
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

The White Elephant

6: Kindness



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NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Mary

Oh, hi Peter.

Peter

Hi.

Mary

Are you ok?

Peter

Yes... Perfect.

Mary

It doesn't look very perfect.

Peter

Well it is. It's just something **took me by surprise**. Look...

Mary

£10?

Peter

Yes. It's my first ever tip.

Mary

Oh, **how sweet**. Oh and it's a really big tip too – well done. You deserve it. But you'd better get back out there and earn some more...

Peter

Oh yes... ok... thanks Mary.

Gordon

Ah Mary. I'll need you to wash those pans as quickly as possible please.

Mary

OK.

Celia

Gordon. Could you lend me £10? I need it for the milkman.

Gordon

Oh... very well. There you go, £10.

Celia

Thank you!

Peter

Mary. I can't believe it. I've lost that tip that I was given. I thought I'd put it in my back pocket and then I went into the restaurant...

Gordon

Oh dear Peter. A tip?! How **very touching**.

Mary

It was his first ... and it was a **nice touch**. Hang on Gordon, didn't I see you pick something up off the floor a minute ago?

Gordon

Well... I... no, I don't think so.

Celia

Hmm... I see Gordon. Seeing as you're a kind and generous... and well paid man, you could give Peter £10... just out of the goodness of your heart.

Peter

Thank you.

Vocabulary

(something) took me by surprise
(something) unexpected happened

how sweet
that's very nice or kind

very touching
kind

a nice touch
a kind thought or action

Questions

1. What was so special about the tip Peter was given?

(Hint: He was very surprised about it.)

- a) It was a lot of money.
- b) It was his first ever tip.
- c) It was a brand new £10 note.

2. Why does Gordon have to give away the ten pounds he just found on the floor?

(Hint: It's to pay someone.)

- a) Because Mary tells him it belongs to Peter.
- b) Because Ceilia needs to buy some pots and pans.
- c) Because Ceilia needs to borrow the money to pay the milkman.

3. How does Mary describe Peter's first ever tip?

(Hint: Look at the vocabulary reference.)

- a) Nice touching.
- b) A nice touch.
- c) Very touching.

Answers

1. What was so special about the tip Peter was given?

a) It was a lot of money. That's not right. Try again.

b) It was his first ever tip. Yes, that's right!

c) It was a brand new £10 note. Wrong! That's not what made him happy. Try again.

2. Why does Gordon have to give away the ten pounds he just found on the floor?

a) Because Mary tells him it belongs to Peter. Wrong. Try again.

b) Because Ceilia needs to buy some pots and pans. That's not right. Ceilia does want £10 but not for this reason. Try again.

c) Because Ceilia needs to borrow the money to pay the milkman. Correct, well done.

3. How does Mary describe Peter's first ever tip?

a) Nice touching. Wrong. That's not quite the right use of this phrase.

b) A nice touch. Correct. Well done!

c) Very touching. Wrong. Gordon uses this phrase in a sarcastic way. But it's not the phrase Mary uses.