

## The Christmas gift experiment

### Topic

Giving and receiving

### Learning outcomes

- Use new and known language to predict what happens in a video.
- Use creativity and analysis to predict unknown facts.
- Develop fluency skills by discussing ideas related to giving and receiving presents.

### Age and level

13-17, Adults (B2)

### Time

Approximately 55-70 minutes

### Materials

- Student worksheet OR presentation
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4f4Ve-fuuZQ>


### Introduction

This lesson plan for teenagers of all ages and adults uses a short two-minute video to look at the concept of giving and receiving gifts at Christmas. The video focuses on people at a train station, who are given a present but then told that it is not for them.

Before watching the video, students are given the title of the video and asked to predict what the Christmas gift experiment might be. The activities in the plan take them through the video in two stages, with different expressions for prediction introduced, and thinking time given to allow students to formulate

their ideas. The final activity asks students to write about a present they would like to receive and to guess what they think one of their classmates would like to receive. Students then act out the scene in the video where people are given a gift from someone they don't know.

## Procedure

<p><b>Introduction to the theme</b> (10 mins)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display <b>slide 1</b> of the presentation or write the following on the board: The Christmas gift experiment.</li> <li>• Explain to your students that they are going to watch a short video with the title 'The Christmas gift experiment'. Ask them to spend a few minutes on their own to think about what the experiment might be and to write their ideas.</li> <li>• With groups who are not used to this type of predicting activity, you could write the following words on the board and tell them that all of them feature in the video: a giant gift, a telephone, a train station, people running, Santa Claus</li> <li>• After a few minutes, ask students to share their ideas with a partner and then conduct feedback as a class. Accept any ideas and write them on the board.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Watching part 1 of the video</b> (5 mins)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show <b>slide 2</b> of the presentation or go to <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4f4Ve-fuuZQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4f4Ve-fuuZQ</a>. If your students have smartphones with a data connection and you don't have a computer or a projector in your classroom, you can ask them to access the video in this way.</li> <li>• As a class, watch the video up to <b>00:38 seconds</b> (just before Santa says 'One thing...'). <b>IMPORTANT:</b> make sure students don't watch past this point. Pause the video or ask students to pause the video at 00.38 seconds.</li> <li>• Check that students understand the concept of the video: Passengers at a train station answer a phone and talk to 'Santa'. Santa asks, 'Would you like a little pressie (present) for your Christmas?' People say 'Yes' and presents drop.</li> <li>• Discuss with them how similar or different their ideas were to the video.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The video transcript is available as an <b>appendix</b> to the lesson plan.</p> 
<p><b>Language focus – lexis for predictions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the board, write the following two statements:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It's going to snow on Christmas Day.</li> <li>- People will buy more Christmas presents online in the future.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

(20 mins)

- Elicit or explain what the function of the two statements is. Elicit or explain that we can use both 'be going to' + infinitive and 'will' + infinitive to make predictions about the future.
- Ask students to make one or two predictions about the rest of the video using 'be going to' or 'will'. Write the sentences on the board and correct any problems with using the structures. Example: There will be nothing inside the presents.
- Ask students to work alone or in pairs to write three or four more sentences predicting what they think will / is going to happen in the video. Give a maximum time-limit of 5 minutes.
- After 5 minutes, ask students to share their ideas with another student or pair to see how similar or different their ideas were.
- Show **slide 3** of the presentation. Alternatively, give out copies of the **student worksheet** or display it on a projector. Refer students to activity 1.
- Explain to students that there are several expressions, or chunks of lexis that can be used to express certainty or uncertainty when making predictions.
- Show them the example and explain that they should read the 10 statements and decide if they are used to express certainty, uncertainty or something in between the two.  
  
Check the answers with the class and focus on any statements that several students got wrong. Answers are given below but other interpretations are possible. You or students may disagree. Ask students to justify other interpretations.  
  
Answers: 1 (in between, somewhat certain); 2 (not certain); 3 (in between); 4 (in between, somewhat certain); 5 (certain); 6 (not certain); 7 (in between, somewhat certain); 8 (in between, somewhat certain); 9 (certain); 10 (in between)
- Refer students to the predictions you wrote on the board about the video. With the class, rewrite the sentences using some of the expressions on slide 3 or the worksheet to give examples of how they are used. Example: I'm guessing that there'll be nothing inside the presents.
- Ask the students to go back to the original sentences they wrote and to rewrite them using some of the expressions from the worksheet. Walk around as they

	<p>do this and help with any problems. Remind them that they should use an infinitive verb after 'be going to', 'will' and 'might'.</p>
<p><b>Watching part 2 of the video (10-15 mins)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play the rest of the video. It is also available on <b>slide 4</b> of the presentation. In pairs or small groups, students compare their predictions with what actually happens. Ask if anyone predicted anything correctly.</li> <li>• Ask students to say what the Christmas gift experiment is in this video. Suggestion: To see if people will give presents to others and not keep them.</li> <li>• Show <b>slide 5</b> of the presentation or refer students to activity 2 in the <b>student worksheet</b>. Ask the class to read the comments about the video. In pairs, small groups or as a whole class, students say if they agree.</li> <li>• Ask students to briefly respond to one of the comments, or to write a different comment. Invite some students to share their responses / comments with the class.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Extension (10-15 mins)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write on the board: What gift would you like to receive?</li> <li>• Tell students to write about a gift they would like to receive. They should write their name, the gift they would like and a brief explanation about why they would like it. Collect the pieces of paper from each student. For variety, you could give them a list of items that they are <b>not</b> allowed to include, e.g. a new mobile phone, PlayStation, etc. or something that is currently popular in your country.</li> <li>• Allocate a partner to each student. You can decide whether this is someone in the class that they don't know very well outside the class.</li> <li>• Tell them to predict and write down what they think their partner would like to receive as a gift.</li> <li>• Ask the class to stand up and find their partner. They should re-enact the video by going over to their partner and saying what they bought them.</li> <li>• Together, check how many of the predicted gifts matched what the students said they would like.</li> </ul>

**Contributed by**

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**Appendix: Video transcript**

**Woman:** Yes, yes, yes ... I'm here to make your day!

*5 minutes earlier ...*

**Woman:** Hello?

**Woman:** Hello?

**Woman:** Hello?

**Santa:** Merry Christmas!

**Woman:** Merry Christmas!

**Man:** It's Santa on the phone. Oh, brilliant!

**Santa:** How are you, my dear?

**Woman:** I'm good, Santa.

**Santa:** Marvellous. Would you like a little pressie for your Christmas?

**Woman:** Yeah, I'd like a present.

**Women:** Yes!

**Santa:** One thing, it's not for you.

**Man:** It's not actually for me?

**Woman:** That's not fair.

**Woman:** Why?

**Santa:** Because presents are for giving, not for receiving, wouldn't you agree?

**Woman:** Hee hee!

**Santa:** You could give it to them. It's going to be wonderful! Now, you see that gentleman with the buggy? ... There's a lady with a blue coat ... Look upstairs, you see that gentleman? Chase after him, now ... with a big black bag. Run, now. Go, go, go!

**Woman:** 'Scuse me ...

**Women:** Over there!

**Woman:** Hi, I'd like to give you a present for Christmas.

**Woman:** This is for you. Merry Christmas!

**Man:** I don't know what it is.

**Woman:** So what's inside it?

**Man:** I don't know.

**Boy:** Here you go.

**Woman:** Do I have to?

**Man:** Ah, that's lovely! Thank you very much.

**Woman:** Oh look! Thank you very much.

**Woman:** Merry Christmas!

**Woman:** Thank you.

**Woman:** Merry Christmas!

#ChristmasAsItShouldBe

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