

Temptation

Today I want to introduce you to Bert and Sally! Here's Bert and this is Sally. Bert and Sally are brother and sister.



Now you have probably noticed that Bert and Sally have a balloon attached to them. That's their conscience. Your conscience is the part of you that gives you a little nudge if you are thinking of doing something wrong. If you listen to it when you are feeling tempted, it reminds you that you really shouldn't do what you are about to do.

Bert and Sally are heading home after school today. Bert tells Sally that he and his friend Sam went into the corner shop last week because Sam had money to spend. Sam bought a packet of crisps, but Bert didn't have any money, so he sneaked a bar of chocolate into his pocket and left without paying for it. Bert said it was so easy, nobody noticed. Then he said he had done it again yesterday and thought they should both try it today.

Sally was a bit scared and told Bert she didn't think it was the right thing to do and asked him if he felt bad about it.

Bert said he had at first, but the chocolate was so nice, and he was always so hungry after school and really the shopkeeper wouldn't notice one wee bar of chocolate going missing, would he? And anyway, it wasn't fair that their mum never gave them money to spend after school.

Sally wasn't happy about the plan, but she wanted to please Bert and not look like she was too afraid to do what he said. They went into the shop and after a bit of pretending to look around, they each slipped a packet of sweets in their pocket and then made their way to the door. Sally thought the man at the till looked very suspiciously at them, but he didn't say anything.

As they walked home, Sally felt bad. Her stomach was all churned up inside and she didn't feel like eating the sweets. Sally's conscience was telling her she had done the wrong thing. You might have heard someone say their conscience was pricked. Well this is what was happening to Sally.

Let's say this tack is the wrong thing that Sally did. *[Bring it over to the balloon]*

What do you think is going to happen? *[Give a warning, then burst the balloon].*



Sally knew she'd done the wrong thing and she was feeling rotten. Her conscience was troubling her.

Bert on the other hand was feeling fine. Even though he had felt a bit bad the first time, by now he wasn't worried at all.

If you keep doing something wrong, you get used to it and your conscience isn't as effective.

Let's say these tacks are the wrong thing that Bert has done lots of times.

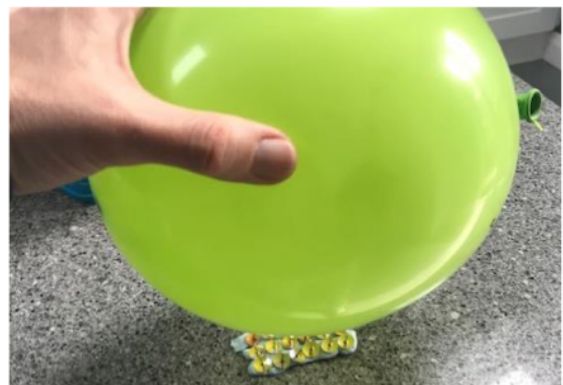
[press around 20 tacks into some Blu tack to keep them pointing upwards.]

Here's Bert's conscience *[lift the balloon and bring over to the tacks].*

What do you think will happen if I press the balloon on the tacks? *[allow answers]*

[Press the balloon onto the tacks – it should not burst].

Bert's conscience is used to him doing wrong and it isn't troubled. It doesn't even make an impression





Explanation

When you increase the number of pins you push into the balloon you reduce the pressure on each pin and hence the balloon doesn't pop.

Question

What do you think would happen if Bert kept stealing sweets and chocolates from the corner shop?