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WRAP IT UP
Avoid the panic of romantic presents with this guide
BY SIERRA WEGENER  DESIGN ALXANDRIA COLLINS

Do f*ckbuddies even share Christmas presents? This is pretty much all up to the gift givers and receivers. Something that is fun and flirty but kind of quirky like the relationship you guys share. Maybe a funny mug or T-shirt—something that says, “This is fun, let’s not change it.”

College Hook-ups

4-6 Months
Reaching four to six months can be a game changer in a relationship because not a lot of relationships last that long. Many couples have met the parents and said I love you by this mile mark. This is the stage where gifts don’t—or shouldn’t—matter as much because you are in love. Homecrafted gifts are the best—they can be something simple, like pictures of the two of you in a “memory book” or a love letter. A minimalist could do a sneaky love note in a new wallet for them. It will surprise them the first time and will serve as a little reminder that you were thinking of them.

1-4 Dates
You’ve now moved on and have been on a few dates with this person. What gifts would I give them? The suggested gifts here would be a card with maybe a gift card to their favorite restaurant. Don’t go out and spend a fortune on a fancy dinner, maybe cook dinner.

2-3 Months
Is a card still appropriate for this occasion, or will it make them think you don’t care? You’re still having fun but not serious yet, so gifts should be more fun and flirty—but still thoughtful. But never go over 30 dollars plus dinner. Concert tickets for the two of you to go together would be perfect.

7+ Months
At this point, you have been together for a while. The gifts can become more practical, like stuff they need—but they can also be something romantic and extravagant, like nice jewelry. If you live together, it could be something your partner thinks the apartment needs or maybe something they want. At this stage gifts can get more expensive—but you’re too in love to care...right?

End of the relationship
But what if the relationship is headed south? Can you break up with someone right before Christmas? If you’re not that person and you are waiting until after the holidays, not getting them a gift is just asking to be dumped. Get them something they will use—but that’s not romantic. A pair of headphones or a scarf is a perfect idea. They’re things they will use, but won’t remind them of you.

If you still can’t think of any ideas, just remember to keep the gift personalized and don’t be too worried about not spending enough on them. After all, it’s the thought that counts.