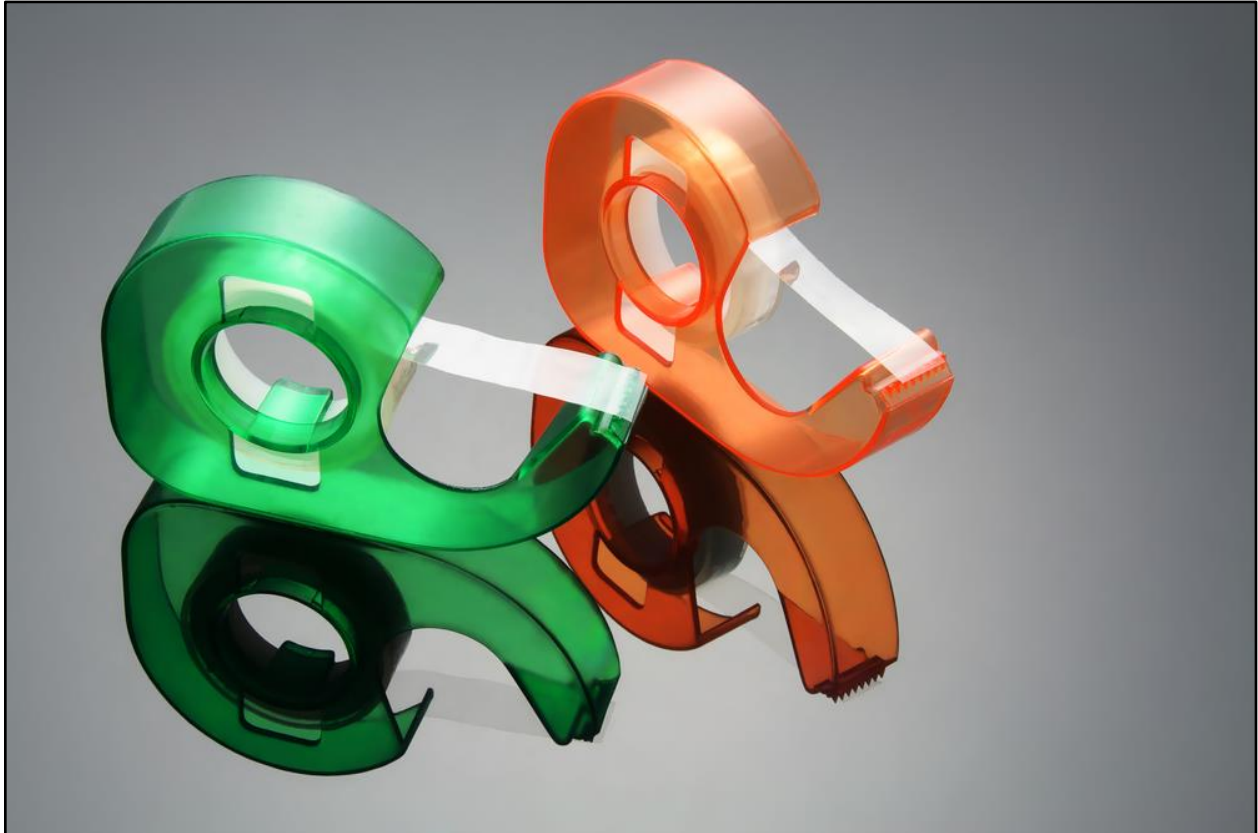


Why Do People Wrap Gifts?

It's Jackson's 8th birthday. His grandpa arrives for dinner with a gift. A gift is something that is given to another person, called the *recipient*. Most gifts are wrapped or placed in a gift bag. Jackson's gift has plain wrapping and a colorful bow. This keeps Jackson from knowing for sure what's inside. He's hoping for a truck. In Jackson's family, birthday gifts are opened after dinner. Sometimes it's a little frustrating for children to wait to learn what's in a gift. Why do people wrap gifts?



People wrap gifts all over the world, in many cultures, and have been doing so for centuries. That's a very long time. For many years it was much harder to wrap a gift than it is now. Cellophane tape was invented in 1930. Before that, string was often used to keep paper around a gift.



Many people feel that a wrapped gift is more fun to give *and* receive.

Sometimes recipients like to guess what is inside of a gift before they begin to open it, like a game. Other recipients skip the guessing game. This is okay.

There's another reason why people wrap gifts. Many gifts are new. Wrapping a gift protects it until it is opened by the recipient.



The only person who knows for sure what is in Jackson's gift is his grandpa. Since Grandpa bought the gift, choosing what to buy was his decision. Jackson and his grandpa go camping together. Grandpa may have decided to buy Jackson a sleeping bag, a tackle box, or maybe something else. This is okay.

Not knowing what is in a gift may be a frustrating and a little fun, all at the same time. This can make a confusing feeling on a mostly happy day, like a birthday.

Dinner is over. It's time for Jackson to open his gift. Everyone in his family is watching Jackson take off the paper. He's about to learn more about his gift!

References

Wonderopolis (no date). Why do we wrap presents? Retrieved from <https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/why-do-we-wrap-presents/>