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## **P Diddy gives son, 16, luxury sports car**

[http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1006/100619-birthday\\_presents.html](http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1006/100619-birthday_presents.html)

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# THE ARTICLE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday\\_presents.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday_presents.html)

Some kids get a used car or a motorbike for their sixteenth birthday, if they're really lucky. Justin Dior Combs got a \$360,000 sports car. He's the son of legendary rap singer and producer Sean Combs, a.k.a. P Diddy. The car, a Maybach 57, is a super-expensive, ultra-luxurious version of a Mercedes Benz. It's one of the most expensive cars in the world. Justin's birthday party was just as lavish. His dad threw a party for him at one of New York's trendiest clubs. He also gave him \$10,000 in cash to spend around New York. Justin told UsMagazine.com that he was going to donate all of the cash to the Haiti earthquake relief. He did enjoy the party, telling reporters: "I'm just ecstatic right now. Words can't even describe how I feel."

Mr. Combs was later quizzed about the gifts on the American TV show 'Nightline'. The presenter, Martin Bashir, questioned whether it was a suitable present for a 16-year-old. Combs replied: "I think it's appropriate to give my kids whatever I want to." He seemed a little angry that he was asked this question and told the presenter: "I feel the way I raise my children, I don't have to explain to you or anyone else, 'cause nobody knows the way I raise my children." He added: "Nobody knows the lessons that I've taught my children to understand if they are mentally ready for that." Mr. Bashir asked if the presents give the wrong message about money. P Diddy replied: "It wasn't about a lesson. It's what I wanted to do [for my son]."

# WARM-UPS

**1. BIRTHDAY PRESENTS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about birthday presents. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*used cars / sports cars / rap singers / birthday parties / trendy clubs / donating cash / gifts / suitable / raising children / learning lessons / mentally / wrong messages*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. GIFTS:** What's the perfect one for these people? Complete this table. Share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you heard.

	What?	Why?
English teacher		
Best friend		
You		
Your country's leader		
Your parents		
A friend getting married		

**4. SPOILT:** Students A **strongly** believe today's kids are spoilt; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. LESSONS:** What do we need to teach our children? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- How to forgive
- About money
- How to fight
- About telling the truth
- About helping the planet
- English
- About love and friendship
- How to keep fit and healthy

**6. LESSON:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'lesson'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday\\_presents.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday_presents.html)

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. A rap star's son got a \$36,000 sports car for his birthday.           | T / F |
| b. The father gave his son \$10,000 to spend in a trendy club.            | T / F |
| c. The son wants to give the cash to victims of the Haitian earthquake.   | T / F |
| d. The boy can't express how happy he feels.                              | T / F |
| e. P Diddy was asked on US television about the suitability of the gifts. | T / F |
| f. P Diddy didn't mind being asked questions about his son's presents.    | T / F |
| g. P Diddy said he wasn't obliged to discuss his parenting skills.        | T / F |
| h. P Diddy agreed expensive presents send the wrong message to kids       | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. used        | a. luxurious        |
| 2. legendary   | b. suitable         |
| 3. lavish      | c. appeared         |
| 4. trendiest   | d. questioned       |
| 5. ecstatic    | e. second hand      |
| 6. quizzed     | f. bring up         |
| 7. appropriate | g. most fashionable |
| 8. seemed      | h. famous           |
| 9. raise       | i. lesson           |
| 10. message    | j. overjoyed        |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Some kids get a used        | a. all of the cash     |
| 2. legendary rap singer        | b. about money         |
| 3. Justin's birthday party was | c. describe how I feel |
| 4. he was going to donate      | d. for a 16-year-old   |
| 5. Words can't even            | e. my children         |
| 6. Mr. Combs was later quizzed | f. car or a motorbike  |
| 7. a suitable present          | g. ready               |
| 8. the way I raise             | h. and producer        |
| 9. mentally                    | i. about the gifts     |
| 10. give the wrong message     | j. just as lavish      |

P Diddy gives son, 16, luxury sports car – 19th June, 2010

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday\\_presents.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday_presents.html)

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Some kids get a \_\_\_\_\_ car or a motorbike for their sixteenth birthday, if they're really lucky. Justin Dior Combs got a \$360,000 sports car. He's the son of \_\_\_\_\_ rap singer and producer Sean Combs, a.k.a. P Diddy. The car, a Maybach 57, is a super-expensive, ultra-luxurious \_\_\_\_\_ of a Mercedes Benz. It's one of the most expensive cars in the world. Justin's birthday party was just as \_\_\_\_\_. His dad threw a party for him at one of New York's \_\_\_\_\_ clubs. He also gave him \$10,000 in cash to spend around New York. Justin told UsMagazine.com that he was going to \_\_\_\_\_ all of the cash to the Haiti earthquake \_\_\_\_\_. He did enjoy the party, telling reporters: "I'm just \_\_\_\_\_ right now. Words can't even describe how I feel."

*lavish*  
*version*  
*used*  
*donate*  
*ecstatic*  
*trendiest*  
*relief*  
*legendary*

Mr. Combs was later \_\_\_\_\_ about the gifts on the American TV show 'Nightline'. The presenter, Martin Bashir, questioned whether it was a \_\_\_\_\_ present for a 16-year-old. Combs replied: "I think it's appropriate to give my kids \_\_\_\_\_ I want to." He seemed a little angry that he was asked this question and told the presenter: "I feel the way I \_\_\_\_\_ my children, I don't have to \_\_\_\_\_ to you or anyone else, 'cause nobody knows the way I raise my children." He added: "Nobody knows the lessons that I've taught my children to understand if they are \_\_\_\_\_ ready for that." Mr. Bashir asked if the presents give the wrong \_\_\_\_\_ about money. P Diddy replied: "It wasn't about a \_\_\_\_\_. It's what I wanted to do [for my son]."

*whatever*  
*message*  
*quizzed*  
*explain*  
*lesson*  
*mentally*  
*suitable*  
*raise*

## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday\\_presents.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday_presents.html)

Some kids \_\_\_\_\_ motorbike for their sixteenth birthday, if they're really lucky. Justin Dior Combs got a \$360,000 sports car. He's the \_\_\_\_\_ singer and producer Sean Combs, a.k.a. P Diddy. The car, a Maybach 57, is a super-expensive, ultra-\_\_\_\_\_ Mercedes Benz. It's one of the most expensive cars in the world. Justin's birthday party \_\_\_\_\_. His dad \_\_\_\_\_ at one of New York's trendiest clubs. He also gave him \$10,000 in cash to spend around New York. Justin told UsMagazine.com that he was going to \_\_\_\_\_ to the Haiti earthquake relief. He did enjoy the party, telling reporters: "I'm just ecstatic right now. Words can't even describe how I feel."

Mr. Combs was \_\_\_\_\_ the gifts on the American TV show 'Nightline'. The presenter, Martin Bashir, questioned whether it was a \_\_\_\_\_ a 16-year-old. Combs replied: "I think it's appropriate to give my kids whatever I want to." He \_\_\_\_\_ that he was asked this question and told the presenter: "I feel the way I raise my children, I don't have to explain to you or anyone else, 'cause nobody \_\_\_\_\_ raise my children." He added: "Nobody knows the lessons that I've taught my children to understand if they are \_\_\_\_\_ that." Mr. Bashir asked if the presents give \_\_\_\_\_ about money. P Diddy replied: "It wasn't about a lesson. It's what I wanted to do [for my son]."

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday\\_presents.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday_presents.html)

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'birthday' and 'present'.

<b>birthday</b>	<b>present</b>
-----------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• used</li><li>• version</li><li>• lavish</li><li>• threw</li><li>• cash</li><li>• describe</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TV</li><li>• suitable</li><li>• seemed</li><li>• explain</li><li>• ready</li><li>• lesson</li></ul>
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# STUDENT BIRTHDAY PRESENTS SURVEY

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday\\_presents.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday_presents.html)

Write five GOOD questions about birthday presents in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



# **BIRTHDAY PRESENTS DISCUSSION**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'birthday'?
- c) What's the best birthday present you've ever had?
- d) Do you prefer giving or receiving birthday presents?
- e) What do you think of Justin Combs' birthday presents?
- f) What did you get for your sixteenth birthday?
- g) What do you think Justin will get for his seventeenth birthday?
- h) What do you think of Justin for donating his money to victims of Haiti's earthquake?
- i) What words might describe how Justin felt?
- j) When was the last time you were ecstatic?

*P Diddy gives son, 16, luxury sports car – 19th June, 2010*  
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# **BIRTHDAY PRESENTS DISCUSSION**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Why do you think P Diddy was 'quizzed' about the birthday presents on American TV?
- c) Do you think the birthday presents were suitable?
- d) Is it really any of Martin Bashir's business what anyone buys for his/her children?
- e) What do you think of P Diddy's replies to the questions?
- f) Do you think the P Diddy being questioned about birthday presents shows we are obsessed with celebrities?
- g) Do you think P Diddy gave his son the wrong message about money?
- h) If you were a multi-millionaire, how much would you spend on an important birthday for your child?
- i) Do you think the presents show how much P Diddy loves his son?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Justin?

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# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From [http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday\\_presents.html](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1006/100619-birthday_presents.html)

Some kids get a (1) \_\_\_\_\_ car or a motorbike for their sixteenth birthday, if they're really lucky. Justin Dior Combs got a \$360,000 sports car. He's the son of (2) \_\_\_\_\_ rap singer and producer Sean Combs, a.k.a. P Diddy. The car, a Maybach 57, is a super-expensive, ultra-luxurious version of a Mercedes Benz. It's one of the most expensive cars in the world. Justin's birthday party was just (3) \_\_\_\_\_ lavish. His dad (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a party for him at one of New York's trendiest clubs. He also gave him \$10,000 in cash to spend around New York. Justin told UsMagazine.com that he was going to donate all of the cash to the Haiti earthquake (5) \_\_\_\_\_. He did enjoy the party, telling reporters: "I'm (6) \_\_\_\_\_ ecstatic right now. Words can't even describe how I feel."

Mr. Combs was later (7) \_\_\_\_\_ about the gifts on the American TV show 'Nightline'. The presenter, Martin Bashir, questioned whether it was a suitable present (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a 16-year-old. Combs replied: "I think it's appropriate to give my kids (9) \_\_\_\_\_ I want to." He seemed a little angry that he was asked this question and told the presenter: "I feel the way I (10) \_\_\_\_\_ my children, I don't have to explain to you or anyone else, 'cause nobody knows the way I raise my children." He added: "Nobody knows the lessons that I've taught my children to understand if they are (11) \_\_\_\_\_ ready for that." Mr. Bashir asked if the presents give the wrong (12) \_\_\_\_\_ about money. P Diddy replied: "It wasn't about a lesson. It's what I wanted to do [for my son]."

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |               |               |               |                |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) use       | (b) uses      | (c) usage     | (d) used       |
| 2.  | (a) legend    | (b) legends   | (c) legendary | (d) legionary  |
| 3.  | (a) has       | (b) as        | (c) was       | (d) is         |
| 4.  | (a) threw     | (b) caught    | (c) aimed     | (d) hit        |
| 5.  | (a) relieve   | (b) relieving | (c) relief    | (d) relieves   |
| 6.  | (a) right     | (b) such      | (c) simple    | (d) just       |
| 7.  | (a) quiz      | (b) quizzed   | (c) quizzes   | (d) quizzing   |
| 8.  | (a) for       | (b) to        | (c) at        | (d) by         |
| 9.  | (a) whenever  | (b) whatever  | (c) wherever  | (d) whatsoever |
| 10. | (a) rise      | (b) rising    | (c) raise     | (d) rises      |
| 11. | (a) mentally  | (b) mental    | (c) meant     | (d) mentality  |
| 12. | (a) messaging | (b) messaged  | (c) messenger | (d) message    |

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about the birthday presents stars buy. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. BIRTHDAY PRESENTS:** Make a poster about the birthday presents you've had and how they made you feel. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. ECSTATIC:** Write a magazine article about someone being ecstatic after getting some really cool birthday presents. Include an imaginary interview with that person.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to a celebrity. Ask him/her three questions about birthday presents. Give him/her three opinions on what kind of presents they should buy. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

a. F      b. F      c. T      d. T      e. T      f. F      g. T      h. F

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. used        | a. second hand      |
| 2. legendary   | b. famous           |
| 3. lavish      | c. luxurious        |
| 4. trendiest   | d. most fashionable |
| 5. ecstatic    | e. overjoyed        |
| 6. quizzed     | f. questioned       |
| 7. appropriate | g. suitable         |
| 8. seemed      | h. appeared         |
| 9. raise       | i. bring up         |
| 10. message    | j. lesson           |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Some kids get a used        | a. car or a motorbike  |
| 2. legendary rap singer        | b. and producer        |
| 3. Justin's birthday party was | c. just as lavish      |
| 4. he was going to donate      | d. all of the cash     |
| 5. Words can't even            | e. describe how I feel |
| 6. Mr. Combs was later quizzed | f. about the gifts     |
| 7. a suitable present          | g. for a 16-year-old   |
| 8. the way I raise             | h. my children         |
| 9. mentally                    | i. ready               |
| 10. give the wrong message     | j. about money         |

## GAP FILL:

### P Diddy gives son, 16, luxury sports car

Some kids get a **used** car or a motorbike for their sixteenth birthday, if they're really lucky. Justin Dior Combs got a \$360,000 sports car. He's the son of **legendary** rap singer and producer Sean Combs, a.k.a. P Diddy. The car, a Maybach 57, is a super-expensive, ultra-luxurious **version** of a Mercedes Benz. It's one of the most expensive cars in the world. Justin's birthday party was just as **lavish**. His dad threw a party for him at one of New York's **trendiest** clubs. He also gave him \$10,000 in cash to spend around New York. Justin told UsMagazine.com that he was going to **donate** all of the cash to the Haiti earthquake **relief**. He did enjoy the party, telling reporters: "I'm just **ecstatic** right now. Words can't even describe how I feel."

Mr. Combs was later **quizzed** about the gifts on the American TV show 'Nightline'. The presenter, Martin Bashir, questioned whether it was a **suitable** present for a 16-year-old. Combs replied: "I think it's appropriate to give my kids **whatever** I want to." He seemed a little angry that he was asked this question and told the presenter: "I feel the way I **raise** my children, I don't have to **explain** to you or anyone else, 'cause nobody knows the way I raise my children." He added: "Nobody knows the lessons that I've taught my children to understand if they are **mentally** ready for that." Mr. Bashir asked if the presents give the wrong **message** about money. P Diddy replied: "It wasn't about a **lesson**. It's what I wanted to do [for my son]."

## LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d    2 - a    3 - b    4 - c    5 - c    6 - b    7 - d    8 - a    9 - b    10 - d    11 - c    12 - a