

Retro sweet gifts for grandparents

From the sweeties.net wiki

A bag of the sweets someone ate as a child can be a better present than anything new. The trick is matching the sweets to the right decade.

Decade by decade

- **The 1940s.** Sugar was rationed from January 1940 and sweets from 26 July 1942, starting at 2 oz, about 60 g, a week. For a child of the war years, sweets came in small weekly amounts: see [sweet rationing in Britain](#) and [sweets in wartime Britain](#)
- **The 1950s.** Spangles arrived in 1950, still on the ration. Sweets came off it for good in February 1953, and then came Love Hearts, Drumsticks, Caramac and Opal Fruits: see [sweets in the 1950s](#)
- **The 1960s.** Galaxy, Topic, Toffee Crisp, Twix, Aztec, and the Creme Egg in its modern form: see [sweets from the 1960s](#)
- **The 1970s.** Curly Wurly in 1970, Skittles in 1971, Freddo in 1973 at 2p, then Yorkie, Lion and Double Decker: see [what sweets were popular in the 1970s?](#)

Some are gone

Not every sweet from those years is still made. Spangles, for one, have gone, so check before planning a gift around a particular sweet: see [what sweets have been discontinued in the UK?](#)

Building the mix

Our pick and mix includes old names such as [SW033](#), [SW035](#), [SW038](#) and [SW040](#), sold by the 100 g, so you can build a small, varied bag: see [where to buy retro sweets in the UK](#)

A few ideas for making it a present:

- **A glass jar**, like the ones in old sweet shop windows: see [where to buy sweet jars](#)
- **A note** saying what each sweet is and when it first appeared.
- **A check on diet.** If a grandparent avoids sugar, sugar free boiled sweets exist, but they carry a laxative warning: see [why do sugar free sweets carry a laxative warning?](#)

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