

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 275 [English]

Kirin: Chinese Learn Online lesson 275 .

Hello everyone , I am Teacher Yang .

Raphael: Hello everyone , I am Teacher Lai .

Adam: And hello, I'm Adam.

Kirin: Welcome to our learning Chinese course .

Raphael: In our last lesson , we saw a man buying a ring to give his girlfriend . In today's lesson , we are going to discuss different situations , and what presents we should buy to give others .

Kirin: Hmm, according to Chinese people , giving presents to people on special days is a traditional and polite thing to do .

Raphael: In every country , I'm sure they all have these same traditions . Now if I say give a present , what occasion do you immediately think of ?

Kirin: Someone's birthday .

Raphael: Right . Now what kind of item can we give them ?

Kirin: You have to look at what your relationship is with that person . If it's your family or good friend , you would probably buy a more expensive present to give to them . If the item you buy for them is suitable , or is something that they need at the moment , that would be even better . For example clothes or jewelry .

Raphael: So on what other occasions can we give presents to others ?

Kirin: There are many, like Valentine's day .

Raphael: Oh, this present is easy to prepare . Men can give chocolates or flowers to their girlfriends .

Kirin: Or if you really love her , you can give them both .

Raphael: Ok . Now in foreign countries, during Christmas , that is the occasion that people most often give and receive presents . But in Chinese it's Chinese New Year . And most of the presents are ...

Kirin: Red envelopes .

Adam: Literally that's "red envelope."

Raphael: So why are people so happy to receive red envelopes ?

Kirin: Because there is money inside the red envelopes !

Raphael: Ah, so if we receive a lot of red envelopes , we can buy the items that we like ourselves . This is really a great gift . Ok . As well, if someone invites you to attend a party at their house , do we have to take a present there ?

Kirin: It would be more polite to take a gift there .

Raphael: So what kind of present would be better to take to a party .

Kirin: There are many types of gifts to choose from . In foreign countries, the most common gift is red wine .

Adam: Red wine.

Raphael: But isn't red wine very expensive ?

Kirin: That depends on the quality of the red wine you choose . Better quality , of course will have higher prices .

Raphael: Now if the people there don't drink wine , what else can we buy ?

Kirin: In Asia , you can choose some better quality tea to give to them .

Raphael: Ah, many places have their own famous local teas . Now other than things one can drink , what other gifts can we give them ?

Kirin: In some places , fruits are a great choice .

Raphael: But if we only give them fruits , this may look a little strange .

Kirin: In the fruit departments of supermarkets , after you have chosen the right fruits , you can ask the service staff to put the fruits into a beautiful box .

Adam: Box.

Kirin: Box .

Raphael: Wow, that's a great suggestion . Now are there any gifts that you shouldn't give to people ?

Kirin: Yes there are . The one you definitely should not give is a clock .

Adam: Clock.

Raphael: Why can't we give a clock to someone ?

Kirin: Because if someone says "I gave my friend a clock ." It sounds like his friend died , so everyone has to go say goodbye to him . So giving a clock to someone , will make the person receiving the gift unhappy .

Raphael: Wow, that's too extreme ! Do people really think this way ?

Kirin: Yes, the safest best is to just not give out clocks to Chinese people .

Raphael: Ok . Now what other suggestions do we have related to giving out gifts ?

Kirin: Hmmn, in Chinese culture , one's relationship with another is very important . If someone has given you a gift , you also have to look for an opportunity to give the person a gift of equal price or quality .

Raphael: Right . Next we'll introduce today's final new word, which is

Kirin: Face .

Adam: Face, as in "to have face" or "to lose face".

Raphael: According to Chinese people , people should respect those who are older or who have more experience than us , such as family members or your boss . This will give them face . If you are rude to them , they will feel unrespected , and lose face . Ok, let's take a moment to review the new words taught in today's lesson .

Adam: Red envelope.



Kirin: [Red envelope](#) .

Adam: Red wine.

Kirin: [Red wine](#) .

Adam: Box.

Kirin: [Box](#) .

Adam: Clock.

Kirin: [Clock](#) .

Adam: Face, as in to have face or to lose face.

Kirin: [Face](#) .

Raphael: [Our premium subscribers can visit our website chineselearnonline-com for more practice](#) .

Kirin: [Continue to keep at it](#) !