

A2-B1 English Worksheet

Unwanted Gifts: The Stress of Giving and Receiving Presents

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Article

Receiving presents is not always a pleasure. A recent Washington Post article explains why an unwanted gift can cause disappointment or guilt. You might receive clothes you dislike or something you already own. Although you want to be polite, pretending to love it can feel stressful. The giver might feel hurt.

Experts recommend thanking someone for the kind thought behind a gift. You can be honest without saying you dislike it. They advise people not to judge a giver's intentions too quickly. A poor choice does not always mean the person wanted to hurt you. Sometimes it was simply a mistake.

After receiving a present, you are free to keep it, exchange it or donate it. You do not need to store unwanted objects forever. If a gift seems deliberately insulting, you can discuss your feelings privately at another time. Thoughtful communication can protect friendships and family relationships.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

No.	Statement	T / F
1	An unsuitable present can make a person feel sad or guilty.	
2	The experts suggest that people should claim to love every present.	
3	A disappointing gift always means the giver wanted to be unkind.	
4	It is possible to thank the giver without praising the gift itself.	
5	People can choose to donate a present they do not want.	
6	Unwanted objects must be stored at home permanently.	
7	A hurtful present should immediately be criticised in front of others.	
8	A private discussion may help preserve a personal relationship.	

Synonym Match

Match each word (1-10) to a synonym (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. unwanted	A. worrying
2. disappointment	B. retain
3. polite	C. dissatisfaction
4. stressful	D. rapidly
5. honest	E. offensive
6. quickly	F. unwelcome
7. choice	G. intentionally
8. keep	H. truthful
9. deliberately	I. decision
10. insulting	J. courteous

Use the New Language

Choose 5 words from Synonym Match and write your own sentences.

No.	Your sentence
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Discussion Questions

Student A	Student B
1. What is the best present you have ever received, and why?	1. Is a thoughtful present better than an expensive one?
2. Have you ever been given something you did not want? What did you say?	2. Is it wrong to pretend that you like a present?
3. Who is hardest to buy presents for?	3. Should you ask someone before giving them a large piece of furniture?
4. Do you enjoy getting surprise presents?	4. How do gift-giving rules differ by culture?
5. Have you ever given someone a bad gift?	5. Is giving an unwanted present away rude?
6. What is a typical birthday gift in your country?	6. Can expensive gifts put pressure on people?
7. Have you ever exchanged or donated a present?	7. Do gift lists make celebrations less special?
8. Would you rather receive a meal out or something you can keep?	8. Do people buy too many presents during holidays and celebrations?

Answer Key

True/False

1=T, 2=F, 3=F, 4=T, 5=T, 6=F, 7=F, 8=T

Synonym Match

1=F, 2=C, 3=J, 4=A, 5=H, 6=D, 7=I, 8=B, 9=G, 10=E

Example Sentences With the Words

No.	Example sentence
1	The unwanted present stayed in the cupboard for months.
2	He tried to hide his disappointment when he opened the box.
3	It is polite to thank someone for thinking of you.
4	Choosing presents for ten relatives can be stressful.
5	She gave an honest answer without being unkind.
6	Do not decide too quickly that a gift was meant to offend you.
7	He made a thoughtful choice when he bought her favourite book.
8	You can keep the present even if you rarely use it.
9	She did not deliberately choose the wrong size.
10	An insulting present can damage a friendship.