



ETIQUETTE TIPS FOR GIFT GIVING

By Patrick Ibembe & Braham Ibembe

Buying gifts can be tricky. Not only do you want to choose something the person will like, but you need to make sure it's appropriate for the recipient and the occasion. Different people and celebrations will require different gifts but regardless of how well you know them there are still some things that you need to keep in mind when getting someone a gift these tips can help guide you to get a great gift regardless of the person or the occasion:

Don't Ask People What They Want

Unless you're shopping for family members or very close friends, you shouldn't ask people what they want as a gift for a birthday or other occasion. This can make the recipient feel uncomfortable and also shows your lack of creativity instead you can ask someone close to the person you are getting the gift for what they like and base your gift around the information they give you .

Do Buy Off the Registry

In general, you shouldn't ask someone for a gift wish list, but in the case of weddings and baby showers, people will typically provide a list for you. If a gift registry is available, you should buy something off of it. This way, you know you're giving the recipient something they want and will like and will also show that you have actually taken time to look at the registry and understand what they would like to have or what is needed.

A Gift Receipt Is Always a Good Idea

If you're buying someone an expensive gift or an item of clothing, including the gift receipt is a smart move. This gives the recipient the flexibility to make an exchange for something that's a better fit or more to their taste so that your money doesn't go to waste if they don't like the gift.

Don't Show Up to a Party at Someone's Home Empty-Handed

Even if you're going to a party that isn't for a birthday or an occasion that typically requires a gift, you should still

bring something small for the host. This can be a candle, dessert, bottle of wine or something else you know your party host would enjoy and appreciate.



Before You Give Your Boss a Gift, Check Your Company's Policy

Companies have different policies about who can and cannot give and receive gifts, and some companies won't allow managers to receive gifts from their employees. Before you buy a gift for your boss, make sure he or she can accept it to avoid a potentially awkward situation.

If You're Giving Gifts to Some Co-Workers and Not Others, Be Discrete About It

Some offices will do a Secret Santa gift exchange around the holidays, which takes all the awkwardness out of co-worker gifting situations — everyone gets a gift and limits are set on spending. However, if one's office doesn't do this and you want to give gifts to the co-workers you are closest to, you would want to make sure you do it in private so that no one feels offended or left out. Alternatively, you can bring in baked goods or another food item for your other co workers such that there is no feeling of being left out.

THE END

About the Lead Author



Dr. Ibembe Patrick is globally recognized as an expert in VIP Administration and Management. He held the position of Special Presidential Assistant to the 9th President of Uganda and previously served as the Chief of Staff (Personal Assistant) to the 7th Vice President of Uganda. His expertise in VIP Management spans various disciplines, and in addition to the qualifications mentioned, Dr. Ibembe has participated in numerous skills enhancement programs both Nationally and Internationally.

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