UK might ban food on public transport

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The United Kingdom's government is thinking about banning all food and drink on public transport. The UK's plan to ban people eating and drinking on trains and buses is not popular with people. They say the government should not control whether or not people can eat and drink on public transport. Many people said the plan was another example of the UK becoming a "nanny state". This is a country that wants to control everything people can and cannot do. The UK's Chief Medical Officer, professor Sally Davies, said the plan was necessary to help reduce obesity. She said it was part of a plan to halve obesity in children by 2030 and to help people make healthier lifestyle choices.

Professor Davies reported that there are twice as many overweight schoolchildren today as there were 30 years ago. She said: "Today's children are drowning in a flood of unhealthy food and drink options." She said this is made worse because of "insufficient opportunities for being active". She said children do not get enough exercise. She added: "We must go further and faster." Ms Davies also wants to stop fast food being sold at soccer games. Many travelers are angry about the plans. A nurse, Nicky Paxton, said the transport ban would make her life worse. She said: "I often work 12 hours without a break and I need a sandwich on the train on my way home from work."

Sources: thesun.co.uk / metro.co.uk / independent.co.uk

Writing

There should be no eating or drinking anywhere on public transport. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

thinking / food / drink / trains / buses / popular / control / public transport / obesity / twice / schoolchildren / options / exercise / soccer / games / ban / a break / work

True / False

a) The UK government passed a law banning eating on trains and buses. T / F

b) People are very happy because they don't want to eat on trains. T / F

c) People in the UK think the country is becoming a "nanny state". T / F

d) A medical officer wants to cut child obesity in half by 2030. T / F

e) A medical officer said there were more overweight children 30 years ago. T / F

f) The medical officer said children were drowning in food options. T / F

g) The medical officer said it was OK to eat fast food at soccer games. T / F

h) A nurse said she needed to eat a burger on the train on the way home. T / F

Synonym Match

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

1.	**thinking**	a.	direct
2.	**banning**	b.	rest
3.	**control**	c.	options
4.	**reduce**	d.	obese
5.	**choices**	e.	prevent
6.	**overweight**	f.	prohibiting
7.	**opportunities**	g.	commuters
8.	**stop**	h.	considering
9.	**travelers**	i.	chances
10.	**break**	j.	cut

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think about what you read?

b) Why are children more overweight these days?

c) Whose fault is it that children are overweight?

d) What do you think of people eating on trains and buses?

e) Would you move if someone next to you on the bus ate smelly food?

f) Should fast food be banned at soccer games?

g) Are there foods which are OK to eat on trains and buses?

h) What questions would you like to ask the chief medical officer?

Phrase Match

1. banning all
2. becoming a nanny
3. control everything people can
4. part of a plan to halve obesity
5. help people make healthier
6. twice as many overweight
7. drowning in a flood
8. insufficient opportunities
9. I often work 12 hours
10. on the train on my way

a. and cannot do
b. home from work
c. for being active
d. state
e. without a break
f. in children by 2030
g. food and drink
h. of unhealthy food
i. lifestyle choices
j. schoolchildren

Discussion – Student B

a) Is it OK to eat food on public transport?
b) What are the rules about eating in public in your country?
c) Do you eat on trains and buses?
d) Should governments tell people where not to eat?
e) What is obesity like in your country?
f) How can we help people with obesity?
g) How healthy are the things you eat and drink?
h) How healthy are your lifestyle choices?

Spelling

1. not olrpuap with people
2. eehrtwh or not people can eat
3. the plan was another peaxelm
4. chief caiemdl officer
5. a plan to halve oiesbty
6. make healthier lieftlyse choices
7. twice as many vhrieetwog schoolchildren
8. unhealthy food and drink spooitn
9. insufficient ppritouitenso
10. We must go frrthue and faster
11. 12 hours without a kebar
12. I need a ndiwahcs on the train

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Sandwiches
You think sandwiches are the worst things to eat on a train. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are OK to eat on a train. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): garlic curry, KFC or nuts.

Role B – Garlic Curry
You think garlic curry is the worst thing to eat on a train. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are OK to eat on a train. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): sandwiches, KFC or nuts.

Role C – KFC
You think KFC is the worst thing to eat on a train. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are OK to eat on a train. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): garlic curry, sandwiches or nuts.

Role D – Nuts
You think nuts are the worst things to eat on a train. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are OK to eat on a train. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): garlic curry, KFC or sandwiches.

Speaking – On The Train

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that are OK to eat on a train at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Pizza
- KFC
- Onigiri
- Nuts
- Sandwiches
- French fries
- Garlic curry
- Ramen

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.