

24 Xmas mail mart

Type of activity

creative gap: lucky dip/random association

Functions practised

describing objects

describing how things work

persuasion

promises

Useful language

will; comparatives and superlatives; *if* . . . ; present

simple; adjectives expressing approbation

Lexical areas

home, domestic life, everyday activities; adjectives expressing approbation (wonderful, fantastic, marvellous, etc.)

How to use the activity

Students can do this activity individually or in pairs or groups, as they or you prefer. It's probably more fun in a group.

Copy one Xmas Mail Mart sheet for each student and make enough copies of the Device cards for there to be one card for each student/pair/group.

Cut up the cards and put them in a hat or bag.

Write the following brand names up on the board:

Soapstick Dyno Bot Aquastrad Gnomozone

Fido-slips Gnomy Fishman Dish-o-brol

Pizz-o-laze Green-Go

Ask the students for suggestions as to what they could be.

Then give out the Xmas Mail Mart sheet and ask them to match names to products.

When they have finished, pass round the hat or bag and ask them to take a Device card.

Students should invent a device for solving the problem described on their card. They should invent a name for their product and a small advertisement on the lines of the ones in the Mail Mart, describing what the device can do and how it will transform your life.

When they have finished, pin the adverts up on the wall and ask the students to go 'shopping', to find a Christmas present for each member of their family.