

Memo : Famous British Prime Ministers

To the present day 54 men and 3 women have passed through the doors of 10 Downing Street as British Prime Minister. It is used as a busy office for the Prime Minister and the staff employed to support him in his role. It is also home to the PM and his family. Downing Street began its association with the office of the Prime Minister in 1730. Rishi Sunak is the present British Prime Minister.

<u>Name</u>	<u>PM</u>	<u>World events at that time</u>	<u>Career</u>	<u>Achievements</u>
Robert Walpole	1721-1742	United Kingdom of Great Britain formed... England declares war on Spain...	He stabilised prices and wages. He was popular with both the King and people. He went on to become Britain's longest serving prime minister and the first one.	Reduced national debt, and introduced popular financial policies.
Robert Peel	1834-5 and 1841-6	Slavery abolished in British Empire... Victoria becomes Queen of England... US declares war on Mexico... Famine in Ireland...	He passed the Mines Act of 1842 which made it illegal to employ women and children underground, and The Factory Act, 1844 which limited working hours for children and women in factories.	Helped raise living standards for working classes.
William Gladstone	1868-1874, 1880-1885, 1886 and 1892-1894	Edison invents electric light... Eiffel Tower built in Paris... New Zealand becomes 1 st country in the world to grant women the vote...	He was a father figure for the Liberal movement and passionately involved in the politics of Ireland and anti-slavery.	Gave the vote to millions more men.
Benjamin Disraeli	1868 and 1874-80	26 million Indians perish in India due to famine...First commercial telephone exchange in New Haven, Connecticut...	His was a successful premiership, though it has been said that the legislation of this time depended much less upon him than upon his Cabinet colleagues. He was Britain's first, and so far only, Jewish Prime Minister.	The 1875 Climbing Boys Act reinforced the prohibition on employing juvenile chimney sweeps. The 1875 Artisans Dwelling Act allowed local authorities to destroy slums and provided housing for the poor.
David Lloyd George	1916-1922	Russian Revolution... Irish Free State Proclaimed... First World War ends... flu epidemic kills 22 million people...	He was acclaimed as the "man who had won the First World War", overseeing the signing of the peace treaty in 1918. He was the first and, so far, the only Welshman to hold the office of PM.	Extended benefits for poor people, and seen as a great war leader.
Winston Churchill	1940-1945 and 1951-1955	Colour TV invented... DNA discovered... Mt Everest climbed for the first time...	George VI asked Churchill to form a government during WWII in 1940 at the age of 65. He helped lead the Allies to victory.	He supported plans for the welfare state. Churchill was also awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1953.
Clement Attlee	1945-51	First supersonic flight...USSR tests atomic bomb...Italy becomes a Republic...U.S Congress passes Marshall Plan	In 1935 he became leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party and was Leader of the Opposition until 1940. He then served in the war coalition and in 1942 he was elevated to be Deputy Prime Minister, effectively in charge of domestic matters while the PM was occupied with the war.	The Attlee government began a radical social and economic programme - it founded the National Health Service, nationalised heavy industries and the Bank of England and started a huge home building programme.
Margaret Thatcher	1979-1990	Cold War... Famine in Ethiopia... First reusable space shuttle <i>Columbia</i> launched... Berlin Wall falls...	She became a familiar figure internationally, striking up a famous friendship with US President Reagan and gaining the praise of Soviet leader Gorbachev during the Cold War.	1 st female Prime Minister and led the country to victory in the conflict over the Falkland Islands. She was the longest serving Prime Minister of the 20th century.
Tony Blair	1997-2007	Iraq war... Terrorist attacks in New York (9/11)	He became leader of the Labour Party in 1994 and in 1997 he won a landslide victory. He was the youngest Prime Minister ever elected (43 years old)	He contributed to the Northern Ireland Peace Process. His support to the USA as regards Iraq war was controversial.
Gordon Brown	2007-2010	World economic crisis (2008)	He is the longest Chancellor of the Exchequer ever (from 1997 to 2007).	He continued Blair's policies on health and education and involved public money to overcome the crisis.
David Cameron	2010-2016	Growing of ISIS terrorism – economic crisis - Brexit	Head of the Conservative Party. He decided to resign after the decision of British people to quit the European Union (Brexit).	First time since WWII that a Prime Minister forms a government of coalition with Nick Clegg, a liberal-democrat. He tried to fight against terrorism and to reduce social inequalities.

Theresa May	2016-2019	Terrorism – Brexit	She fought terrorism within the United Kingdom and tried to regulate immigration.	She was not able to make a deal that everyone could agree to for leaving the EU, so she resigned.
Boris Johnson	2019-2022	Brexit – COVID 19 crisis	He was the mayor of London before becoming prime minister. The COVID-19 pandemic became a major issue of his term. Johnson is a controversial figure in British politics.	He re-opened Brexit negotiations, the United Kingdom withdrew from the EU, entering into a transition period and trade negotiations leading to the EU–UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.