

B1

SMALL TALK & NETWORKING

MONOLOG · 3 MIN.

Explaining That "Gift" in German Is Definitely Not a Present

· Podcast

A British guest, a sign saying "Gift" — and a perfect small-talk moment. Plus the right phrases for giving and receiving presents in English.

Listen to the episode +
comprehension test:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/explaining-that-gift-in-german-is-definitely-not-a-present>

NAME

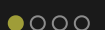
DATE

BRICK 1 · LEARN THE KEY PHRASES



Read the eight phrases with meaning and example. You will hear all of them in the episode.

ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	EXAMPLE
gift	Geschenk (Englisch!) – nicht das deutsche „Gift“	<i>We brought a small gift for our host.</i>
poison	Gift (die deutsche Bedeutung)	<i>The warning label says the liquid contains poison.</i>
warning label	Warnhinweis, Warnetikett	<i>Every chemical container needs a clear warning label.</i>
icebreaker	Eisbrecher, Gesprächseinstieg	<i>A funny story is the best icebreaker at a networking event.</i>
a little something	eine Kleinigkeit (als Geschenk)	<i>This is a little something for you — chocolates from Hanover.</i>
that's very kind of you	das ist sehr nett von Ihnen	<i>Thank you so much, that's very kind of you.</i>
you shouldn't have	„das wäre doch nicht nötig gewesen“ – heißt: ich freue mich	<i>Oh, you shouldn't have! They look delicious.</i>
modest	bescheiden, dezent	<i>In Britain, business gifts should stay modest.</i>





BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS



Complete the missing word from the conversation.

thing

something

gift

present

poison

surprise

01 This is a little _____ for you.

02 In German, „Gift“ means _____ .

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?



Tick one. T = true, F = false.

01 In German, the word "Gift" means poison.

T ☐ F ☐

02 Thomas says expensive presents are the best choice in British business culture.

T ☐ F ☐

BRICK 4 · ORDER



Number the steps of the conversation (1–5).

- 01 ☐ Thomas gives David a box of chocolates
- 02 ☐ He jokes about a locked cabinet full of gifts
- 03 ☐ They talk about false friends for ten minutes
- 04 ☐ David visits the plant for the first time
- 05 ☐ Thomas explains that German "Gift" means poison

BRICK 5 · YOUR VERSION



Write two sentences of your own using phrases from Brick 1.

MINI-CHECK – CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I can announce a delay politely.
- ☐ I can propose an alternative.
- ☐ I can promise written confirmation.

Listened twice and ticked everything? Then you are ready for the real conversation.



Cut-out flashcards

× Cut out, fold on the line – English in front, German on the back. Or practise digitally:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/explaining-that-gift-in-german-is-definitely-not-a-present>

gift

We brought a small gift for our host.

Geschenk (Englisch) – nicht das deutsche
"Gift"

poison

The warning label says the liquid contains poison.

Gift (die deutsche Bedeutung)

warning label

Every chemical container needs a clear warning label.

Warnhinweis, Warnetikett

icebreaker

A funny story is the best icebreaker at a networking event.

Eisbrecher, Gesprächseinstieg

a little something

This is a little something for you — chocolates from Hanover.

eine Kleinigkeit (als Geschenk)

that's very kind of you

Thank you so much, that's very kind of you.

das ist sehr nett von Ihnen

you shouldn't have

Oh, you shouldn't have! They look delicious.

"das wäre doch nicht nötig gewesen" – heißt:
ich freue mich

modest

In Britain, business gifts should stay modest.

bescheiden, dezent

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why**.

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

01 **something**

"A little something" is the fixed, deliberately modest phrase when handing over a present.

02 **poison**

False friend! German "Gift" is English "poison". English "gift" is a present.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

01 **True**

True — "In German, Gift means poison. The word is a warning, not an invitation."

02 **False**

False — "An expensive present can make people uncomfortable" — gifts stay small and modest.

BRICK 4 · ORDER

- 01 **1.** David visits the plant for the first time
- 02 **2.** He jokes about a locked cabinet full of gifts
- 03 **3.** Thomas explains that German "Gift" means poison
- 04 **4.** They talk about false friends for ten minutes
- 05 **5.** Thomas gives David a box of chocolates

KEEP PRACTISING LIVE

Want to practise these phrases in a real conversation?

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