

GIFT GIVING

A popular trend nowadays is to give a friend **an experience** as a gift. It could be rock climbing, skydiving, a spa day or wine tasting. An experience is something we don't easily forget and can share with others, so it is a much better gift than a simple box of chocolates.

Everyone likes getting personal presents made especially for them. Giving a friend a simple **handmade gift** like a decorated photo of the two of you will surely make them happy. You could also order a coffee mug with your friend's favourite picture on it. **A book of coupons** is a good idea, too. It is a list of tasks like cooking a meal or spending an evening together. Your friend can ask you to do them any time they want.

It is more and more common to ask for **a charity donation** as a gift. Tell your family and friends you don't want a bouquet of flowers you will throw out after a couple of days, but ask them to donate money, for example to a hospital. Donations can also be a good idea for **gift swapping games** like Secret Santa, where each member of a group gets the name of another member, but it is a secret who got who. People then put all the gifts in one place and nobody knows who their present is from.

When it comes to weddings, it is popular to make **a gift list**, which is a list of presents the couple want to receive. This way they won't get something they don't need. Giving **cash** is also common at weddings, as people who get married often need money for the wedding party or a new home.

Which of the ideas from the text (in bold) is/are:

- A. good if you don't want to get things you don't need?
- B. something you will remember for a long time?
- C. good for groups of people?
- D. presents you can share with others?
- E. something very personal?
- F. a great idea if you are starting a new life?

A
B
C
D
E
F

- Do you like the idea of giving someone an experience as a gift? Would you like to get one? Why/Why not?
- Have you ever given anyone a handmade gift? What was it? If not, would you like to make a gift for someone?
- What is your opinion of gift lists and giving people cash?
- Would you ask your friends for a charity donation as a birthday gift for you? Why/Why not?
- Have you ever played a gift swapping game? What did you give and receive? Do you know who your present was from?