

Fill in the correct words from the box. There are TWO words you will not need!

Giving Gifts Around the World

In today's modern world gifts are an important and often _____ 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 _____. 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 _____ 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 _____ from culture to culture. In Asia it is _____ polite to refuse a gift the first time. It shows modesty and people may appear _____ if they accept the first time. Unlike some western countries, it is unfitting to open the gift in the _____ of the giver. Asians often take the gift and set it aside to open later because they don't want to _____ 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 _____ helps you avoid making major mistakes.

appropriate

arrival

celebrates

considered

customary

customs

death

differs

disrespectful

embarrass

exchanging

familiar

greedy

host

overlooked

personal

presence

presents

regardless

relations

research

symbolize

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 [exchanging](#) gifts. However, gift giving can be a problem when you do not understand the culture and [customs](#) of the recipient's homeland. In some cases, giving the wrong gift can even make [relations](#) worse.

It is important to know when people expect gifts, so become [familiar](#) 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 [presents](#) 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 [arrival](#), in eastern cultures gifts are given before the guest leaves. When you're invited to someone's house, it's almost always [appropriate](#) to give a housewarming gift.

[Regardless](#) 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 [host](#). 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 [personal](#). And in some countries it is [customary](#) 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 [disrespectful](#) 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 [differs](#) from culture to culture. In Asia it is [considered](#) polite to refuse a gift the first time. It shows modesty and people may appear [greedy](#) if they accept the first time. Unlike some western countries, it is unfitting to open the gift in the [presence](#) of the giver. Asians often take the gift and set it aside to open later because they don't want to [embarrass](#) 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 [research](#) helps you avoid making major mistakes.

appropriate

arrival

celebrates

considered

customary

customs

death

differs

disrespectful

embarrass

exchanging

familiar

greedy

host

overlooked

personal

presence

presents

regardless

relations

research

symbolize