

E-plan Project – FJU 2011 Fall

Episode 2 Exams and Valentine's Day

Reading: 短文聽讀

Gift giving is a practice seen everywhere around the world. However, there are some cross-cultural variations between Chinese and Western culture in terms of the custom of gift giving. In Chinese culture, it is considered more polite to open the gift afterwards and never in front of the gift giver, while in the English-speaking countries in the West (e.g., Australia, Canada, the U.K., and the U.S.A.), it is more appropriate to open the gift in front of the person who offers the gift. This custom, however, may not apply strictly to close friends and family. While it is acceptable in Chinese culture to offer gift just about to anyone, in many Western cultures, giving gifts to one's teachers, supervisors, or bosses should be avoided as such practice can be seen as bribery. In Chinese culture, it is acceptable to offer money as a gift, and when money is being offered as a gift, it should be enclosed in a red envelope. Money, however, is not an appropriate form of gift in the West.

