

### Level: Upper-Intermediate Theme: Culture Lesson 48: British life and culture

#### Exercise 1. Read the text and choose if the statements are true or false.

#### London's Millennium bridge

London's Millennium bridge finally stops wobbling after \$7m worth of repairs by Jonathan Glancey Nobody knew whether or not the Millennium bridge in London would wobble when it reopened last month. One newspaper invited a confident young lady in a bikini to pose with a plate of jelly for its photographers. This was a little unfair as it was a rather windy day, so of course the jelly wobbled. There was a brisk westerly wind along the River Thames threatening umbrellas, wigs and jellies. At nine o'clock that morning, a group of VIPs, including Lord Foster of Thamesside, Sir Anthony Caro and the engineers from Arup who designed the structure, together with at least one bishop, and the media, stepped foot on the bridge. It was closed within three days of its first opening in May 2000 after members of the public were alarmed by the violent shake and wobble of the structure. Did the wobbly bridge live up to its name? No. Over the past 20 months, \$7m has been spent installing over eighty dampers (or shock absorbers) beneath the 4m-wide walkway that was shaken by no fewer than 160,000 pedestrians in those infamous first three days. "This is the world's first lengthy lateral suspension bridge," said Ken Shuttleworth, a partner of Lord Foster. "It has never been dangerous, but it was a leap of faith. What happened was that the bridge 'lozenged' - wobbled in a lozenge-like pattern, when so many people marched across it at once. It won't do that again." So what sort of load will it take now? "Elephants, horses, sure," said Mr Shuttleworth, as he looked at all the steel rods and braces that support the walkway linking Tate Modern art museum on the south bank to St Paul's Cathedral on the north. The bridge's design appears uncompromised by the work of the past 20 months, and it remains a lovely piece of lightweight engineering. The shock-absorbing dampers are, for the most part, tucked away beneath the 320m-long walkway. The Foster-Caro-Arup "blade of light" design beat more than 200 entries to build the bridge because it is elegant and discreet. Its design interferes very little with the surrounding cityscape. At night it is lit from below by a fine arc of fluorescence. After all the problems not even a spit of rain, much less a blustery wind, could dampen the spirits of thousands of people who crossed the bridge formerly known as Wobbly.

- 1. It's a suspension bridge True/False
- 2. It's a roadbridge for cars True/False
- 3. It's a walkway for pedestrians True/False
- 4. It's a traditional structure True/False



- 5. It's an original design True/False
- 6. It's attractive True/False
- 7. It's long True/False
- 8. It's strong True/False
- 9. It's heavy True/False
- 10. It's dangerous True/False
- 11. It cost a lot True/False
- 12. It's still wobbly True/False

# Exercise 2. Watch the video match the names with the descriptions of the most iconic British sweets.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5OrW9YOK-4

1. Jelly Babies	a) Fruit flavoured gummies
2. Flakes	b) A corner shop staple
3. Liquorish allsorts	c) Tiny circles of milk chocolate
4. Black Jacks and Fruit Salads	d) Chocolate bars with nougat and crispy cereal stuff
5. Sherbet Fountains	e) What malt balls are supposed to taste like
6. Pear Drops	f) They are black currant flavoured
7. Maltesers	g) They've got the texture of condensed jam covered in icing sugar
8. All Purple Sweets	h) Mix of sweets, which have coconut flavour, among others
9. Wine Gums	i) Chewing gums with anise and pineapple- orange flavour
10. Double Decker	j) Hard, usually mint flavoured candy
11. Brighton Rock	k) They're sugary, honeycombed and encased in milk chocolate
12. Crunchy Bars	I) Chocolate that melts in your mouth, often stuck on tops of ice-creams



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13. Chocolate Buttons	m) Bubbly chocolate that melts in your mouth
14. Aero Bars	n) A tube with a type of fizzy powdered sugar, which you dip a liquorish stick in and lick it off
15. IRN BRU Bars	o) Dark orange chew bars with sour fizziness scattered through them, named after Scotland's favourite soda

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