

Question: What stops one branch of government from becoming **too powerful**?

Answer: **Separation of powers.**

Explanation of Separation of Powers

Before the Constitution

The King of England had all powers of government.

- Power to make laws
- Power to run government
- Commander-in-chief of military
- Power to explain laws
- Power over people's religion
- Power over people's speech

People could not vote for leaders.

Under the Constitution

When the Constitution set up new American government, it separated the powers of government, and it gave people the power to vote.

Congress (Senate and House of Representatives) has power to make laws.

The President has the power to run government.

- Is commander-in-chief of military
- Can sign bills to become law or veto them

The Supreme Court has power to explain law.

People have freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

Citizens can vote for President, Senators and House of Representatives.

