**Christmas swapping**

*Type of activity: whole class / matching*

*Function practised: talking about likes and dislikes*

*Exponent: like, love, interested in, hate, can’t stand, etc.*

*Lexical areas: hobbies, sports, interests*

*How to use this game:*

*This game may be played with any number of students. Copy as many role cards as there are students in the class, ensuring that as far as possible, each card has its ’partner’.*

*Give out one role card to each person in the group and explain that in a few minutes they are due to meet people at a New Year’s party, where they will discuss Christmas and presents they received. They should impart the information on their role card and their opinions about it to as many people as possible. Perhaps they will find someone who can help them. When they have found the person who can help them, they can sit down together.*

*The object of the game is to find someone with whom they can swap presents.*

ROLE CARDS

1.

This Christmas you were given three pairs of hiking socks and a flower arranging book. What a waste! You hate hiking and loathe flower arranging. What you really like is ballet and pottering about in the house doing a spot of DIY. You’re not an outdoor type at all.

2.

Your hobby is flower arranging – and your passion is hiking in the mountains – you go off every holiday and most weekends if you can. But what did you get for Christmas? Two tickets for the ballet and a book on DIY! You really dislike ballet and DIY is your pet hate! Someone should send Father Christmas for re-training!

3.

This Christmas you got a classical music cassette – dreary stuff, Borg, Buck, Buch or something. You can’t stand classical music and never listen to it. What you like is jazz. The other present you got was equally dreary – a boring book – some modern novel. Reading never was your strong point – can’t seem to find time for it anyway these days. If people can’t think what to send, why don’t they send something to eat – that always goes down well!

4.

This Christmas you got a jazz cassette and a box of chocolates. Very nice too, except you like classical music, and you’re trying to slim! What you really wanted for Christmas was books.

5.

This Christmas you got a tennis racquet and two tickets to the opera. What’s wrong with Santa these days? Wrong sport for a start. You play golf, not tennis, and you’ve always hated opera – pop music is what you like.

6.

This Christmas you got a pop record and a set of golf balls. Santa must have got the wrong file out when he was making that decision! You like opera, not pop, and tennis is your sport, not golf!

7.

This Christmas, Santa awarded you a set of saucepans and an apron! What a mistake! You’re not a feminist, but you don’t really see why women always get boring saucepans and household stuff. What you’d like is something frilly, glamorous and totally frivolous. Saucepans you can buy for yourself!

8.

This Christmas you got not one, but two sets of frilly French underwear! What a waste! How can people spend their money on something so frivolous? You’ve moved into a new house and money is really tight. What you need is something practical for the house. Knickers to underwear!

9.

This Christmas Santa sent you a set of gardening tools and a book on houseplant care. Santa needs his head examined! You hate gardening – it’s just like outdoor housework to you. And every houseplant you’ve ever been given has died a very nasty death. In fact you’re not interested in plants or the outdoor life, or anything remotely green. What you like is games – board games, card games – you name it!

10.

This Christmas, for some unknown reason, a misguided Father Christmas brought you a chess book and computer bridge. You’ve never played either game in your life and you don’t intend to start now! In fact you don’t like being indoors at all – what you love is gardening and plants.

11.

This Christmas Santa gave you a bottle of Chanel No. 5 perfume. Very nice, and probably very expensive, but the problem is you don’t like Chanel No. 5. You like Dior. The other present you got was and English-Turkish dictionary. Very strange, you thought, until you realized that you’d told everyone where you were going for your holiday. They thought you’d said Turkey – but actually you’d said Torquay.

12.

This Christmas Santa gave you a bottle of Dior perfume. Very nice too – but what a waste. Your perfume is Chanel No. 5. You never wear any other. And you also got a guide to Torquay. This mystified you until you realized that people had misunderstood where you’re going on holiday. You’re going to Turkey!

13.

In your Christmas stocking was a cook book and a gift pack of Indian spices. Maybe Santa’s dropping a hint, but it won’t work. You hate cooking. And your pet hate is Indian food. In fact you don’t like any indoor hobbies at all. Your hobby is watersports.

14.

You really can’t understand it. For Christmas you got a snorkel and a wetsuit. You can’t swim. In fact you’re aquaphobic. You don’t like sports at all. Your favourite hobby is cooking. You’ve just started a course in Indian cookery.

15.

For Christmas you received a print of an Impressionist painting, and a book on astronomy. Well, it was nearly right. You like art, and you’re fascinated by the stars. The only problem is that Impressionists are your pet hate – you prefer abstract painting, and it’s astrology, not astronomy, you’re interested in!

16.

For Christmas, you received a book on astrology and a Mondrian print. Well, it was nearly right. You like art and you’re fascinated by the stars. The only problem is that you hate abstract painting, and it’s astronomy, not astrology that you’re interested in!

17.

This Christmas you had a really original present. Socks and handkerchiefs! Boring! You were hoping for some videos – you’ve just bought a video machine.

18.

This Christmas you got two videos as presents. You don’t even have a television! What a waste of time! You wish people would give useful presents – clothes for example.

19.

This Christmas you got a guitar complete with ‘Teach Yourself’ manual. Did no one tell Santa you were tone-deaf? You’re not in the slightest interested in music. Your hobby is genealogy.

20.

What you really hoped for this Christmas was a guitar. You want to start guitar lessons at the local college this January. The problem is, you can’t afford a guitar. So what did you get? A book called *Trace Your Own Family History*.

(source: Intermediate Communication Games by J.Hadfield. Longman 1990)