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Level 5 – 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-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260914-lavish-gifts-5.html>

A man (Mr X) has lost a court case to get back hundreds of thousands of dollars of gifts that he gave to his ex-girlfriend. He is a company CEO. His ex, Ms Y, was a flight attendant. The two met on a flight. Mr X became besotted with her and gave her expensive gifts to win her love. He said he also gave her "loans". The court said the value of the presents and loans was \$369,200. The judge said that Mr X had "displayed a consistent pattern of showering [Ms Y] with lavish gifts". The judge said there had been no expectation that Ms Y would have to repay or return anything.

The couple were in a relationship for just over a year. They split up after Mr X thought Ms Y was having an affair. He argued that his ex-partner had requested interest-free loans for her credit cards, life insurance premiums, overseas trips, and the advice of a feng shui master to assess her apartment. However, there was no evidence to prove this. Ms Y said all gifts were "made out of love and affection". The judge concluded: "Unfortunately, when their relationship ended on a sour note, [Mr X] became embittered and was determined to extract a price from [Ms Y]."

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/clyqxgzynk7o>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260914-lavish-gifts-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. A man (Mr X) has lost | a. and loans |
| 2. He is a | b. pattern |
| 3. The two met | c. company CEO |
| 4. Mr X became besotted | d. with lavish gifts |
| 5. the value of the presents | e. expectation |
| 6. a consistent | f. with her |
| 7. showering Ms Y | g. on a flight |
| 8. The judge said there had been no | h. a court case |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. The couple were | a. feng shui master |
| 2. They split | b. an affair |
| 3. Mr X thought Ms Y was having | c. premiums |
| 4. his ex-partner had requested interest- | d. on a sour note |
| 5. life insurance | e. in a relationship |
| 6. the advice of a | f. affection |
| 7. love and | g. up |
| 8. their relationship ended | h. free loans |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260914-lavish-gifts-5.html>

A man (Mr X) has lost a (1) _____ get back hundreds of thousands of dollars of gifts that he gave to his ex-girlfriend. He is (2) _____. His ex, Ms Y, was a flight attendant. The two met on a flight. Mr X (3) _____ her and gave her expensive gifts to win her love. He said he also gave her "loans". The court said the value of the presents and loans was \$369,200. The judge said that Mr X had "displayed (4) _____ of showering [Ms Y] (5) _____. The judge said there had been no expectation that Ms Y would have to (6) _____ anything.

The couple were (7) _____ for just over a year. They split up after Mr X thought Ms Y was (8) _____. He argued that his ex-partner had requested interest-free loans for her credit cards, (9) _____, overseas trips, and the advice of a feng shui master to assess her apartment. However, there was no (10) _____ this. Ms Y said all gifts were "made out of love and affection". The judge concluded: "Unfortunately, when their relationship ended on (11) _____, [Mr X] became embittered and (12) _____ extract a price from [Ms Y]."

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2609/260914-lavish-gifts-5.html>

Aman(MrX)haslostacourtcase to get back hundredsof thousandsof doll arsofgiftsthathe gavetohisex-girlfriend.HeisacompanyCEO.Hisex,M sY,wasafightattendant.The twometonaflight.MrXbecamebesottedw ithherandgaveherexpensivegiftstowinherlove.Hesaidhealsogavehe r"loans".Thecourtsaidthevalueofthepresentsandloanswas\$369,200 .ThejudgesaidthatMrXhad"displayedaconsistentpatternofshowerin g[MsY]withlavishgifts".Thejudgesaidtherehadbeennoexpectationth atMsYwouldhavetorepayorreturnanything.Thecouplewereinarelatio nshipforjustoverayear.They splitupafterMrXthoughtMsYwashavinga naffair.He arguedthathisex-partnerhadrequestedinterest-free loansf orhercreditcards,lifeinsurancepremiums,overseastrips,andtheadvi ceofafengshuimastertoassessherapartment.However,therewasnoe videncetoprovethis.MsYsaidallgiftswere"madeoutofloveand affectio n".Thejudgeconcluded:"Unfortunately,whentheirrelationshipended onasournote,[MrX]becameembitteredandwasdeterminedtoextract apricefrom[MsY]."

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-5.html>

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

[illegible]