

# SmackDown: Should Parents Give Gifts to Adult Children?



by Amanda

I love receiving gifts. Who doesn't?

But when it comes to opening a gift from one's parents, well, that's just the *crème de la crème* of gift-getting. They just give better, don't they?

As a young woman in my 20s, I have come to rely on my parents for much more than just annual birthday gifts or **wrapped boxes** on holiday mornings. But I really can't think of anything more exciting than receiving a gift from the two people who love me the most -- **my mom and dad**. ( **Appositive** )

One of my most **vivid childhood memories** is from Chanukah, circa 1995. Gwen Stefani's band, No Doubt, had just released its breakthrough CD, "Tragic Kingdom," and I will never forget seeing the thin, square outline of a compact disc beneath the blue and silver wrapping paper lying on our kitchen table.

**Upon unwrapping, I instantly squealed.** ( **dangling Subject** ) It was the CD I had hoped for! My mother knew exactly what I wanted and that, in and of itself, was the most valuable gift I could have received that year.

Unfortunately, as my age has increased, the number of gifts I've received since my teenage years has dwindled. As a young adult in my 20s, earning a relatively small income, I look forward to any opportunity for my parents to treat me to that special item I cannot afford myself. A digital camera? A new pair of shoes? Maybe an iPod? What about that bracelet I've been eying online? Remember, Mom, the one I e-mailed to you twice (or three times or four)?

**Gifts are in the eye of the beholder.** Big, small, "good" or "bad," there is no way to measure what makes a gift exciting. But receiving a gift means my preferences have

been monitored, and my desires recognized. The act of unwrapping any gift makes a child feel special, whether that person is 5, 25 or 55.

Sure, I have my **set of online wish lists (bless you, Amazon)**, but a gift is much more than the object alone. It's the thought behind that gift that makes the item really count. The approval and **attention parents bestow upon their children means** a great deal, and gifts are a way of expressing the excitement and gratefulness a parent feels for a child on birthdays, holidays and other important events.

Just because I've **reached some semblance of adulthood doesn't mean gift giving** has to go out the window. By the way, my birthday is June 22. Presents happily accepted.