

COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ESCRITOS - TAREA 3 (12 x 0,5 = 6 puntos)

You are going to read a text about Christmas presents. Choose the option (A, B or C) that best fits in gaps 1 to 12. Question 0 has been completed as an example. WRITE YOUR ANSWERS IN THE CORRESPONDING BOX ON THE ANSWER SHEET PROVIDED.

IT'S TIME TO STOP GIVING GIFTS TO ADULTS



One Christmas, years ago, my mother opened a delicate, clear bottle inscribed with tiny blue letters, sprayed it on her wrist, dramatically inhaled, (0) about the refreshing scent, and thanked my cousin's husband for the new perfume. He sheepishly clarified that it was actually cleaning solution for glasses. (He was an optometrist, so the gift kind of made sense - but not really.)

Another time, a different cousin received a travel mug that was already her property; it had been accidentally left at the gift giver's home and (1) at the last minute.

In 2019, my dad, in what turned out to be a(n) (2) pandemic premonition but was just a very strange choice at the time, presented my husband with a bottle of hand sanitiser. That was the same year my mom bought my dad a *Friends* trivia game, because he loves ... *Seinfeld*. Close enough!

I say all this to make it clear that my family is (3) when it comes to holiday presents. And I know we're not alone. Gifts are hard. In the letters I've read for *Slate's Dear Prudence* column this year, there's someone who is (4) because she has forgiven her abusive parents enough to celebrate for them, but not enough to buy for them. There's a woman whose husband demands thousands of dollars of gifts that she can't afford. There's a twentysomething who's mad because she makes a detailed wish list and people still buy her whatever they want, and a letter writer who can't figure out how to get her mother-in-law to stop giving her fox-themed presents.

Anyone can see how ridiculous this all is. So I propose that this year, we just put an end to it. Keep giving children presents, (5) . (They don't have jobs! They can't buy their own stuff! They like almost everything, and often enjoy the box, too! They won't stress themselves out about (6) !) But I honestly believe that adults who have any level of anxiety or angst about presents should just agree to stop exchanging them altogether.

My family has attempted to revise tradition before. Once, in the '90s, my mom tried to implement a no-gifts rule for our extended family. It (7) . That was the year one aunt ignored the new plan, because she was so excited to present another aunt a weight-loss book. When I recently attempted to lower expectations by suggesting a white elephant tradition with two simple guidelines (under \$25 and gender neutral), someone brought a bag of potato chips. Not exactly a violation of the rules, but not quite in the spirit of the event either.

But it feels like time to re-up the effort with new enthusiasm. Imagine holidays (8) the financial anxiety of buying for a long list of relatives, the worry that the gift you give someone won't be equivalent in value to the one you receive, the pressure to come up with ideas for those who don't know how to shop for you, and the (9) of the unwanted items you're left with when people mean well but miss the mark. Imagine if we all just got together to eat, and (10) this ridiculous ritual of spending tons of money and mental energy and not ending up with much we actually want.

If you must give something, agree to keep it simple: a little something consumable or small that is about the warm gesture, not the result of the detective work of __(11)___ what other adults with their own credit cards would have bought for themselves. A coffee mug or baked good is perfectly fine. But nobody over 18 should be making or shopping from lists of shoes and electronics.

Take the money you save and buy yourself something nice in the new year. Or put it in an envelope for your children's teachers or a charity. If it's too late to cancel gifts for this Christmas, now is a great time to announce to your family that you've had enough and make the case for __(12)___ the whole tradition for good. That may very well be the best gift you can give them.

Source: *The Slate* (Jenée Desmond-Harris)

Example:

0.

- A moaned
- B raged
- C **raved ✓**

1.

- A dismissed
- B replaced
- C wrapped up

7.

- A accomplished
- B flopped
- C hit the mark

2.

- A inaccurate
- B recurring
- C uncanny

8.

- A attached to
- B constrained by
- C freed from

3.

- A challenged
- B demanding
- C gifted

9.

- A burden
- B buzz
- C thrill

4.

- A in agony
- B startled
- C willing

10.

- A carried out
- B let go of
- C loosened

5.

- A by all means
- B by and large
- C never mind

11.

- A coming into
- B figuring out
- C getting through

6.

- A etiquette
- B exchanging
- C reciprocating

12.

- A enhancing
- B scrapping
- C upholding