

The Gift of the Magi

O Henry

Della is 21. She is married to Jim. Jim and Della are very poor. Jim works in a shop, and his salary is \$100 a week. Della is a housewife. She cooks, washes and cleans the house.

Jim and Della are very proud of two things. The first thing is Della's hair. She has long beautiful brown hair. Jim **loves** Della's hair.



The second thing is Jim's pocket watch. It was his grandfather's watch, and it is very old and very beautiful. It looks very expensive. It is on a chain.

It is Christmas, and Jim and Della have very little money. Della has \$35 – but what can she buy with that? She wants to buy a new chain for Jim's watch. There is a shop near their house with the perfect chain, but it costs \$110.

She has an idea! She decides to sell her hair! It is long and beautiful. She's going to use the money to buy a Christmas present for Jim.

She walks to the hairdresser's salon and asks him if he wants to buy her hair. The hairdresser looks at her beautiful hair and says that he can give her \$75 for it. Della is scared, but she loves Jim very much. She thinks about the beautiful chain for Jim's watch.

The hairdresser cuts her hair. Now Della's hair is very, very short. It is like a baby's hair. The hairdresser gives Della \$75. She runs to the gift

shop. She is very happy, because the chain is still there. She uses all her money and buys it for Jim.

Jim comes home at 8.00 o'clock in the evening. He is very tired. He opens the door, and stares at Della. He doesn't say a word. He has a strange expression on his face.

Della is scared. She runs to him and says, "Oh Jim, don't worry! It's only hair! My hair grows very fast! Do you still love me? I cut my hair to buy a present for you." She gives Jim a box and says, "Open your present, Jim!"

Jim takes the box. He opens it and stares at the chain in his hand.

"It's a chain for your watch, Jim," Della says. "Do you like it? Put your watch on the new chain! I want to see how it looks!"

Jim laughs and hugs Della. "I love you, Della," he says. "I don't care if you have short hair or long hair. I have a present for you too."

Della opens her present. It is a pair of combs for



long hair. But now Della can't use the combs, because her hair is short. Della hugs Jim and says, "Thank you, Jim! My hair will be long again very soon. Why don't you put your watch on the new chain?"

Jim says, "I don't have my watch now, Della. I sold it to buy the combs for your hair."

was = pasado del verbo BE

I don't care = No me importa

sold = pasado del verbo SELL

Circle True or False.

1. Della is Jim's husband.	True	False
2. Jim's salary is \$100 a week.	True	False
3. Della wants to buy Jim an Easter present.	True	False
4. The hairdresser sells Della's hair.	True	False
5. Della buys Jim a chain for his watch.	True	False
6. Jim doesn't like Della's short hair.	True	False
7. Jim sold his watch to buy the chain.	True	False
8. Jim and Della love each other.	True	False

The Gift of the Magi Exercise: Write one word in each sentence.

1. There are _____ people in the story.
2. Jim and Della are a _____. (pareja)
3. Jim and Della are _____. (casados)
4. Jim is Della's _____.
5. Della is Jim's _____.
6. Della is proud of her beautiful _____.
7. Jim is proud of his old _____.
8. Della wants to _____ a Christmas present for Jim.
9. Della _____ a chain in a shop, but it is very expensive.
10. The chain _____ \$110, but Della _____ only \$35.
11. She decides to _____ her beautiful hair for \$75.
12. When Jim sees his present for the first _____, he says nothing..
13. Della thinks that Jim is angry with her, _____ he isn't.
14. Jim _____ have his watch now, because he sold it to buy a present for Della.