

Act like you love it!

(LEVEL B2/C1)

EX.1. Look at the pictures below showing some ideas for Christmas gifts. Have you ever received any of them? Which ones would you consider the worst? Compare your ideas with a partner.



Source: <http://pexels.com>

EX.2.a Look at the table below and try to match the gifts with the ways to react upon receiving them. Then watch the video with Benedict Cumberbatch showing how to accept a bad gift (Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vp3tDKfu5Q>) and check your answers.

a cooking book: „Microwave recipes for one”	„It's brilliant and it's a present no one would've thought of but you! I love it!”
black socks	„This is clever because this is such a neutral colour it will literally go anywhere. Aww thank you for thinking of that!”
„Developing Excell 5 Solutions” + a floppy disc	„That's terrific cos it will scare the neighbours and keep everybody away. It's wonderful, I love it!”
a white candle	„This is so unique! I don't think I have ever seen anything like this! This is extraordinary ! I love it!”
a teapot	„It's just very pragmatic . (...) I don't like wasting food because we're running low on resources as a planet.”
a loud shirt	„These are so useful and you know this is my favourite colour and I've worn through the ones you gave me two years ago. This is a perfect replacement gift thank you so much!”

EX.2.b. Now watch the video again and write down some more ideas of what you should do or say to pretend you love an awful present.

EX.3.a Now focus on the highlighted expressions. With your partner try to guess their meaning from the context.

PRACTICE + SPEAKING

EX.4. Discuss the following questions with your partner. Make sure you use the new vocabulary as often as possible.

1. What was the most *extraordinary* gift you've ever received?
2. Are you *pragmatic* when choosing Christmas gifts to buy?
3. Would you ever wear a *loud shirt*?
4. What would you consider to be the best *replacement* present for yourself?
5. What items of clothing do you usually *wear through*?

EX.5. Go back to the pictures from EX.1. And think of how you would react if you received any of them. Role-play some possible dialogues with your partner and try to act like you love them;) Use some of the Benedict's ideas as well as your own.

Here are some useful expressions from the video that may help you:

„You shouldn't have!” „This is terrific, I love it” „Aww thank you for thinking of that!”
„This is so unique!” „I can't get enough of these!”

KEY (EX.2.a):

a cooking book: „Microwave recipes for one”	„It's just very pragmatic . (...) I don't like wasting food because we're running low on resources as a planet.”
black socks	„These are so useful and you know this is my favourite colour and I've worn through the ones you gave me two years ago. This is a perfect replacement gift thank you so much!”
„Developing Excell 5 Solutions” + a floppy disc	„It's brilliant and it's a present no one would've thought of but you! I love it!”
a white candle	„This is clever because this is such a neutral colour it will literally go anywhere. Aww thank you for thinking of that!”
a teapot	„This is so unique! I don't think I have ever seen anything like this! This is extraordinary ! I love it!”
a loud shirt	„That's terrific cos it will scare the neighbours and keep everybody away. It's wonderful, I love it!”

EX.2.b. Now watch the video again and write down what you should do or say to pretend you love an awful present.

Examples: take the title of a book and attack it with positives, always be enthusiastic, make it short and sharp, get off the present as fast you can before insincerity starts to creep in or you overdo it, always reassure the present giver, sometimes it's good to be completely honest, you have to be careful about people's intentions