

EFL ENGLISH DAILY



[Keywords](#)



[Unnecessary Christmas Presents](#)

1, awareness

2, publicise

3, pagan

4, burdensome

5, offspring

6, spiral

7, recipient

8, advocate

9, discouraged

10, impact

Martin Lewis, a well-known consumer awareness campaigner in the UK appeared on TV recently to publicise his ideas for *not* buying unnecessary Christmas presents.

Every year, Brits as a whole spend a huge amount of money on presents as part of the Christian ritual of giving. Per adult, research suggests it can amount to nearly 600 UK pounds each year.

Though the custom has pre-Christian pagan origins, the modern form is linked to the early centuries

after the birth of Jesus when the story of gift-giving was established. It became a common event in the 19th century.

An online survey showed most children receive between 5-15 presents each year. If you are part of a larger family with siblings and cousins it can be quite burdensome.





Comprehension

- 1, What is the average spend on Christmas gifts by adults in the UK?
- 2, What are the roots of the custom?
- 3, When was it popularized?
- 4, How many presents may children be given?
- 5, Are all of these purchases given to their intended recipients?
- 6, What change does Martin Lewis advise making?

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In adult life, if they have offspring, the cost of continuing the annual custom can spiral out of control.

Worse still, an estimated 20% of those purchases are never given to the intended recipient; being used, kept or eaten instead.

Martin Lewis advocates a policy of not giving presents outside of immediate family; the ones you love. The practice of giving to more distant family members who you may only see on rare occasions or friends and work colleagues should be discouraged to save unnecessary expenditure and environmental impact from production and distribution.



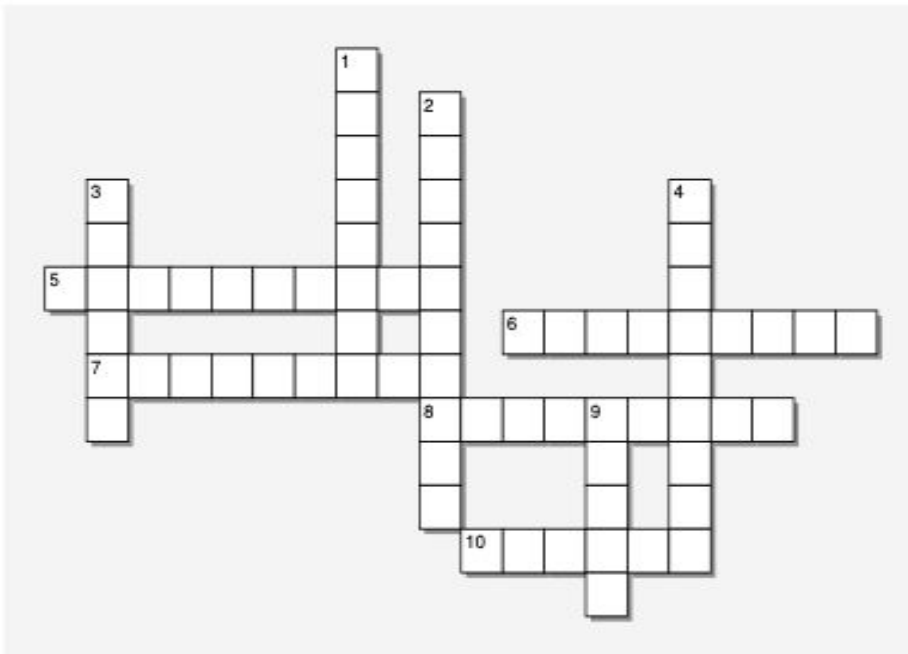
Conversation

- 1, When do you give gifts to family members?
- 2, On what occasions do you give to others?
- 3, What type of gifts do you prefer to give?
- 4, Tell us one of the best gifts you've ever received?
- 5, Do you prefer material things or experiences?





Crossword (using the Keywords on page 1)



Across

- 5. To try and stop someone doing something.
- 6. To spread information widely.
- 7. Understanding a situation.
- 8. Children.
- 10. The effect something has.

Down

- 1. To recommend.
- 2. Unwelcome responsibility.
- 3. To increase quickly.
- 4. A person who receives something.
- 9. Religious belief in many gods before Christianity.

Your chance to write....

Tell us about an unnecessary purchase you made?

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