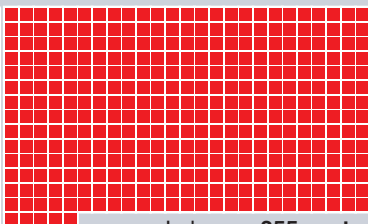
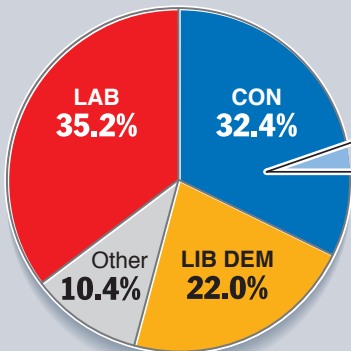


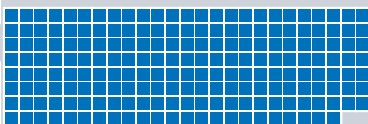
Most lose when winner takes all

Britain's first-past-the-post electoral system sees votes cast in 650 individual battles for constituencies and seats in parliament. Each MP can be elected with little more than a third of the popular vote, leading to a government opposed by more than six in 10 of those who voted

2005 election: Labour Party wins majority of 66 seats although other parties combined have almost 65% of popular vote. Low turnout means 38.6% of electorate do not vote at all



Labour 355 seats



Conservatives 198

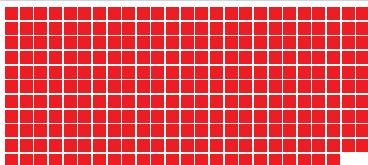
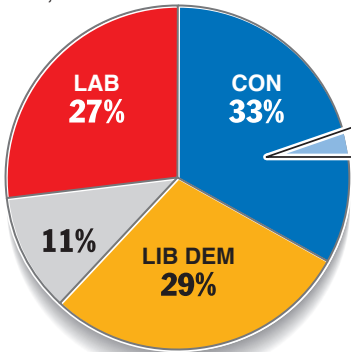


Lib Dems 62

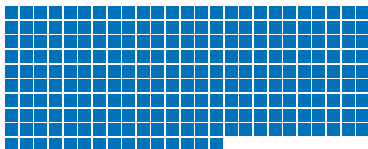


Other 31

2010 election: Uneven distribution of votes means fewer people need to vote in urban Labour strongholds as opposed to rural opposition seats. Bias means Labour could win most seats, but with smallest share of vote*



Labour 273 seats



Conservatives 240



Lib Dems 108



Other 29