

The Holiday Gift Guide for New Couples



By [Marni Battista](#)

The holidays are always an awkward time to start a relationship. There are few people who proclaim to be great gift givers and can wander through stores to pick out the perfect presents for everyone on their list. It's difficult enough to give thoughtful gifts to close family and friends and not be swayed by the latest and greatest gadgets that everyone wants but aren't necessarily thoughtful.

So how do you go about buying something for the "special" person whom you may not know so well? People are often so intimidated by gift giving that it may be a better idea to

decide *not* to exchange gifts. Expressing how you feel about presents early in the relationship can help gauge what's an appropriate gift, if any gift at all!

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If your partner is practical and hints at something that isn't too extravagant, it's probably best to listen. However, there are "big" gifts, such as jewelry, watches, and pricey electronics, that should be left for future years of dating or marriage. If you're unsure about what your significant other would like, here are five ideas that are thoughtful but not too overthought:

A relevant book is for the brave dater. Listening to your partner about books they liked in the past or things that they may be interested in learning more about can help you decide what kind of book is appropriate.

Art never goes out of style and never depreciates. Therefore, it works for anyone. It's finding the *kind* of art – a sculpture, oil painting, graffiti canvas, mosaic, etc. – that may be the most troubling. Listen to what kind of art your partner compliments or thinks is "cool."

Something comfy and comforting is always nice. If you're going to go this route, a really soft and plush robe, sweater, or slippers are great ideas for someone who finds comfort in the finer things in life.

A DIY gift from the heart, such as a photo book or personalized frame, is a crafty and cute way of showing your appreciation for that person.

Related Link: [Our 2014 Holiday Gift Guide](#)

Experiential gifts are a great idea because let's face it: It's fun for both of you! Planning a camping trip, a day at the museum, or a concert date shows that spending time with

your significant other is the most important gift of all!

Although it may seem like gift giving for that new special someone is intimidating, knowing their likes and dislikes can help you decide what is appropriate without going overboard. Plus, starting a relationship with more thoughtful gestures can lead to an easier gift giving experience in the future!

Happy holidays...and happy dating!

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