ESSAY

1. Complete the text with these words:

although however in general on the one hand
on the other hand overall to sum up

....., we don't remember most of the presents we receive because we get so many, especially at Christmas. There's so much pressure to buy everyone a present. So alst year, my family tried something different- we would be matched with one person at the beginning of the year and we would only buy presents for the that person. And we weren't allowed to send cards. I wasn't sure how I felt about that because, ..., I like getting birthday cards, but ....., I think they are a waste of money.

..... I have a big family, I hardly ever see some of them, so I was a bit worried about who I would get. It was my aunt Monica. I wasn't too pleased, because she always gives bad presents to everyone and is usually very critical about what she receives. ....., to my surprise, she didn't complain about any of my presents.

....., most people were pleased with their presents.

....., reducing present-giving was a very positive experience and we're doing it again this year!

2. Look at the linking words and phrases from activity 1 again. Are they contrasting or summarizing? Choose the correct answer.

1. although: .....

2. however: .....

3. in general: .....

4. on the one hand: .....

5. on the other hand: .....

6. overall: .....

7. to sum up: .....

3. Match the sentences (1–5) with the contrasting statements (A–E) and join them with these linking words: although, however (x2), but, on the other hand.

A We had a wonderful time together.

B She was really pleased with it.

C I knew someone else would appreciate it more than me.

D She has as much fun jumping in puddles

E He never comes to family parties

1 My little sister loves playing with toys.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 I felt bad about giving away a gift.

3 We didn't spend any money last Christmas.

4 My uncle always gives us very expensive gifts.

5 The cake we made our mum looked terrible.

4. Read the essay task. Think of some ideas for the third topic.

Task:

In your English class, you have been talking about giving an experience as a gift rather than a physical present. Now your English teacher has asked you to write an essay for homework.

Write your essay using **all** the notes and giving reasons for your point of view.

Some people prefer to give experiences as gifts rather than actual presents. What things would you need to think about when choosing an experience for a family member or friend?

Notes

Write about:

- flying lessons
- a ticket to a concert
- _____ (your own idea)

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