

What people call sweets around Britain

From the sweeties.net wiki

Everyone in Britain knows what a sweet is, but not everyone calls it one. The word you grew up with often says where you grew up. Here are some of the regional words for sweets, with where they are recorded.

Sweeties in Scotland

In Scotland, sweets are sweeties. The Scottish National Dictionary records sweetie, meaning a sweet, confection, sugar lozenge or caramel, from 1782. A sweetie shop is a sweet shop, a sweetie bottle is a glass jar for sweets, and a sweetie man was a confectioner or sweet seller. A sweetie wife was a woman who sold sweets, and the phrase came to mean a gossip, often a gossipy man. It is also the word behind our own name.

Spice in Yorkshire

In Yorkshire dialect, sweets are spice. Wiktionary's example gives the flavour: going down to the spice shop to see what they have in stock. Another northern word recorded for sweets is spoggs.

Kets in the North East

In parts of northern England, sweets are kets. Wiktionary records ket for sweets in Northumbria and on Wearside. In older northern dialect, the same word also meant carrion or rubbish, so a bag of kets could be sweets or something much less appealing depending on who was speaking.

Spanish and kali

Northern England has its own names for particular sweets too. Liquorice is colloquially called Spanish, and kali is the name for a sherbet like powder. See [why is liquorice called Spanish?](#) and [why is sherbet called kali?](#)

Lollies and candy abroad

Travel further and the words change again. In the UK and Ireland a lolly is a lollipop or an ice lolly, but in Australia and New Zealand lollies means sweets of any kind. In the United States, sweets are candy. And lolly has another meaning in Britain altogether: slang for money.

Sherbet, but not as you know it

Even familiar words can surprise. In parts of both the UK and Australia, sherbet has long been slang for an alcoholic drink, especially beer, so a few sherbets down the pub means a few pints.

Whatever you call them, you will find old sweet shop names in our pick and mix. For the names of the sweets themselves, see [old fashioned sweets from A to Z](#).

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