REVIEW

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A GIFT GUIDE TO HELP MAKE HOLIDAY SHOPPING EASIER THIS SEASON

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The holidays are right around the corner, so it's time to start thinking about gift ideas. It's difficult to know what people want, and it's easy to overthink or spend too much money on something. That's why it's helpful to have a gift guide, providing assistance to anyone needing gift ideas.

According to a small Oracle survey consisting of 11 responses, 82% of the Oracle staff believe that parents are the hardest to shop for. They claim that parents seem to have everything they need and never have a premade list. Getting gifts for someone who's unsure of what they want can be tough, but there are several simple and inexpensive ideas that are perfect for this situation, like a handmade card, scrapbook, or photo collage. These are guaranteed to make parents feel appreciated because their children spent time making them. Other ideas include a personalized necklace for mom or a new appliance for dad. Essentially, anything that's useful, but also thoughtful, because considerate gifts make people feel valued.

> *"When you get someone a meaningful gift it shows that you care and they appreciate that. Receiving meaningful gifts makes you feel like that person is thinking of you and being thoughtful of your needs."*

"One of the five love languages is gift giving, and for some that's really important," Keenan McCurdy, physical education teacher at East High School, said.

Siblings usually spend a lot of time together, so they have a better concept of what the other person needs and wants. The problem is siblings can have large age ranges, but there are plenty of presents that work for everyone. Some examples are legos, stuffed animals (especially Jellycats), videogames or board games, gift cards, and clothes. Younger siblings especially would enjoy things like legos and games because of the large variety of options. Older siblings might prefer something more practical like gift cards, clothes, and books, all things they could frequently use. Jellycats have also been gaining popularity, therefore making a great gift for either age group. People love them for their differences in sizes, shapes, styles, and cuteness.

Lastly, gift ideas for friends. According to the same Oracle survey, most students get their friends candles, gift cards, candy, and beauty products. These are affordable and useful, especially gift cards because it gives them the ability to buy what they want. Some other options are water bottles, like an Owala or HydroJug, clothes, and blankets. Owalas and HydroJugs are popular with a large array of colors, and can be used daily. Clothes and blankets would also be appreciated around the holidays because they provide comfort in the colder weather. It's important to get your friends something useful, but also something that relates to their interests.

"I think about what [my friends] like, what their hobbies are, and what they could use over a long period of time," Lily Nielsen, a senior at East High School, said. "That's how I decide what to get them."

As the holiday season nears, so does the stress of giving friends and family the perfect gift. Some of the best and affordable presents are gift cards, clothes, and anything homemade. All illustrations by Kayla Wischhof

When going holiday shopping this season, remember that getting friends and family meaningful gifts is an easy way to show them gratitude. A gift doesn't have to be expensive to be thoughtful, and when in doubt, look back at these tips and ideas.

What holiday movie are you?

How would your friends describe you?
1. Independent and creative
2. Introverted and sensitive
3. Romantic and empathetic
4. Optimistic and lighthearted

What's your favorite holiday treat?
1. Candy canes
2. Sugar cookies
3. Hot chocolate
4. Christmas trail mix

What's your favorite holiday tradition?
1. Decorating the tree
2. Waiting for Santa
3. Spending time with loved ones
4. Going holiday shopping

What's your favorite holiday color?
1. Blue
2. Green
3. Gold
4. Red

What's your favorite holiday activity?
1. Making Christmas cookies
2. Staying home on snow days
3. Watching holiday movies
4. Snowball fights

When do you decorate for the holidays?
1. On Christmas Eve
2. Never, I don't like to decorate
3. The day after Thanksgiving
4. On November first

What's your favorite holiday song?
1. "Rockin Around the Christmas Tree," by Brenda Lee
2. "The Christmas Song," by Nat King Cole
3. "All I Want for Christmas is You," by Mariah Carrie
4. "Santa Baby," by Eartha Kitt

What kind of gift giver are you?
1. Buy everything last minute
2. Get the cheapest gifts
3. Homemade or sentimental gifts
4. Funny gifts that'll make them laugh

Home Alone

Mostly 1s

You can be a troublemaker, but overall you're a great problem solver and enjoy the quiet. Family is important but you need your space, too.

The Grinch

Mostly 2s

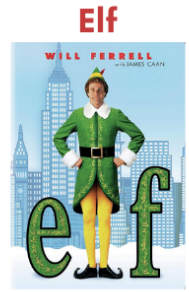
Your social battery runs out quickly, but you're also very thoughtful and sensitive. It takes a while for you to build relationships with others, but you're very loyal towards your friends.

The Holiday

Mostly 3s

You're a romantic at heart and care deeply for the people around you. You try to assume the best in every situation and are super understanding.

Elf



Mostly 4s

You are the life of the party and always have something funny to say. You are willing to go with the flow and do anything to cheer your friends up.