**27 Amendments to the U. S. Constitution (simplified)**

**Amendment**- a written change to the Constitution

**Bill of Rights**- The first ten amendments added to the U.S. Constitution in 1791

**1st Semester**

**Amendment #1**- Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition

**Amendment #2**- Right to bear arms

**Amendment #3**- No one may be forced to house soldiers

**Amendment #4**- Protects against unreasonable search and seizure

**Amendment #5**- Rights of the accused (indictment by grand jury, no double jeopardy, no self incrimination, due process of the law, eminent domain)

**Amendment #6**- Right to a speedy trial by jury

**Amendment #7**- Right to a jury trial in CIVIL CASES (more than $20- people sue over money/property)

**Amendment #8**- No excessive bail, no cruel and unusual punishment

**Amendment #9**- People have other basic rights not listed (enumerated) in the Constitution

**Amendment #10**- All powers not given to the federal government are left to the states

**Amendment #11**- Federal courts do not have jurisdiction in cases against a state

**Amendment #12**- Provides for separate elections for president and vice president

**2nd Semester**

**Amendment #13**- Abolishes slavery and other forms of involuntary servitude

**Amendment #14**- defines citizenship and guarantees rights of all citizens, equal protection

**Amendment #15**- All males have the right to vote

**Amendment #16**- Congress has the power to pass direct taxes, such as income tax

**Amendment #17**- Senators are to be elected by the voters in their state

**Amendment #18**- production, distribution, and sale of alcoholic beverages is illegal (prohibited)

**Amendment #19**- Gives women the right to vote (suffrage)

**Amendment #20**- President, VP and Congressional terms in office begin in January

**Amendment #21**- 18th amendment is repealed

**Amendment #22**- Presidents may serve no more than 2 terms or a total of 10 years

**Amendment #23**- District of Columbia is provided 3 Electoral Votes

**Amendment #24**- Eliminates poll tax (no required payment needed to vote)

**Amendment #25**- Provides for presidential succession and filling of a vacant office of Vice President, if VP dies or his removed from office

**Amendment #26**- Lowers the voting age from 21 to 18

**Amendment #27**- Congressional pay increases may not take effect until after that congressional term is over (pay raise doesn’t go into effect until new term begins)