

Meet Dominic.

*A man of character, Dominic has a lot of personality but it is not in his nature to be ungrateful or plain rude. A single man in his late 40s, he enjoys his little **quirks**, shrinks from socialising and is no longer looking for his other half.*

Depending on a single source of (well above-average!) income, he can afford to spend his money as he likes, often living beyond his means. At first glance, you can easily spot evidence of his sophisticated taste in high fashion – always the best cut and the richest, finest fabrics. His London residence boasts lavish but tasteful interior design with fine art pieces that cost a fortune, every single one of them. As a great fan of fine dining, he will eat out in the most elegant restaurants on a daily basis, unable to stomach convenience foods and ready meals.

What singles him out from the crowd of his British friends with deep pockets is his aversion to ... tea and technology.

Now, imagine his reaction when he gets these gifts from his workmates at the office Christmas party:

- *a paperback recipe book Microwave Recipes for One*
- *a pair of cheap grey socks*
- *a second-hand non-fiction book on how to use obsolete computer software, with an obsolete floppy disc attached*
- *a white church candle*
- *an ugly-looking brightly-coloured teapot with a matching cup*
- *a flashy bright vintage Hawaiian shirt, made of cheap nylon fabric*

Benedict Cumberbatch Teaches How to React to Bad Xmas Gifts

Microwave	on my own	fake
Title	soft	perfect
Neutral	wrapping	obsolete
Thought	short	unwrap
enthusiasm		

Welcome, I'm Benedict Cumberbatch, and today I'm going to be giving you an acting master class on how to _____ appreciation for a really s*** present.

Present 1

Present No. 1. Love the _____ paper. It's so sparkly. I'm gonna save it for wrapping up next year's presents. It's so noisy too! I love the noise it makes. A book, I love books! _____ recipes for one! It's just very pragmatic. I need this, because I keep on accidentally making microwave recipes for two. This is the _____ gift. Thank you so much. I don't like wasting food because we're running low on resources as a planet so this is incredibly useful...

Now, what I did there was took the _____ and attacked it with positives. Microwave, hate microwave food...just disgusting, takes all the taste out, often the goodness. Recipe, nothing wrong with recipes...for one, I mean c'mon, what are you saying? I'm going to be _____ all my life so I'm going to have to use a recipe for one person?

Present 2

Okay, this is present no. 2, I'm very excited...oh, it feels so _____. Oh no, really...because, I can't get enough of socks! These are, so useful. And you know this is my favorite color. I've worn through the ones you gave me two years ago so this is the _____ replacement gift...

So, I overdid it there but I actually do like socks, so that's probably why. There was probably some genuine _____ there. Always turn it to enthusiasm...

Present 3:

Oh, you shouldn't have. This is huge, it's so heavy. Wow, it's really hard. I love presents that are hard to _____ because it just makes it more satisfying when you eventually do. You do like your cellotape, don't you!

Oh my goodness. It's Developing Excel #5 Solutions!... It's brilliant. And it's not a present that anyone would have _____ of but you. Oh, idiot proof. It comes with its own floppy disc, it's fantastic. So good.

Now really what I think of this is that it's good for door-stopping, possibly recycling, or hitting someone with. It's also absolutely _____, it's an outdated mode of anything...

Present 4:

Oh yeah, I love it! This is clever because this is such a _____ color it will literally go anywhere. Aw, thank you for thinking of that. I love that.. That's sort of ribbed, actually, that means it's gonna... look at that, it stands on my hand! Can't wait to light this.

Make it _____ and sharp sometimes. Be quick. Get off the present as fast as you can before the insincerity creeps in.