

Cartoon character ban could come to candy bars

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Candy and chocolate manufacturers in the UK may have to stop using cartoon characters on their products. An alliance of health groups said many food companies use characters from Peppa Pig and Disney on their packaging. The

companies use the characters to get children to buy chocolate and candies. The health groups said 51 per cent of products using cartoon characters were unhealthy for children. The products fell below the health requirements needed to advertise on TV during children's shows. The health groups said the products were very high in fat, sugar and salt. The groups are asking the government to ban the use of these characters to sell unhealthy products to children.

There are three groups trying to get a ban on cartoon characters on chocolate and candy. They are Action on Sugar, Action on Salt and the Children's Food Campaign. They looked at the nutrition content of 526 products that were aimed at children. The products' wrapping had colourful cartoon characters to appeal to children. The Peppa Pig Candy Bites were among the worst products. These contained 99 per cent sugar. Dr Kather Hashem, a nutritionist from the Action on Sugar group, said: "It's shocking that companies are exploiting the health of our children by using cartoon characters on their high-sugar food and drink products, particularly on chocolates and sweets, which are already hard to resist for children."

Sources: theguardian.com / mirror.co.uk / dailymail.co.uk

Writing

Candy and chocolate should be in wrappers without any cartoon characters. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

candy / chocolate / cartoon / food companies / unhealthy / products / sugar / salt / products / nutrition / wrapping / nutritionist / shocking / health / drink / children

True / False

- a) Cartoon characters have been banned on candy wrappers in the UK. T / F
- b) Health groups said no Disney characters were being used on wrappers. T / F
- c) Health groups say over half of unhealthy candy uses cartoon characters. T / F
- d) The products meet advertising requirements for children's TV shows. T / F
- e) There are three health groups trying to change candy advertising. T / F
- f) The groups looked at the nutrition content of over 500 products. T / F
- g) One of the products was 99% sugar. T / F
- h) One health group said children are exploiting the candy companies. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. manufacturers | a. targeted |
| 2. products | b. prohibit |
| 3. packaging | c. dropped |
| 4. fell | d. goods |
| 5. ban | e. one of |
| 6. trying | f. refuse |
| 7. aimed | g. makers |
| 8. among | h. terrible |
| 9. shocking | i. attempting |
| 10. resist | j. wrapping |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of chocolate companies?
- c) Is what children eat getting healthier or unhealthier?
- d) Why do parents allow children to eat candy that is 99% sugar?
- e) Are companies exploiting children?
- f) Do you think candy company bosses feel bad at selling unhealthy food?
- g) Would it be easy for you to stop eating candy?
- h) What questions would you like to ask a candy company boss?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Candy and chocolate | a. high in fat |
| 2. An alliance | b. the worst products |
| 3. advertise on TV during | c. products to children |
| 4. the products were very | d. resist for children |
| 5. sell unhealthy | e. children's shows |
| 6. groups trying | f. health of our children |
| 7. They looked at the nutrition | g. manufacturers |
| 8. among | h. to get a ban |
| 9. companies are exploiting the | i. of health groups |
| 10. hard to | j. content of 526 products |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of chocolate?
- Is it right for chocolate companies to target children?
- Should cartoon characters be used to sell candy?
- Should all candy be sold in plain wrappers?
- Are there too many candies for sale in shops?
- How can we get children to eat fruit instead of candy?
- Why is unhealthy food advertised on TV?
- Should candy be banned?

Spelling

- Candy and chocolate rumarufnastce
- on their kanagpicg
- fell below the health seruirmqenet
- advertise on TV irugnd children's shows
- health usropg
- sell hethyaunl products
- The products' gpnirpwa
- cartoon characters to paaepl to children
- a tsiruitnoit from the Action on Sugar group
- iitpngoelx the health of our children
- rcytplairal on chocolates
- hard to ssrite for children

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. c	5. b
6. i	7. a	8. e	9. h	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Tomato Soup

You think tomato soup is the healthiest food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their food. Also, tell the others which is the least healthy of these (and why): fried chicken, apple pie or a cheese sandwich.

Role B Fried Chicken

You think fried chicken is the healthiest food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their food. Also, tell the others which is the least healthy of these (and why): tomato soup, apple pie or a cheese sandwich.

Role C – Apple Pie

You think apple pie is the healthiest food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their food. Also, tell the others which is the least healthy of these (and why): fried chicken, tomato soup or a cheese sandwich.

Role D – Cheese Sandwich

You think a cheese sandwich is the healthiest food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their food. Also, tell the others which is the least healthy of these (and why): fried chicken, apple pie or tomato soup.

Speaking – Healthy

Rank these with your partner. Put the healthiest food at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| • toast | • tomato soup |
| • kebab | • macaroni cheese |
| • apple pie | • fried chicken |
| • pizza | • cheese sandwich |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.