



# How do revolutions start?

**01** Take two minutes and write everything you can about the French Revolution here. Then, compare your notes with a classmate.

**02** Read “Breaking News!” and fill in the missing information.

1. Where?

2. When?

3. How many?

4. What?

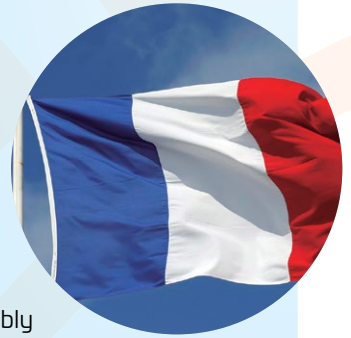
5. Next?

**03** Read the text again. Use the words in bold to summarize the event and its predicted consequences.

## Breaking News!

July 14, 1789

A mob of protesters **seized** the Bastille. The crowd of an estimated 900 Parisians was worried that King Louis XVI’s arrest of the newly elected National Assembly was fast approaching, so they stormed the Bastille. The **symbolism** cannot be missed; the Bastille is the state prison where the assembly members would have languished had the illegal arrest taken place, and this event is an act of **defiance** of the ordinary Parisian against the monarch’s perceived cruelty.



The demonstrators and spectators alike were at the mercy of the King’s guards, and one man, blood dripping from a wound near his eye, told us, “We demand bread, enough to feed our families; in addition, we want justice for the merciless King.” Next to him, a student concurred, “The people have risen, and now the King will hear us,” as he ran with the crowd. This confrontation comes after protests against the Crown, citing food shortages, punishing levels of **taxation**, and ever-increasing inequality between the **aristocracy** and the **citizenry**.

We have received reports of more protests outside Paris, and it’s clear the nobility in other European countries are nervously watching this to see how it will affect their privileged lives, cautiously lending support to the besieged French royalty. The Queen, Marie Antoinette, is reported to have recommended cake for those without bread, but we haven’t yet confirmed this comment.

We appear to be witnessing the first battle of the French Revolution. It is unclear how it will end; however, we will likely see a new government and constitution to keep it under control. The Crown’s future remains murky and may not be known for some time, but one certainty has come from the historical events today: France is on the cusp of a fundamental change.

**04** Work with a classmate. Read the statement below. Do you agree with it? Why or why not? Then, share your opinions with another group.

Political protest –taking it to the streets– is often the only way to create needed change.

**05** Complete the sentences with the correct linking adverbial from the word bank. Use each word only once.

however      nevertheless      meanwhile  
as a result of this      consequently



1. The French people were suffering from extreme poverty and hunger; \_\_\_\_\_, they became increasingly angry with the monarchy.
2. The government raised taxes to pay off debts; \_\_\_\_\_, this made life even harder for common citizens.
3. The general was called to discuss the financial crisis; \_\_\_\_\_, tensions between the social classes continued to rise.
4. The Third Estate declared itself the National Assembly; \_\_\_\_\_, they promised to create a new constitution.
5. King Louis XVI tried to stop the revolution; \_\_\_\_\_, the storming of the Bastille marked a turning point and is seen as the start of the revolution.



**06** Use both linking adverbials to expand the simple sentences into two connected sentences.

1. People were angry about high taxes / as a result of this / therefore  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The price of bread was too high for many families / on account of this / furthermore  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The king ignored the demands of the Third Estate / nevertheless / consequently  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. The people stormed the Bastille / at that moment / as a consequence  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The storming of the Bastille symbolized the fall of royal power / moreover / nonetheless  
\_\_\_\_\_

**07** Work with a classmate. Use the linking adverbials in Exercises 5 and 6 to create an interview with an eyewitness to the storming of the Bastille.

**08** Perform your interviews in small groups. Then, discuss the following questions.

- › How would you feel in this situation?
- › What would you and your family do?
- › Would you join the revolution?

