

# Giving Gifts Around the World

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# Giving Gifts Around the World

In today's modern world gifts are an important and often overlooked part of cultivating strong relationships. In many countries business is made by \_\_\_\_\_ gifts. However, gift giving can be a problem when you do not understand the culture and \_\_\_\_\_ of the recipient's homeland. In some cases, giving the wrong gift can even make \_\_\_\_\_ worse.

It is important to know when people expect gifts, so become \_\_\_\_\_ with the holidays that a country celebrates. Muslim people, for example, exchange cards during the three-day festival at the end of Ramadan. In a country where Christianity prevails, most people exchange gifts during the Christmas holidays. However, there are many differences. While Scandinavians give gifts on Christmas Eve, Italians give \_\_\_\_\_ to their loved ones on Epiphany, January 6th.

When you travel a lot you might want to give someone a gift. In western countries we usually give a gift upon \_\_\_\_\_, in eastern cultures gifts are given before the guest leaves. When you're invited to someone's house, it's almost always \_\_\_\_\_ to give a housewarming gift.

\_\_\_\_\_ of when you decide to give a gift, it is important to think about the kind of gift to give. It would be wrong to bring chocolate to a Belgian friend or a bottle of wine to a French \_\_\_\_\_ . Even bringing flowers can be troublesome. For example, certain flowers, such as chrysanthemums in Europe, are reserved for funerals. Roses, in many regions, are often too \_\_\_\_\_ .

And in some countries it is \_\_\_\_\_ to give an even number of flowers, while in others, odd numbers should

be chosen.

Also consider religious customs. In India, for example, people value animals, especially cows. It would thus be

Adjective to give someone a leather briefcase. You shouldn't give a Hindu a handkerchief either, because it often symbolizes sorrow and death.

Lastly, the ritual of presenting gifts Preposition or subordinating conjunction from culture to culture. In Asia it is

Verb - Past Participle polite to refuse a gift the first time. It shows modesty and people may appear Adjective if they accept the first time. Unlike some western countries, it is unfitting to open the gift in the Noun of the giver. Asians often take the gift and set it aside to open later because they don't want to Verb the giver if they don't like it.

While giving gifts varies dramatically from country to country, following general guidelines and doing a bit of

Verb - 3rd Person Singular Present helps you avoid making major mistakes.