**Comparing Canadian and American Systems of Government**

**How are they the same?**

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**How are they different?**

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| **Canada** | **With regard to…** | **United States** |
|  | Constitution |  |
|  | Languages |  |
|  | Head of State / Head of Government |  |
|  | Elections |  |
|  | Senators |  |
|  | Support of the House |  |
|  | Division of Powers |  |

**Answer Key: Comparing Canadian and American Systems of Government**

**How are they the same?**

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| * Democratic, federal states
* Similar cultures
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**How are they different?**

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| **Canada** | **With regard to…** | **United States** |
| * Written (Canadian and British statutes)
* Unwritten (traditions, customs, conventions
 | **Constitution** | * One written document
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| * Two official languages (French and English)
 | **Languages** | * One language (English)
 |
| * Queen (represented by Governor General) is head of state
* Prime Minister is head of government
 | **Head of State / Head of Government** | * President is both head of state and head of government
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| * Elections every 5 years
* No limit to how long person can be Prime Minister
 | **Elections** | * President can only be elected to a maximum of 2 terms
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| * Appointed by Governor General
* Serve until age 75
 | **Senators** | * Elected for fixed terms
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| * Prime Minister needs the support of the House of Commons in order to maintain power
 | **Support of the House** | * President and Congress may disagree but President remains in power until end of term
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| * Decentralization—broadened powers of provinces and narrowed power of federal government
 | **Division of Powers** | * Centralization—broadened federal power and narrowed powers of states
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