

Valentine's Day: Messages and Meaning

B1 | Adults / Teens | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 50-60 minutes

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk with a partner. Is a small kind action more meaningful than an expensive gift?

1. Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | | |
|---------------|-------|---|
| 1. affection | _____ | A. understand that something is valuable |
| 2. gesture | _____ | B. a feeling of liking or loving someone |
| 3. commercial | _____ | C. showing careful consideration for others |
| 4. appreciate | _____ | D. a small action that shows a feeling |
| 5. recipient | _____ | E. a person who receives something |
| 6. thoughtful | _____ | F. connected with buying and selling |

2. Read the article. The bold words are the vocabulary from Activity 1.

- Valentine's Day is celebrated on 14 February in many countries. It is often linked with romantic love, cards and flowers, but people also use the day to show **affection** for friends, family members or classmates.
- A card, a message or a small gift can be a **gesture** of kindness. The **recipient** may value the thought more than the price. A **thoughtful** message can show that someone has listened and remembered what matters to another person.
- Some people feel that Valentine's Day has become too **commercial**. Shops sell many products, and people can feel pressure to spend money. Others enjoy the chance to stop and **appreciate** their relationships.
- There is no single correct way to celebrate. People can buy flowers, cook for a friend, write a note or do nothing at all. The main idea is that care and respect do not need to be expensive.

Valentine's Day: Messages and Meaning

B1 | Adults / Teens | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 50-60 minutes

UNDERSTAND, DISCUSS AND WRITE

3. Comprehension. Answer in complete sentences. Use the article to help you.

1. When is Valentine's Day?

2. Who can people show affection for?

3. What is a gesture?

4. Why do some people dislike the holiday?

5. What is the article's main idea?

4. Discuss. Talk in small groups. Give reasons and examples.

- What makes a gift thoughtful?
- Do commercial holidays create pressure?
- How can people show appreciation every day?
- Is a handwritten note a good gift? Why?

5. Homework: Write a descriptive paragraph.

Write 120-150 words about a small gesture that made you feel appreciated, or invent a thoughtful gesture for a friend.

Valentine's Day: Messages and Meaning

B1 | Adults / Teens | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 50-60 minutes

ANSWER KEY AND TEACHING NOTE

Vocabulary matching

1. affection - B
2. gesture - D
3. commercial - F
4. appreciate - A
5. recipient - E
6. thoughtful - C

Comprehension answers

1. When is Valentine's Day?

It is on 14 February.

2. Who can people show affection for?

They can show it for friends, family or classmates as well as partners.

3. What is a gesture?

It is a small action that shows a feeling.

4. Why do some people dislike the holiday?

They feel it has become too commercial.

5. What is the article's main idea?

Care and respect do not need to be expensive.

Teaching note

Compare matching answers before reading. Accept other article-supported comprehension answers; discussion and homework answers vary. Discuss customs respectfully, distinguishing religious, cultural and personal traditions.