



Spooky bridges

Scary places

Reading, A2+/B1 level

Would you cross it? Why, why not?



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Rakotzbrücke (Devil's Bridge) — Germany



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This unusual stone bridge creates a perfect circle when reflected in the water. Its strange shape inspired stories about the Devil and supernatural powers.

Would you cross it? Why, why not?



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Ojuela Bridge — Mexico



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This historic suspension bridge stretches across a deep canyon near an old mining town. The empty landscape and abandoned buildings create an eerie atmosphere.

Would you cross it? Why, why not?



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Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge — China



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This enormous bridge has a transparent floor. Visitors can see the deep canyon directly beneath their feet, making every step feel like walking through the air.

Would you cross it? Why, why not?



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Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge — Northern Ireland



This rope bridge connects the mainland to a rocky island. It hangs high above the sea, where powerful winds and crashing waves make the crossing look frightening.

By Stuart Yeates from Oxford, UK - Carrick-a-rede rope bridge, CC BY-SA 2.0,

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Would you cross it? Why, why not?



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Hussaini Suspension Bridge — Pakistan



A narrow bridge with wooden planks and gaps between them hangs high above a river surrounded by mountains. It looks like one wrong step could send you into the water below.

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Warm-up

- How often do you cross bridges?
- What is the most beautiful bridge you have ever seen?
- What makes a bridge scary: its height, its shape, the weather or something else?
- Would you cross a very old bridge? Why or why not?





Vocabulary practice

Match the eight words from the readings with the correct definitions.

Word	Definition
1. narrow	A. A feeling that everything is moving around you
2. gap	B. Very strange, mysterious or frightening
3. cliff	C. A very large hole or deep space in the ground
4. dizzy	D. Not wide; having little space from one side to the other
5. canyon	E. You feel it when you are scared.
6. eerie	F. A high area of rock with a very steep side
7. fear	G. An empty space between two things
8. shake	H. To move quickly from side to side



Vocabulary practice

Complete each question with the correct vocabulary word. Then answer the question in your own words.

eerie - gap - cliff - narrow - canyon - shake - fear - dizzy

- Have you ever walked along a very _____ path? Was it difficult?
- Would you step over a large _____ in a wooden bridge?
- Have you ever stood at the top of a _____ and looked down?
- What makes you feel _____: looking down from a tall building or travelling on a boat?
- Would you like to explore a deep _____? Why or why not?
- What is the most _____ place you have ever visited?
- What is your biggest _____ when you travel?
- Have you ever felt a bridge _____ when you walked across it?

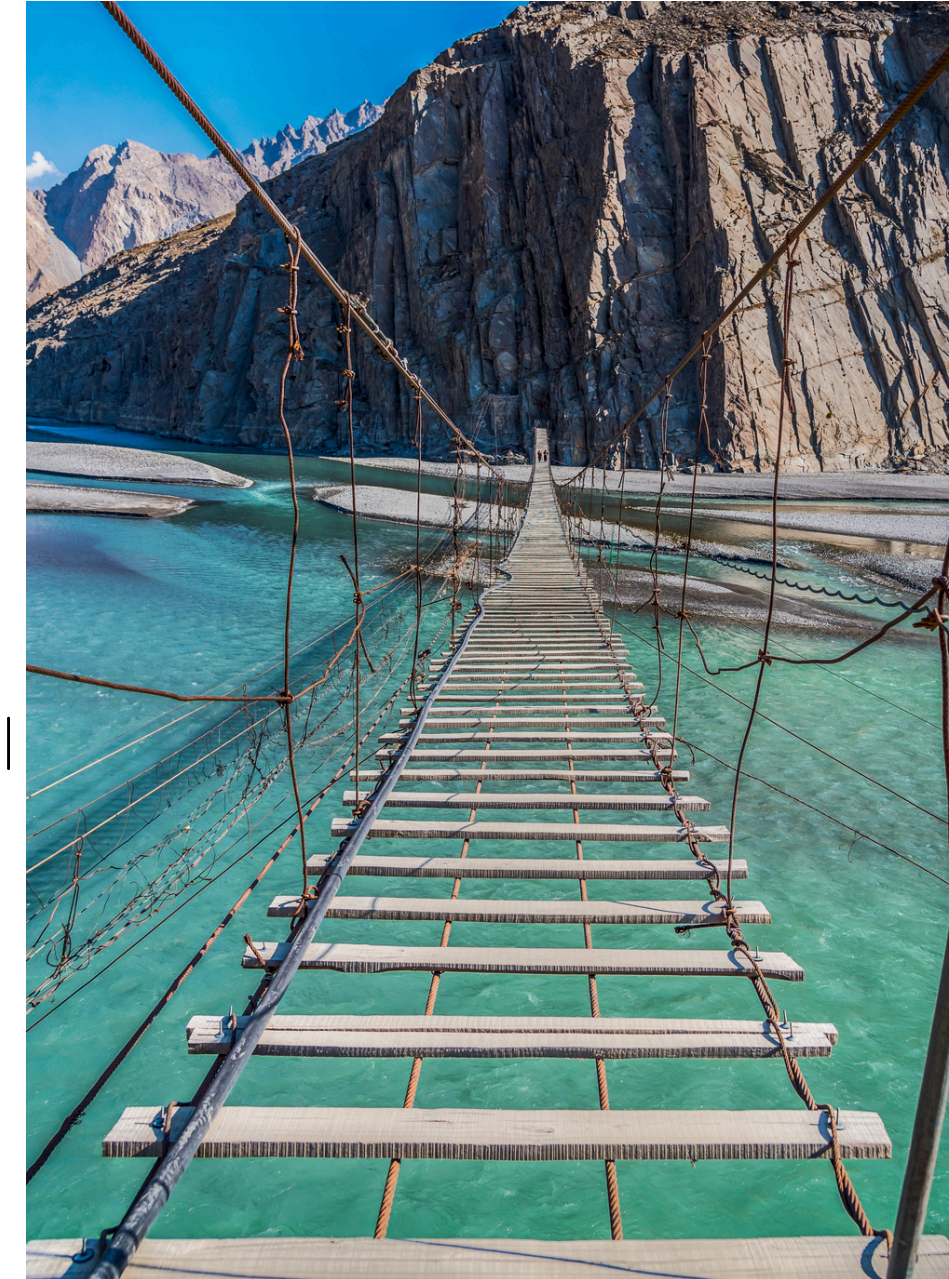


Reading 1 — One wrong step? The Hussaini Suspension Bridge

High in the mountains of northern Pakistan, the Hussaini Suspension Bridge crosses the Hunza River. It is famous for its wooden planks, which leave gaps between them. In some places, the ropes and boards look old and uneven. When you look down, you can see the river far below.

Imagine walking across the bridge on a windy day. The bridge moves slightly, and the wooden boards make strange sounds beneath your feet. You look ahead, but the other side seems very far away. You look down and suddenly feel dizzy.

The bridge is a real crossing used by local people, not just a tourist attraction. Its appearance, however, makes many visitors nervous. Some people cross slowly, holding the ropes tightly. Others decide that the view is wonderful but the crossing is simply too frightening. Would you keep walking, or would you turn back?



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Reading 2 — Above the angry sea: Carrick-a-Rede



By Stuart Yeates from Oxford, UK - Carrick-a-rede rope bridge, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2068473>

On the coast of Northern Ireland, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge connects the mainland with a small rocky island. The bridge hangs about 30 metres above the sea. Below it, waves crash against the dark rocks, and the wind can make the crossing feel even more frightening.

Long ago, fishermen used the bridge to reach the island and catch salmon. Today, visitors come to enjoy the dramatic views and experience the crossing for themselves.

Imagine standing at the entrance. The bridge looks narrow, and the sea is moving wildly below. You take your first step. The ropes move, the wind blows against your face, and you can hear the waves hitting the rocks. You try not to look down, but it is almost impossible. For some people, the walk is exciting. For others, it is a nightmare. The bridge is a reminder that even a short journey can feel like a great adventure when you are high above the sea.

Reading 3 — Walking on Air: Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge



In China's Zhangjiajie Grand Canyon, a glass-bottom bridge offers visitors an unusual experience. The bridge stretches high above a deep canyon, and its transparent floor allows people to see the landscape beneath their feet.

At first, some visitors walk confidently across the glass. They look at the mountains and take photographs. Then they look down. Suddenly, the ground seems very far away, and their legs feel weak. Some people stop moving, while others hold their friends' hands.



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The bridge was designed as a tourist attraction, but for people who are afraid of heights, it can feel like a terrible challenge. Even though the floor is made to support visitors, their minds may tell them that they are about to fall. Some brave visitors enjoy the experience and want to try it again. Others decide that looking at photographs is much better than standing above a canyon. Sometimes, the greatest danger seems to be inside our own heads.

Reading 4 — The Devil's Circle: Rakotzbrücke



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In a quiet park in Kromlau, Germany, there is a strange stone bridge called Rakotzbrücke. People often call it the Devil's Bridge because its reflection in the water creates an almost perfect circle. On a still day, it looks like a dark doorway leading to another world.

The bridge was built in the nineteenth century. Its unusual design and mysterious appearance helped create local legends. According to one popular story, the Devil helped build it. Such stories are folklore, but they make the place even more interesting.

Imagine visiting the bridge on a cold autumn morning. Mist covers the lake, the trees are silent, and the dark circle appears in the water. You cannot see what lies on the other side of the arch. For a moment, you might wonder whether the stories are true. The bridge is not frightening because it is especially high or dangerous to look at. It is frightening because it makes an ordinary place feel mysterious. Sometimes, imagination can be more powerful than danger.

Reading 5 — The Forgotten Crossing: Ojuela Bridge



In the dry landscape of Durango, Mexico, the Ojuela Bridge crosses a deep canyon near an old mining settlement. The bridge was built in the nineteenth century to connect the mining town with the surrounding area. Today, it is a historic attraction.

The bridge is long and narrow, and the canyon below looks enormous. Nearby, old buildings remind visitors of the people who once worked in the mines. The settlement is much quieter than it was in the past, and the empty landscape gives the place a lonely feeling.



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Imagine walking across the bridge late in the afternoon. The wind blows through the ropes, and the boards seem to move beneath your feet. Far below, the rocks look tiny. Behind you, the old mining buildings stand in the fading light. Nothing supernatural needs to happen to make this place feel eerie. Its history, height and silence are enough. You might enjoy exploring it in daylight, but would you feel comfortable being there after dark?

Comprehension — choose the correct answer



1. What makes the Hussaini Suspension Bridge frightening to many visitors?

- A. It is hidden inside a dark forest.
- B. It has gaps between its wooden planks.
- C. It is made entirely of glass.

3. What makes the Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge especially frightening?

- A. It is surrounded by dangerous animals.
- B. It moves over a river during storms.
- C. Visitors can see the canyon through the floor.

2. Why did fishermen use Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge?

- A. To reach an island and catch salmon.
- B. To visit an old mining town.
- C. To cross a desert.

4. Why is Rakotzbrücke called the Devil's Bridge?

- A. It was built by the Devil, according to historical records.
- B. Its unusual appearance inspired supernatural legends.
- C. Many people have disappeared near it.

5. What makes Ojuela Bridge feel eerie?

- A. Its connection to an old mining settlement and its lonely surroundings.
- B. Its transparent floor and modern design.
- C. Its location beside a busy city.



Speaking/Writing — An eerie accident



Imagine that something strange or frightening has happened on a bridge. You are a journalist, and you must write a short news report about the incident. Your story can describe a real accident, a mysterious event or something completely unexplained. You can be creative, but your report should sound like a news story.

Choose your story

- A tourist disappears while crossing a bridge.
- A bridge suddenly starts shaking, although there is no wind.
- A strange figure is seen standing under a bridge at midnight.
- A wooden plank breaks while a group of tourists is crossing.
- A driver sees mysterious lights above a bridge.
- People hear strange sounds coming from an abandoned bridge.
- Create your own eerie event!

Writing checklist:

- Give your report an interesting headline.
- Explain where the incident happened.
- Say when it happened: yesterday, last night, early this morning, etc.
- Introduce the people involved.
- Describe what happened, step by step.
- Include one or two frightening details: darkness, fog, wind, strange sounds or a shaking bridge.
- Explain how the people felt or reacted.
- Say what happened in the end.
- Add a final mysterious detail or an unanswered question.

Would you rather...?



Choose one option for each question and explain your answer. There are no right or wrong answers!

- 1....cross a very high suspension bridge or walk across a glass bridge?
- 2....cross a bridge during a terrible storm or in thick fog at night?
- 3....walk across a bridge that shakes in the wind or one that has small gaps between the wooden planks?
- 4....visit a mysterious bridge with a dark legend or an abandoned bridge in the middle of a forest?
- 5....cross a bridge over a deep canyon or over a wild river full of rocks?
- 6....cross a bridge alone at midnight or with a group of strangers during a storm?
- 7....visit the world's highest bridge or the world's oldest bridge?
- 8....cross a bridge that is 100 metres long and very narrow or 1 kilometre long but very wide?
- 9....see a strange shadow under a bridge or hear mysterious footsteps behind you while crossing it?



Would you rather...?



10....cross a bridge that looks dangerous but is safe or one that looks completely safe but makes strange noises?

11....cross a bridge with a friend who is terrified or with a friend who keeps telling scary stories?

12....discover a hidden bridge that nobody knows about or a famous bridge with a mysterious history?

13....spend one night in a house next to a haunted bridge or one night in an abandoned train station next to a river?

14....cross every bridge without looking down or look down every five steps?

15....build a bridge made of glass or a bridge made of old wooden planks?



Answer key



Vocabulary match:

- 1.D
- 2.G
- 3.F
- 4.A
- 5.C
- 6.B
- 7.E
- 8.H

Vocabulary questions:

- 1.narrow
- 2.gap
- 3.cliff
- 4.dizzy
- 5.canyon
- 6.eerie
- 7.fear
- 8.shake

Quiz

- 1.B
- 2.A
- 3.C
- 4.B
- 5.A



Sources:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussaini_Suspension_Bridge
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carrick-a-Rede_Rope_Bridge
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhangjiajie_Glass_Bridge
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ojuela_Bridge
- <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rakotzbr%C3%BCcke>

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