

## Episode7

### 文化解析

#### Giving Gifts

- A: In our dialogue, Doug gives his teacher Dean a gift when they first meet. People in Taiwan give gifts as a form of courtesy or simply to show appreciation. Doug brings a small gift from home to give to Dean, whom he considers not only a teacher, but also a friend.
- B: There are a few things to remember when presenting and receiving a gift.
- A: That is correct. When presenting a gift, always use both hands. The gift is received in both hands, with palms facing upward.
- B: Unlike in Western cultures, the gift is not usually opened in front of the giver unless the giver so requests. It is impolite to open the gift in front of the giver.
- A: Yes. It is considered rude. Also, opening the gift alone can “save face.” This means that you can prevent embarrassment on the part of the giver or the recipient if the gift turns out to be inappropriate, or if the recipient doesn’t like the gift.
- B: When giving gifts, the giver would often say, “This is a small gift to show my appreciation.” “Small” does not refer to the actual size or value of the gift; it’s just a way for the giver to emphasize the gesture, rather than the value of the gift itself.
- A: Of course, as in any culture, do not forget to say “thank you” when you receive something.
- B: During the Chinese New Year, it is customary to give a gift of money in a red envelope. This is called *hong bao*.

A: And one last reminder. When wrapping gifts, use happy or prosperous colors such as red or pink. Avoid using white or black.

