

Reading: Bridges

I love bridges! Walking across a large river, a busy road or over a railway line is very exciting for me. Sometimes, if the bridge is very high, I feel like I'm flying. If the bridge is very long, I think there may be a problem arriving at the other side. If the bridge is very narrow, I think it may break! When I travel I like to cross bridges. In the USA I crossed the Golden Gate, in Zimbabwe I crossed the Zambezi river to Zambia, in Australia I crossed the Sydney Harbour Bridge and when I was in Thailand I crossed the Friendship Bridge to Laos.



Luckily I live in London and there are many bridges here. In fact there are about ___a___ bridges across the river Thames and ___b___ of these are in the capital. I live near Chelsea Bridge. So you can imagine how excited I was to hear that there was a new bridge to celebrate the millennium. A new bridge in London! The first new pedestrian bridge for ___c___ years! A bridge just for people, so no cars, trains or pollution.

Every weekend I went to see the building of the bridge. It was great to see it changing and growing. Then at last it was finished and it looked beautiful. It runs from St Paul's Cathedral to Southwark, it is ___d___ long and ___e___ wide.

I was really happy the day the bridge opened. It was a sunny Saturday in June ___f___. I went with my friend Janice and we waited with all the other people who wanted to cross the bridge too. Everyone was very happy and talking about the bridge. The mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, said: "It will be so good to actually walk across the river peacefully, without cars and trains thundering by." Then, at last, we walked across the bridge! There were many people on the bridge at the same time. We walked slowly and looked down at the river ___g___ below. I was very excited!

Then I could feel the bridge move a little. It moved to the left and then it moved to the right. Janice could feel it move too. Then it moved again to the left and to the right again. I wasn't excited now, I was a little afraid. The other people stopped talking and looked at each other. The bridge was swinging to the left and right! I was very happy to arrive at the other side of the river without a problem.

The next day the bridge was closed and it had a new name: not the Millennium Bridge but the Wobbly Bridge! The architect said there was not a problem: the bridge is designed to move. But the bridge was closed and reopened again ___h___ months later. It is now my favourite bridge in London and I try and cross it as many times as possible!