
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Take Away English 随身英语

Christmas gift alternatives

不一样的圣诞礼物



Vocabulary: gifts 词汇: 礼物

It's that time of year when many of us spend money buying gifts for family and friends. We spend hours, even days, searching the shops and websites trying to find the right present for someone - a pair of socks, perfume, a new gadget – only to find the **recipient** already has it or they've been given it already. Or worse, they just don't like it, which makes me think, "Are we wasting our time and money?"

There is so much stuff in the world already and so much waste that maybe when it comes to Christmas giving, we need to **think outside the box** – use our imagination and be more creative with our **generosity**. This is particularly true for children, who tend to receive mountains of toys some of which end up not even being looked at. One idea is to **implement** a 'one-gift' rule so that children don't grow up **spoiled**. Getting too many gifts can also send out the wrong message. Speaking to BBC online, clinical psychologist Linda Blair says, "When we are given a lot, we expect to receive a lot... even if it's only at Christmas and on birthdays, it will impact on children's attitudes." She also suggests, "If you want to give a gift, give your time".

She makes a good point - for children and adults alike, when it comes to giving, think about offering something other than a **material object** that may get forgotten, discarded or **re-gifted**. Buying an **experience** is one alternative - a chance for someone to try something out and do something different. It will cost you money, but for the recipient it could be an opportunity to try something they could not normally afford or would not have thought about doing. It would therefore be **memorable** and, hopefully, much **appreciated**.

Another **practical** gift could be to buy someone lessons, giving them a chance to learn new skills such as horse riding or learning English. And there are what are called '**favours**' – **money-can't-buy** offerings to do jobs for someone like babysitting, cleaning or giving someone a massage. And there is always the **fallback** of giving **vouchers** to spend in a shop.

Of course, if you can't think of an **original** way to give a gift, the alternative is to not buy anything at all. You may be accused of being a '**Scrooge**' but at least you're not wasting money on **pointless** gifts and you could give the money to charity instead – a more **worthy cause**. But if this year, you receive a present that's not to your liking don't be ungrateful and remember the age-old saying that '**it's the thought that counts**'.

词汇表

recipient	收礼人
to think outside the box	跳出传统的思维框架
generosity	慷慨，大方
implement	实施，实行
spoiled	宠坏了的
material object	实质的物品
re-gift	将收到的礼物转赠给他人
experience	体验型礼品
memorable	难忘的
appreciated	受喜爱的
practical	实用的
favour	帮助，善意行为
money-can't-buy	金钱买不到的（东西）
fallback	应变的，退一补的
voucher	代金券，票券
original	独创的，新颖的
Scrooge	吝啬鬼
pointless	空洞、无意义的
worthy cause	有价值的事情
it's the thought that counts	情意更重要

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Why can getting too many gifts send out the wrong message?
2. How much does it cost to buy 'a favour'?
3. True or false? *An experience is something you have to share with someone.*
4. Why might giving money to charity be a good idea at Christmas?
5. Which word used in the article, means 'thrown away because it's no longer wanted'?

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I was impressed by his _____ when he offered to buy us all dinner at a top-quality restaurant.

generous	generosity	genius	generosing
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2. We're going mountain walking so we need to wear clothes that are _____ rather than fashionable.

memorable	spoiled	practical	original
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3. If my car doesn't start in the morning, we can use the train as a _____ to get to the airport.

fallback	experience	favour	worthy cause
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4. He only bought me a small gift for my birthday, but it's the _____ that counts.

thoughts	thinking	though	thought
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5. Everyone's buying the usual wedding presents but I want to buy something _____.

pointless	re-gifted	generosity	original
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. Why can getting too many gifts send out the wrong message?

According to clinical psychologist Linda Blair, when we are given a lot, we expect to receive a lot – so we get used to getting lots of gifts.

2. How much does it cost to buy 'a favour'?

Nothing. A favour involves you offering to do something for someone for free.

3. True or false? *An experience is something you have to share with someone.*

False. An experience is something you can buy for someone but you don't necessarily have to do it with them.

4. Why might giving money to charity be a good idea at Christmas?

It means you don't waste your money on buying pointless or unwanted gifts.

5. Which word used in the article, means 'thrown away because it's no longer wanted'?

Discarded

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I was impressed by his **generosity** when he offered to buy us all dinner at a top-quality restaurant.

2. We're going mountain walking so we need to wear clothes that are **practical** rather than fashionable.

3. If my car doesn't start in the morning, we can use the train as a **fallback** to get to the airport.

4. He only bought me a small gift for my birthday, but it's the **thought** that counts.

5. Everyone's buying the usual wedding presents but I want to buy something **original**.