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Level 4 – 14th September 2026

CEO loses case to get back gifts from ex-girlfriend

FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260914-lavish-gifts-4.html>

Contents

The Reading	2
Phrase Matching	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
No Spaces	5
Survey	6
Writing and Speaking	7
Writing	8

Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260914-lavish-gifts-4.html>

A CEO lost a court case to get back hundreds of thousands of dollars of gifts that he gave to his ex-girlfriend. The two met on an airplane. He fell in love with her and gave her many expensive gifts. He said he also gave her "loans". The court said the value of the presents and loans was \$369,200. The judge said the man had "displayed a consistent pattern" of showering his ex with "lavish gifts". The judge said she did not have to repay or return anything.

The couple were in a relationship for just over a year. They split up after he thought she was having an affair. He argued that she asked him for interest-free loans for her credit cards, overseas trips, and the advice of a feng shui master. However, there was no evidence to prove this. She said all gifts were "made out of love and affection". The judge concluded that after they split up, the man was determined to get money back from his ex.

Sources: <https://malaysia.news.yahoo.com/dbs-lawsuit-linked-to-jho-lows-associate-says-1mdb-taskforce-014754774.html>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2026/09/11/asia/ceo-sues-girlfriend-singapore-hnk-intl>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/clqyqxgzyrk7o>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260914-lavish-gifts-4.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A CEO lost a court | a. with lavish gifts |
| 2. gifts that he gave | b. on an airplane |
| 3. The two met | c. return anything |
| 4. He said he also | d. consistent pattern |
| 5. the value | e. to his ex-girlfriend |
| 6. the man had displayed a | f. of the presents |
| 7. showering his ex | g. case |
| 8. she did not have to repay or | h. gave her "loans" |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The couple were | a. to prove this |
| 2. he thought she | b. free loans |
| 3. she asked him for interest- | c. up |
| 4. the advice of a feng shui | d. affection |
| 5. there was no evidence | e. in a relationship |
| 6. love and | f. get money back |
| 7. after they split | g. was having an affair |
| 8. the man was determined to | h. master |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260914-lavish-gifts-4.html>

A CEO (1) _____ case to get back hundreds of thousands of dollars (2) _____ he gave to his ex-girlfriend. The two met on an airplane. He fell in love with her and gave her many expensive gifts. He said he also (3) _____.

The court said (4) _____ the presents and loans was \$369,200. The judge said the man had "(5) _____ pattern" of showering his ex with "lavish gifts". The judge said she did not have to (6) _____ anything.

The couple were (7) _____ for just over a year. They split up after he thought she was (8) _____. He argued that she asked him for interest-free loans for her credit cards, overseas trips, and (9) _____ a feng shui master. However, there was no (10) _____ this. She said all gifts were "made out of (11) _____. The judge concluded that after they split up, the man (12) _____ get money back from his ex.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260914-lavish-gifts-4.html>

ACEOlostacourtcase to get back hundredsof thousandsof dollarsof gifts
thathe gaveto hisex-girlfriend. Thetwometonanairplane. Hefellinlov
ewithherand gavehermanyexpensivegifts. Hesaidhealsogaveher"loa
ns". Thecourtsaidthevalueofthepresentsandloanswas\$369,200. The
judgesaidthemanhad"displayedaconsistentpattern"of showeringhis
exwith"lavishgifts". Thejudgesaidshedidnothavetorepayorreturnan
ything. Thecouplewereinarelationshipforjustoverayear. Theysplitup
afterhethoughtshewashavinganaffair. Hearguedthatsheaskedhimfo
rinterest-free loansforhercreditcards, overseastrips, andtheadviceof
afengshuimaster. However, therewasnoevidencetoprovethis. Shesai
dallgiftswere"madeoutofloveandaffection". Thejudgeconcludedthat
aftertheysplitup, themanwasdeterminedto getmoneybackfromhisex

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GIFTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260914-lavish-gifts-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about gifts in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260914-lavish-gifts-4.html>

Write about **gifts** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]