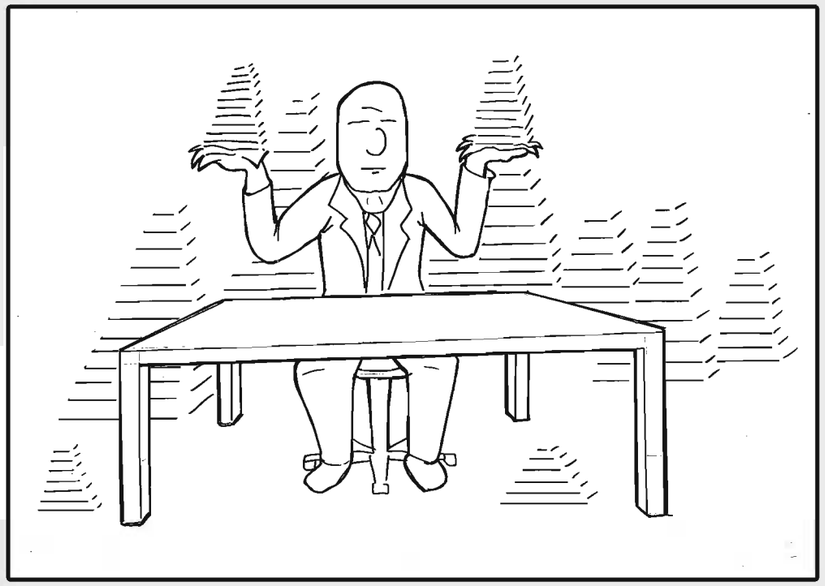


Introduced to the Ministry of Adding Things Up by an enthusiastic voice over, we follow a 'practice' vote paper down to the basement of Victor the Vote Counter.

Victor sits behind his desk, diligently counting the slips that fall from a chute above.

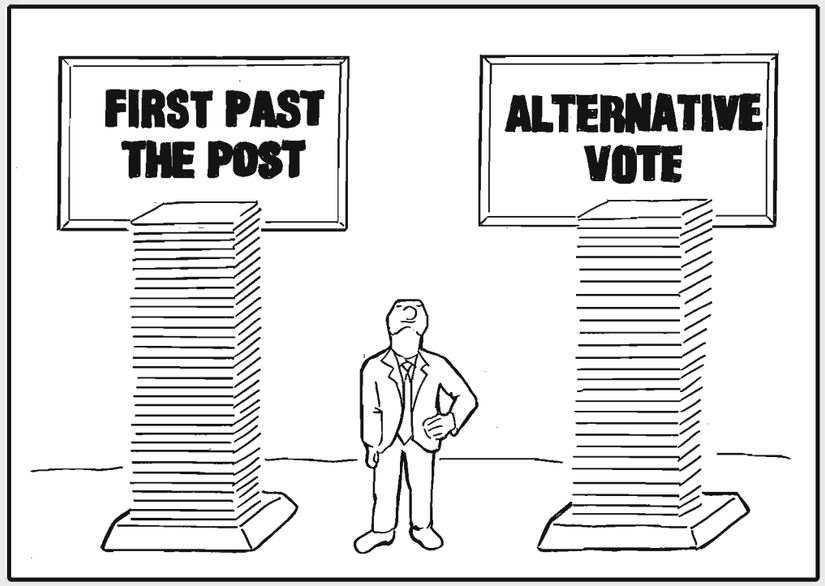
VO: "Everyone, meet Victor! Victor is our most important counter here at the ministry. He's the man in charge of counting every vote in our elections, and he's very, very good at it. Whaddaya say Vic, are you ready to help explain the two voting systems?"

2



Nodding, Victor picks up piles he's been counting, and drops them onto two switches on the floor.

3



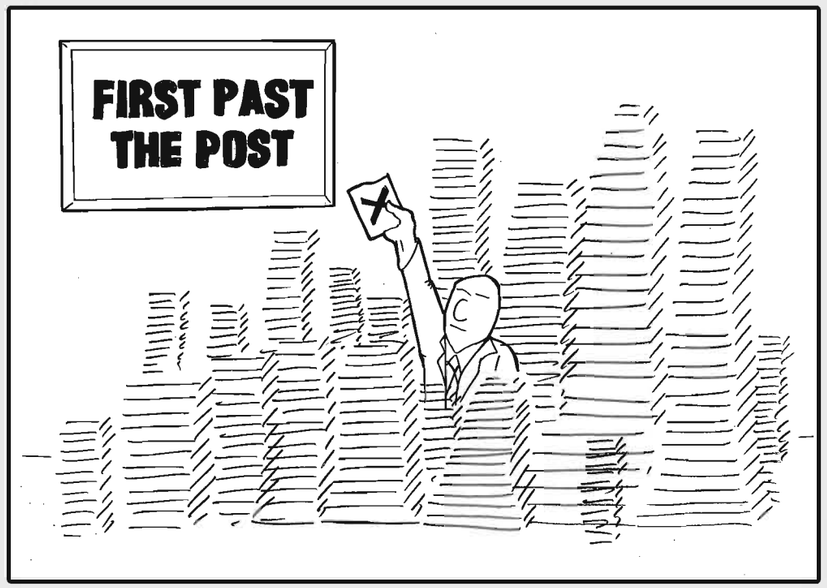
The piles turn on two giant signs – 'First Past The Post' and 'Alternative Vote', as Victor waits for the user to make a selection.

VO: "OK! So, there are two systems. The first is called 'First Past The Post'"
and the other is called 'Alternative Voting'. Which shall we start with first? Click to make a choice."

Clicking a sign jumps immediately along the timeline to the beginning of that chapter.

FIRST PAST THE POST

4



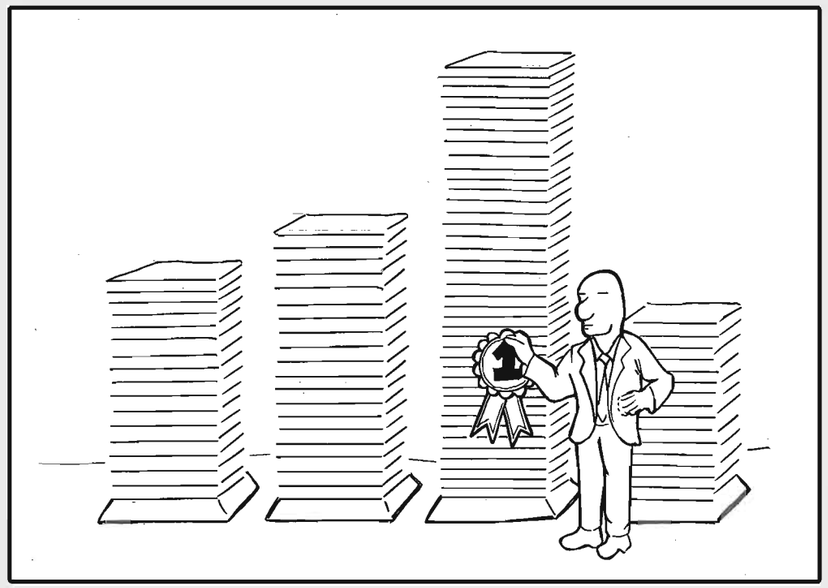
Victor walks left off of the screen, into a new part of the room.

VO: "OK! This system is called 'First past the post'. First past the post is the voting system we currently use in the UK, so if you've voted before in a UK election, you'll probably recognise it. Here's how it works."

'First Past The Post' is written on the wall, and a large heap of uncounted votes sits on the floor. Diving in, Victor fishes out a ballot paper to show the camera.

VO: "With first past the post, everyone is allowed to vote for one candidate from the selection by marking them with an X. That vote is then posted into the ballot box, combined with all the others, and counted."

5

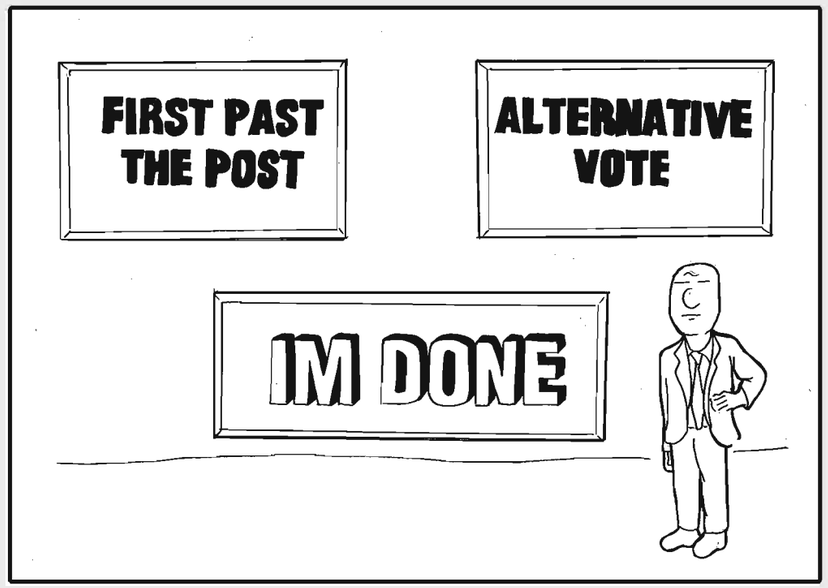


Victor begins his count, and we jump instantly to the future to see him completing it. Night becomes day in his office window. Four piles of votes are now against the wall, and one is visibly taller.

VO: "Amazing job Victor! (He wakes with a start) You make it look so easy. Now all the votes have been counted, and the winner is the candidate with the most votes."

Victor pins a rosette on the tallest pile, and walks back to the right.

6



He's now stood back at the two signs, and an additional 'I'm Done' sign has appeared.

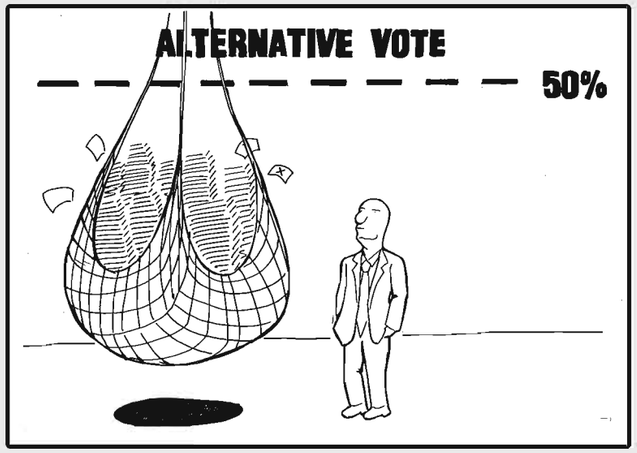
VO: If you're still not sure about first past the post, just click the sign and we'll explain it again. Otherwise, choose if you'd like us to explain 'Alternative Vote', or, if you're finished, click 'I'm done'.

Clicking a signpost jumps immediately to the beginning of the relevant chapter.

If nothing is clicked, the film continues into the 'Alternative Vote' chapter.

ALTERNATIVE VOTE

7



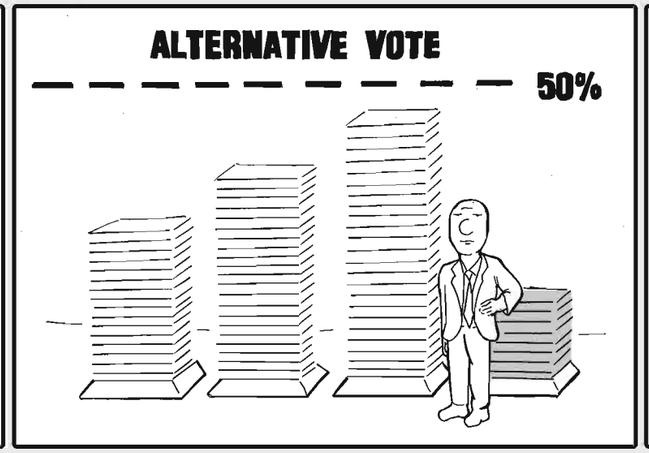
Victor walks to the right, into a new part of the room.

'Alternative Vote' is written on the wall, and there is a 50% line pained on it. A net of votes swings from the ceiling, which Victor drops to the ground. Picking up a vote slip, he holds it to the camera so we may see the detail.

VO: "Right then! This is the 'Alternative Vote' system. It's different to the one we currently use in the UK, so don't worry if it doesn't sound familiar. Here's how it works.

With alternative voting, everyone is allowed to vote for as many candidates as they like, by order of preference. This is done by marking a first choice candidate first, followed by a second choice candidate, a third and so on. Once finished, that vote is then posted into the ballot box, combined with all the others, and counted."

8

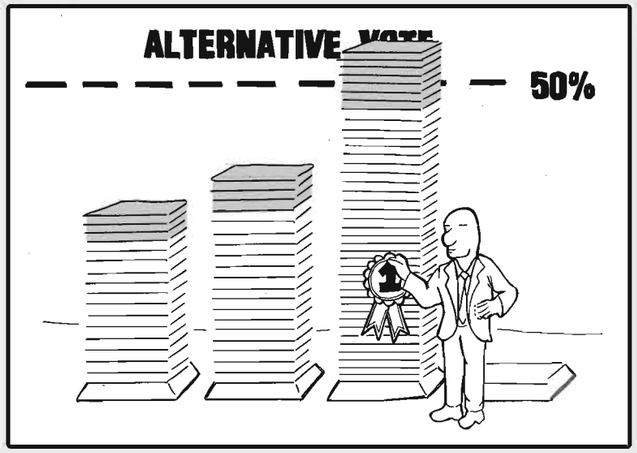


Victor begins his count. We cut away and return when he has finished. Four piles stand against the wall, but none break the 50% line.

VO: "Incredible work as always Victor. To win with the alternative vote system, one candidate has to get 50% of the votes. Looking at the line on the wall, we can see no one has yet – so we have to start the second round of the count."

VO: In the second round, the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated from the contest. We then look at the second choice vote written on each of those ballot papers, and redistribute them between the remaining candidates accordingly.

9

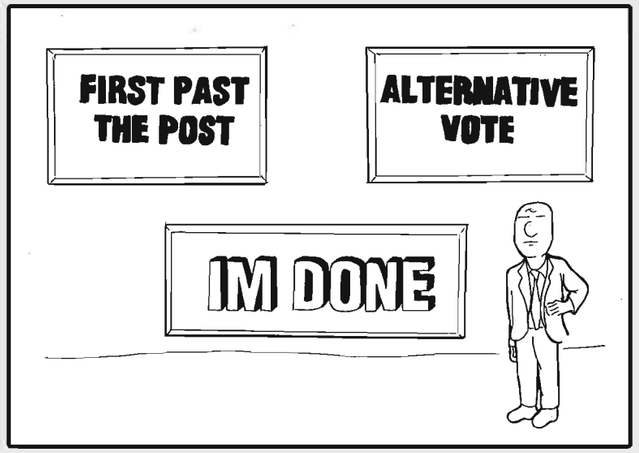


We cut away again, returning once Victor has redistributed the losing votes. The 'extra' votes are highlighted on top of the three remaining piles. One has broken the 50% line.

VO: "Fantastic, and we have a winner! With the votes redistributed, one candidate has an absolute majority with more than 50% of the total votes. If they hadn't, we'd have started a third round of counting just like the last, until 50% was reached."

Victor pins a rosette to the winner and walks offscreen to the left.

10



He's now stood back at the three signs.

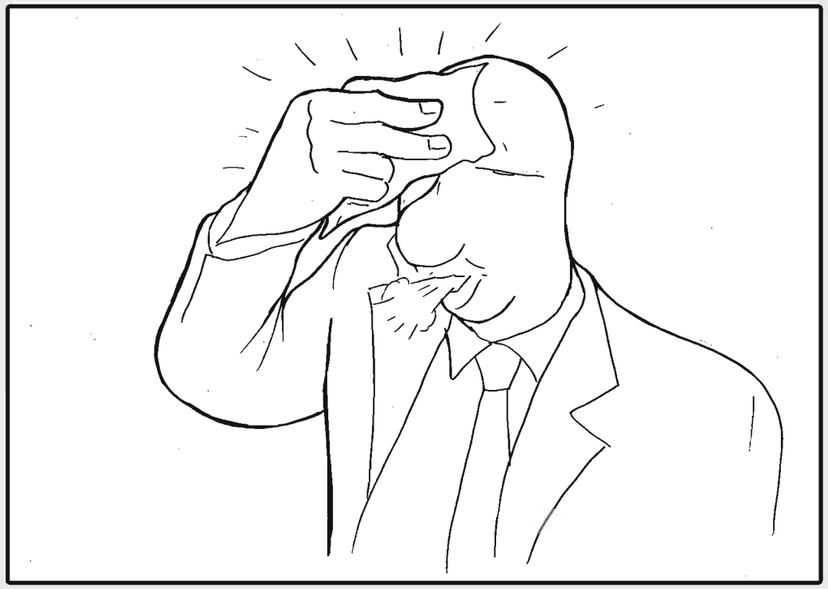
VO: "If you're still not sure about Alternative Voting, just click the sign and we'll explain it again. Otherwise, choose if you'd like us to explain 'First Past the Post, or, if you're finished, click 'I'm done'.

Clicking a signpost jumps immediately to the beginning of the relevant chapter.

If nothing is clicked, the film continues into the final chapter.

ENDING

11



Victor breathes a sigh of tired relief.

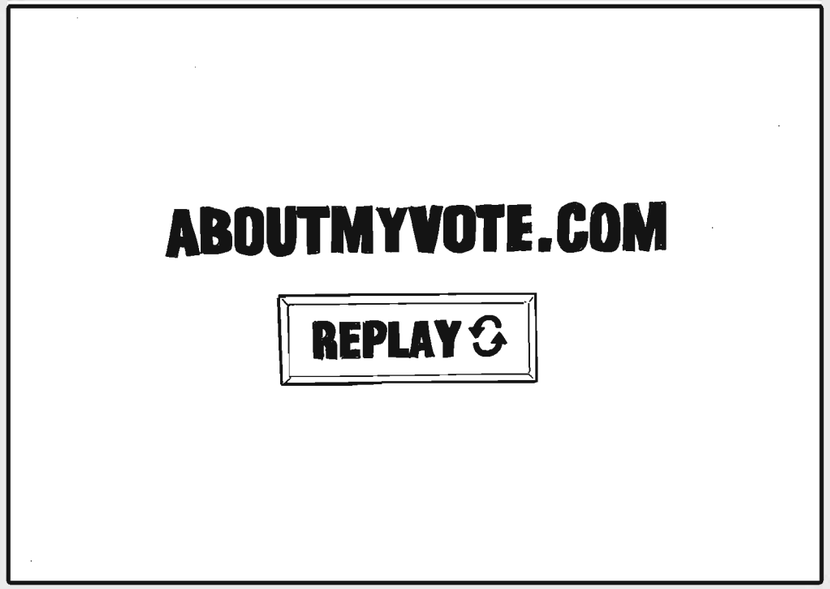
VO: That's us all done then! Thanks for visiting the Ministry of Adding Things Up today. We hope you enjoyed your stay. On May 5th, you'll be able to vote on the way your vote is counted in the UK referendum. I hope we've helped you decide which to go for!"

12

A banner unfurls from the ceiling. It reads:
"To learn more or register to vote on May 5th, visit aboutmyvote.co.uk"

VO: "If you've got any more questions, visit aboutmyvote.co.uk. See you soon!"

13



Fade to a black frame. The URL remains on screen, and a 'Replay' button is clickable.