

The Knowledge House Guide to:

Last-Minute Gift Ideas

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This little booklet is jam-packed with a wide variety of gift ideas for all occasions – Christmas, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, birthdays, etc. – and for everyone on your list. (Just so you remember, your gift list may include one or more of the following: mom, dad, brothers, sisters, grandparents, favorite relatives, husband, wife, children, father-in-law, mother-in-law, nieces, nephews, friends, neighbors, teachers, boss, co-workers, clergy, dentist, doctor, hair stylist, babysitter, domestic help, delivery person, pets, and don’t forget someone less fortunate.)

Browse through these lists for ideas that apply to your special gift-giving situation. You’re bound to find something that you hadn’t thought of before. Included are: gift exchanges, hostess gifts, stocking stuffers, homemade gifts, no-cost gifts from the heart, gifts for the whole family, gifts for him, gifts for her, gifts for children, gifts for grandparents, gifts for hospital patients and nursing home residents, gifts for the person who has everything, sentimental gifts for loved ones, and links to hundreds more!

Fun Gift Exchanges - white elephants (can be something used but useful, or bizarre and useless); a favorite book (write in the front what it has meant to you); ornaments (under \$10 each); picture frames (under \$10 each); mugs (along with hot cocoa, coffee or tea); gourmet food samples; a half dozen of your favorite cookies (plus the recipe on a 3x5 card); opposites (such as bubble bath for guys and tools for ladies); hand-made items.

Hostess Gifts - fragrant potpourri; pretty soaps; fancy stationery; decorative candles; unique tree ornaments; tin of cookies; potted plants. (Keep a few extra gifts like these on hand for when you are invited to someone else’s home, or in case someone drops by with an unexpected gift for you.)

Stocking Stuffers - card game; pen/pencil set; crayons; jewelry; pocket journal; wallet; paperback book; small notepad; keychain; flashlight; calculator; tire gauge; kitchen gadget; small tools; Swiss army knife; eyeglass case; mittens or gloves; funky socks; hair accessories; perfume; fancy soap bar; toothbrush/paste; mini first aid kit; postage stamps; stickers; bookmark; refrigerator magnet; art/craft/hobby supplies; special tree ornament; Hot Wheels or Matchbox car; yo-yo; mini Lego set; large lollipop; small bag of candy; chocolate bar; Pepperidge Farm distinctive cookies; flavored tea; magazine subscription; gift certificate; movie or concert tickets; phone card; money.

Homemade and No-Cost Gifts from the Heart - a used book that you read and enjoyed; paper snowflakes or origami ornaments; an assortment of photos that you have of the person; an item of yours that they've admired; a piece of jewelry, collectible, or heirloom that you would like to pass on to someone else in your family; a copy of the family tree - printed beautifully, rolled up, and tied with a ribbon; write a poem; paint a picture; draw a loved one's portrait; memorize and recite a Bible verse or poem; sing a song; perform a short skit; present someone with a book of coupons (for housework, yard work, babysitting, washing the car, etc.); fix and clean up an old toy and give it to a younger sibling; spend some quality time together at the park, playing a board game, etc.

Gifts For Families - board game; chess set; ice cream maker; popcorn popper; bird feeder and seeds; globe; planning calendar; tape recorder/player; gift certificates for video rentals; picnic basket and bright plastic dishes; sing-along song books; set of musical instruments (kazoo, tambourine, drum, triangle, harmonica, recorder, etc.); restaurant gift certificates; movie tickets; a year's membership in a local museum; a mini-library (collect one book per person, all on a similar topic - such as a children's picture book of deserts, a field guide to desert wildlife, a science book about deserts, and a southwestern travel guide; or an assortment of cartoon books such as Calvin and Hobbes, Baby Blues, Family Circus, and Peanuts; or try combining a book of nursery rhymes with a book of humorous verses for children and an anthology of classic poems for all ages).

Gifts For Him - shirt; necktie; belt; handkerchiefs; wristwatch; leather wallet; shaving kit; barbecue utensils; car accessories; camping or sports equipment; hunting/fishing gear; a new briefcase; framed photo of you and/or the kids to put in his office; a supply of his favorite snack; computer software; book; DVD; CD of his favorite music; electric weed trimmer; tool set; tool box; gas grill; hammock; electronic gadget; his favorite cologne; leather gloves; an audiobook for the car; hobby-related item; a special addition to his collection of stamps, coins, etc.; a gift certificate; movie/concert/sport tickets.

Gifts For Her - perfume; bath oil/powder; set of fancy soaps; facial cream; hand lotion; bath beads; jewelry; music box; collectible figurine; houseplant; decorative bookend or knick-knack; small appliance; quality cookware or serving utensils; an additional piece for a set of china or silverware; herbal tea; gourmet food basket; chocolate; aromatherapy; stationery; scrapbook/photo album; framed family photo; inspirational book; CD of her favorite music; gift certificate from her favorite store.

Gifts For Teens - movie/concert tickets; CD; DVD; t-shirt; gift certificate for clothes at his/her favorite store; gift certificate from a video rental store; sport team memorabilia; cell phone; phone card; MP3 player; iPod accessories; lava lamp; electronic gadget; digital camera; radio; portable CD player; video game; laptop computer; bike; movie poster; hobby-related item; puzzle or game; journal; calendar; daily planner; teen Bible or devotional book; bulk snacks; jewelry; watch; backpack; gym bag; money.

Gifts For Grandparents - video of grandchildren at play; children's handprints pressed in plaster; framed children's artwork; framed family photograph; large print book; stationery and stamps; household gadgets; keepsake memory journal/family history book.

Gifts For Hospital Patients/Nursing Home Residents - framed photos of loved ones; a collage of memory pictures; homemade jams/jellies or baked goods; fresh fruit; a potted plant; an afghan; slippers; a sachet of potpourri; a bed lounge pillow; a set of stationery with envelopes and stamps; a box of all-occasion cards; a paperback book; a selection of magazines; a personal care package (hand cream, nail polish, nail file and clippers for women; a razor, shaving gel and after-shave for men).

Gifts For the Person Who Has Everything - a gift certificate, magazine subscription, or book that relates to their interest; an object to go with a collection of theirs; a restaurant gift certificate; movie tickets; a coupon for a service (such as a weekend of yard work or washing their car); a gourmet food basket; a humorous joke present; a handmade gift; put together a nice bag, box, or bucket of "theme" items geared to their interests; make a donation in their name to a charity or organization you know they'd like to support; fill a plastic crate with items like dishwashing liquid, detergent, soap, toothpaste, shampoo, and other things that every household needs and will use over the year.

Sentimental Gifts For Loved Ones - handmade ornaments; a favorite family recipe; artwork made by children; cuttings from your favorite greenhouse plants in a small vase wrapped in a holiday bow; a personalized gift basket; handmade drawing or card; handwritten poem; framed photo or poem; special book; CD of classic tunes; a trip to the zoo, museum, or another one of his or her favorite places; dinner for two at a nice restaurant; a seasonal trip, weekend getaway or afternoon outing; anything that's original, creative, and from the heart.

Homemade Coupon Books/Gift Certificates - If there's one thing you can offer your loved ones that they will surely appreciate and won't cost you a dime, it's the gift of time. Make up a coupon book of favors they can ask for such as a big hug, back rub, breakfast in bed, a ride in the country, picnic, or going to a movie. A similar idea is to give "IOUs" or gift certificates redeemable for various services such as washing the car, babysitting, yard work, etc. These can be placed inside greeting cards or used as stocking stuffers.

The above idea is suitable for anyone from close family members to elderly neighbors. The possibilities are endless and will vary according to your recipients' needs. For example, you may give Mom a book of coupons that she can redeem for your services ("I will... Clean My Room, Dust the Shelves, Wash the Dishes, Set the Table, Take Out the Trash, Vacuum the Rug, Water the Plants, Watch the Baby," etc.) while a coupon book for Dad would include such services as: ("Wash the Car, Take Out the Trash, Walk the Dog, Mow the Lawn, Hoe the Garden, Dig up Weeds," etc.)

Need even more ideas?

Please visit www.knowledgehouse.info/xmasgifts.html for gifts you can make, recycled presents, and low-cost gift ideas. See also www.knowledgehouse.info/xmasgifts2.html for over 20 easy gift-making projects including stationery, candles, recipe mixes, chocolate and candy-coated spoons, plus links to additional websites.

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

(Find the child's personality type and choose something suitable for his/her age from the list of suggestions, or give him/her a copy of this page and ask him/her to check a box, circle some items, or fill in the blanks.)

- Actor/Performer** – a box of hats and costumes • puppets/puppet theatre • dollhouse • action figures • playset with buildings, people and vehicles • musical/rhythm instrument • magic tricks • juggling set • Karaoke player • CD • DVD • video game • concert/play/movie tickets • _____
- Architect/Engineer** – wooden blocks • sandbox and molds • playset with buildings, people, and vehicles • jigsaw puzzle • toy workbench • carpentry set • Lincoln Logs • Legos • K'nex • Erector sets • electric train • drafting supplies • computer software • model kit • board game • _____
- Artist** – crayons • coloring books • paints • modeling clay • easel • art supplies • craft kit • stickers • rubber stamp set • how-to-draw books • computer drawing program • pottery wheel • jewelry kit • _____
- Athlete** – ride-on toy • jungle gym • balls • bike • basketball hoop • sled • ball and bat • jump rope • skateboard • skates • scooter • tennis racquet • volleyball set • hockey game • golf set • race track set • _____
- Explorer** – camping equipment • sleeping bag • backpack • binoculars • telescope • spy kit • flashlight and batteries • lantern • compass • fishing gear • archery set • field guides • mountain bike • walkie-talkies • pocket knife • maps • whistle • first aid/survival kit • water bottle • _____
- Nurturer** – doll • plush animal • doctor kit • tea set • toy kitchen set • mini baking set • kid's cookbook • dollhouse • sewing/needlepoint kit • toy farm set • garden tools • play store • board game • storybook • _____
- Scientist** – doctor/detective/spy kit • jigsaw puzzle • model kit • magnets • microscope • telescope • binoculars • chemistry set • experiment book • rock tumbler • electronic circuitry kit • computer game • _____

