

Gift Giving

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. When do you give gifts to other people?
2. What types of gifts do you like to receive?
3. Do you usually open a gift in front of the gift giver?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| _____ 1. prefer | a) something you do |
| _____ 2. experience | b) to cover in decorative paper |
| _____ 3. cash | c) usual, based on tradition or culture |
| _____ 4. wrap | d) to like better |
| _____ 5. customary | e) something you give to someone, a gift |
| _____ 6. return | f) money |
| _____ 7. present | g) a tiny rock |
| _____ 8. pebble | h) to take back and exchange for money or another item |

Reading

GIFT GIVING

1. Which do you **prefer**, giving or receiving? Do you prefer to give store-bought or handmade gifts? Some people prefer receiving gifts from the heart, such as homemade cookies. Others like gifts of **experience**, like concert tickets. Do you prefer **cash** or gift cards?
2. The culture of gift giving differs around the world. In Japan, it is important to carefully **wrap** a gift. You offer a gift with two hands, and you don't open it in front of the gift giver. In China, it is **customary** to refuse a gift a few times. In contrast, Canadians usually open gifts right away unless they are waiting for a special occasion like Christmas. Throughout North America, people spend a lot of money on Christmas gifts. They also **return** many of the gifts they receive.
3. Do you know any famous gift-giving stories? In 1885, the French gifted the Statue of Liberty to the US to strengthen their friendship. After World War II, the Netherlands sent Canada 100,000 tulip bulbs as a thank-you gift for being a good friend.* In 1972, China gifted the US a pair of giant panda bears after a visit from President Nixon. The US couldn't refuse that **present**!
4. Animals are gift givers too. Does your dog greet you at the door with a running shoe? Maybe your cat likes to gift you with mice! In the wild, animals often gift food to their family members or mates. Penguins offer each other **pebbles** to show their love.



*The Gift of Tulips

The tulip bulbs were a thank-you gift to Canada for helping free the Netherlands during World War II and for giving Dutch Princess Juliana and her two daughters a safe place to live. This gift became a tradition. The Dutch continue to send 20,000 bulbs to Ottawa each year!

Word Forms

The word **gift** can be used as a noun (*a thing you give someone*) or a verb (*to give a gift*).

- I have to go to the store to buy a gift.
- We gifted our friends with homemade jam.

The word **present** is also a *noun* or a *verb*. As a noun, *present* is a synonym of *gift*. As a verb, *present* is more formal and usually used with awards or achievements.

- The baby received so many presents this Christmas.
- We presented the winner with a trophy.

Comprehension

A. Questions

Discuss these questions in pairs and circle the correct answer.

1. What opening question does the reader have to think about?
 - a) which type of gift they prefer
 - b) whether they prefer to give or receive gifts
 - c) whether they like cash or credit cards

2. How does the act of receiving a gift differ in Japan and Canada?
 - a) In Japan, unlike in Canada, you usually open a gift in front of the gift giver.
 - b) In Canada, unlike in Japan, you usually open a gift in front of the gift giver.
 - c) In Japan, you usually don't receive wrapped gifts as you do in Canada.

3. According to the reading, what do many North Americans do with their Christmas gifts?
 - a) They often return the gifts they receive.
 - b) They usually make them by hand.
 - c) They often wait until the gift giver is gone to open them.

4. Why did France gift the Statue of Liberty to the US?
 - a) to strengthen their friendship
 - b) to thank them for their war efforts
 - c) to symbolize freedom

5. Why does the reading mention pets?
 - a) to show that pets do not make good gifts
 - b) to show that animals are gift givers too
 - c) to give an example of gift giving in Japan

Thank you!

It is important to say thank you for any gift you receive. A thank-you message can be in person, by phone or text, in an email, or with a little card. If you're the gift giver, don't forget to respond.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you so much! • You shouldn't have. • That's so sweet. • I really appreciate it. • You're so kind! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You're welcome. • No problem. • I'm glad you like it. • You deserve it. • Enjoy! |
|---|--|

B. Sorting

Look at the topics. Which paragraph in the reading does each one belong to?

- _____ A. Humans aren't the only gift givers.
- _____ B. Gift giving is cultural.
- _____ C. Countries often gift each other big gifts.
- _____ D. People prefer giving and receiving different types of gifts.

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Use words from page 1 to complete the sentences.

1. I _____ cash to gift cards.
2. We need to buy a _____ for the new baby.
3. It is _____ to bring a small gift to a party in Canada.
4. Thank you for the tickets! The hockey game was such a fun _____.
5. I need to stop walking for a second. There is a _____ in my shoe.

B. Opposites

Circle the word or phrase that means the **opposite** of each word from the reading.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1. refuse
a) return
b) accept
c) wrap | 3. receive
a) give
b) love
c) thank | 5. return
a) use
b) buy
c) take |
| 2. homemade
a) gifted
b) handmade
c) store-bought | 4. customary
a) expensive
b) odd
c) usual | 6. wrap
a) greet
b) spend
c) open |

Grammar Review

PREFER

A. Grammar Notes

Prefer is a verb that means “to like better.” Note the use of *to*, *over*, and *or* in some of the following patterns.

Form	Examples
prefer + noun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I prefer gift cards. • She prefers gift cards to cash. • We prefer homemade gifts over store-bought gifts.
prefer + gerund/infinitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He prefers giving to receiving. • Do you prefer buying or making gifts? • Do you prefer to buy your own gift or to buy a group gift?

B. Grammar Practice

Use the words from the box to complete the sentences.
Each word can only be used once.

1. I _____ cash to gift cards.
2. Do you prefer _____ or receiving gifts?
3. We prefer _____ make a donation.
4. She _____ candles over soap.
5. Penguins prefer to _____ pebbles.

Word List:

- to
- prefers
- prefer
- giving
- gift

Discussion

1. What is the best gift you have ever received?
2. Why is it often difficult to find the right gift?
3. What do you do when you receive a gift that you don't like or need?
4. Do you prefer to make a wish list or to receive surprises as gifts?
5. Is a gift card a good gift? Why or why not? What about a pet?

Gift-Giving Game

WHICH DO YOU PREFER?

Think of a gift idea. Write the word down on a small piece of paper and give the "gift" to your teacher. Your teacher will put the gift ideas into a box.

Take turns choosing two "gifts" from the box. Give the "gifts" to someone in your class. Ask the person who receives the gifts which they prefer? Remember to say thank you.

Ex. gift card, new puppy

- Student A (gift giver): Which do you prefer, a \$100 gift card or a new puppy?
- Student B (receiver): I prefer a new puppy to a gift card! Thank you.
- Student A: You're welcome!

Repeat until every student has a gift. Now, does anyone want to return their gift? Does anyone want to exchange gifts?

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

GIFT GIVING

1. Which do you _____, giving or receiving? Do you prefer to give store-bought or handmade gifts? Some people prefer receiving gifts from the heart, such as homemade cookies. Others like gifts of experience, like concert tickets. Do you prefer _____ or gift cards?
2. The culture of gift giving differs around the world. In Japan, it is important to carefully _____ a gift. You offer a gift with two hands, and you don't open it in front of the gift giver. In China, it is customary to refuse a gift a few times. In contrast, Canadians usually open gifts right away unless they are waiting for a special occasion like Christmas. Throughout North America, people spend a lot of money on Christmas gifts. They also _____ many of the gifts they receive.
3. Do you know any famous gift-giving stories? In 1885, the French _____ the Statue of Liberty to the US to strengthen their friendship. After World War II, the Netherlands sent Canada 100,000 tulip bulbs as a thank-you gift for being a good friend. In 1972, China gifted the US a pair of giant panda bears after a visit from President Nixon. The US couldn't refuse that _____ !
4. Animals are gift givers too. Does your dog greet you at the door with a running shoe? Maybe your cat likes to gift you with mice! In the wild, _____ often gift food to their family members or mates. Penguins offer each other _____ to show their love.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read about and discuss gift giving. They also learn basic grammar to describe their preferences related to gifts. Includes a “gift-giving” game.

LEVEL: Low Int – Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, gifts, gift giving, giving, receiving, Christmas, culture, prefer, preferences

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. d | 3. f | 5. c | 7. e |
| 2. a | 4. b | 6. h | 8. g |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 7. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with. Discuss how the word *gift* can be used as both a verb and a noun. Then explore the synonym *present*.

Knowledge Stretch: Challenge your higher-level learners to do some more research about the famous gift-giving examples from paragraph 3. Students can share what they learned.

Comprehension

A. QUESTIONS

1. b 2. b 3. a 4. a 5. b

B. SORTING

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

Vocabulary Review

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. prefer | 3. customary | 5. pebble |
| 2. present | 4. experience | |

B. OPPOSITES

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. c

Grammar Review

Go over the grammar notes. Students will practice the target again in the group activity on page 6.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------|
| 1. prefer | 3. to | 5. gift |
| 2. giving | 4. prefers | |

(continued on the next page...)

Answer Key cont.

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Gift-Giving Game

You will need a box (consider a wrapped gift box). Each student will need a blank slip of paper. Have your students follow the instructions in the lesson. Then facilitate the follow-up questions.

Listening

1. prefer, cash
2. wrap, return
3. gifted, present
4. animals, pebbles