









## 4 j Distributing food in school

### Speaking

Your school has collected non-perishable food items for students in need. The next step is to decide on how to distribute the collected food. Get into groups of four and discuss how this should be done. The ideas so far are:

- » set up a table with a sign saying “Take what you need”
- » three pre-packed bags per class, students decide who takes them home
- » teachers nominate families most in need, the food is shared amongst them
- » send a letter to all parents asking them to email to the headmaster if they want a share
- » all food is put into the gym, the 30 parents with the lowest income can come and choose



Source: Adobe Stock/  
Maria Shchipakina

## 4 k Read for the underlined words

### Vocabulary

Read the text below aiming to find out what the underlined words mean. Write down synonyms for as many of them as you can in the margin.

## 4 l Rules for Christmas prezies

### Reading

Read the text about how a *Good Housekeeping* columnist challenged her family at Christmas. Answer the questions (1–8) using a maximum of four words. Write your answers in the spaces provided. The first one (0) has been done for you.

BE

### The best gifts are made with love & wine corks

I don't like Christmas, I love it. I am one of those annoying people who become giddy with excitement at the thought of a decorated tree, a plate of mince pies and an elf costume (I have my own), because I love everything about the yuletide season. Absolutely everything. Well, apart from the one thing that dampens the joy like a soggy Brussel sprout.

You might think me a grinch, but I'm happy to admit that I get gratuitously grumpy about presents, both the giving and receiving of them. I'm not stingy with money, far from it, and my dislike doesn't come from a place of frugality. The source of my hatred comes from the waste involved in the exchange of festive gifts. And I don't just mean the excessive amounts of wrapping paper and gift bags; I mean horrific presents that no one wants.

Every Boxing Day I find myself filling bags with stuff nobody wants and sighing at the uselessness of buying meaningless things for each

other that nobody really wanted just because it's “the done thing”.

So last year, I decided things were going to change. I issued a declaration to the family that if they were going to come to my house for Christmas they had to abide by one simple rule: any gifts had to be home-made and come without any packaging. Initially no one responded and

I wondered if maybe I'd gone too far in trying to change my traditional family's values. Slowly but surely the responses started trickling in. They were all on board and ready to get going. But, despite the positivity, part of me still expected my loved ones to forget and end up panic-buying me socks and shower gel as per usual. I've never been more delighted to be wrong in my life.

My mum made me a cookbook from my gran's handwritten recipes. Her classic post-war menu included a recipe for Italian Mince (minced meat, one can of condensed tomato soup, one can of condensed mushroom soup, pasta; the pasta is what makes it Italian). Who needs a



to abide:

soggy:

gratuitously:

frugality:

to be delighted:

Boxing Day:  
26<sup>th</sup> of  
December,  
a bank holiday  
in the UK

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Source: Adobe Stock/Ruth Black  
Source: Adobe Stock/Mauro Rodrigues/medwedja

Michelin star when you have Campbell's soup to make things Mediterranean?

55 My four-year-old nephew made me a plate. I suspect he had help, although the design is clearly all his. It's like something a person on hallucinogenic drugs would create, a combination of yellow, orange and magenta. It's so

garish: 60 garish but, every morning when I butter my toast on it, I'm reminded of him.

The most surprising gift was from my brother. He's a lovely man but not particularly expressive and I assumed that he thought my plan to be stupid. But, with some fanfare, he produced

to produce: 65 what he had made for me. He had created a napkin holder from wine corks arranged in a triangular pile, like a pyramid sliced in half with a gap of around an inch between the two parts. It was superglued onto what appeared to be a beer

varnish: 70 mat and was unevenly painted with varnish. It was beautiful!

It sounds silly but I was quite emotional that my big brother would spend time making something that he was so proud of. And that my whole family embraced the idea of making things for each other. In fact, it turned out that they all really enjoyed planning gifts and then creating them.

75 As my brother was leaving, he took one last look at his masterpiece and revealed that, while he had enjoyed making it for me, it cost him more than £ 200. That's how much wine he'd drunk to get the corks. And every time he opened a bottle and his wife raised an eyebrow, he was able to say it was for my Christmas present. I think I might get another one this year. And next year. And the year after that. I think he's enjoying home-made presents as much as I am.

80 85 90



Source: Adobe Stock/Nik\_Merkulov

**Test format  
Note form**

0	What Christmas item does the author possess?	an elf costume
1	What exactly does the author not enjoy about Christmas?	
2	Which criteria did the author set for presents?	
3	What made her think she had pushed her family too far?	
4	What did the columnist think her family would do?	
5	Which ingredient in the recipe is jokingly said to replace an excellent cook?	
6	How does she feel about her nephew's present? (Give <u>one</u> answer.)	
7	Which materials did her brother use for the gift?	
8	Why did her brother enjoy making the napkin holder?	

Source: Good Housekeeping (December 2019, Hearst), p. 41

**4 m**

**Follow-up**

**Hand-made gifts only**

What if your family were to follow the rule of "home-made only"? Take a few minutes to think about this and prepare to talk about this imaginary situation for at least two minutes without stopping. Consider questions such as: Who would be upset? What would you get and what would you give? What effect do you think this would have on the celebration? Who would be the most likely person to break the rule and why / how would they break the rule? Are there similar rules that your family is likely to introduce?



Source: Adobe Stock/ Good Studio