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On the first day of Christmas

# The perfect

Our resident astrologer's zodiac shopping guide will help take the hassle out of Christmas

## **Aries 21 Mar – 20 April**

When it comes to Christmas presents, Aries folk are the babies of the zodiac – so don't forget to give them a gift.

Aries rules the head; hence gifts such as baseball caps, hats, sunglasses and eyewear are sure-fire winners. Anything in colours of red, black or white will appeal.

They love to be first so give them coffee mugs with ego-stroking phrases such as the World's Number One Lover, Golfer, etc. It'll thrill them no end. Alternatively, give them personalised items emblazoned with their name – anything from bedroom door signs to customised number plates.

All Arians love diamonds but, if precious stones aren't an option, shiny glassware is guaranteed to please. They love metal objects too, especially those made from iron, so supply them with kitchen utensils, cookware or garden tools.

CDs of restful, soothing music can be of tremendous help to the many Arians who suffer from insomnia.

## **Taurus 21 April – 21 May**

The average Taurian wants everything to be forever so give them a gift that will last.

They're often born with expensive tastes – don't stint on quality. Shop carefully for fine but affordable items and try to stay away from plastics or anything synthetic. With their innate appreciation of beautiful things, they'll derive immense pleasure from paintings, art and sculpture.

Jewellery, especially necklaces, will have enormous appeal, as will finely-wrought jewellery boxes and cases.

Items which appeal to the senses of smell and taste will be an instant hit. Sensual smelling fragrances and sexy but tasteful lingerie will win hearts. You can be sure chocolate, confectionery, gourmet foods or

a bottle of champagne or good wine will tickle the average Taurian's tastebuds.

They also love money. If you're stuck for a gift, then buy them a purse or wallet. Even better, put some cash inside and watch their eyes light up.

## **Gemini 22 May – 21 June**

Geminis are one of the easiest signs to shop for. With their quicksilver minds, they're interested in everything.

They'll delight in an array of diverse items so give an assortment of individually wrapped presents. They're keen on collections of things, especially sets of CDs or cassette tapes.

Books are a real winner too – but nothing too in-depth; a Gemini likes to pick things up and put them down. Don't give them anything useful but boring – they love fun things.

Make sure you give individuals born under the sign of the twins matching pairs of items. Rings, necklaces and matching earrings thrill most Gemini females. Or give them hand creams, nail polish, manicure items – in fact, anything for their hands.

You'll be right on track if you give them address books and writing implements, cellphones or telecommunication devices. Mobility is crucial to Geminis, hence they will love all devices that will help them travel from A to B.

## **Cancer 22 June – 23 July**

Cancerians are highly sentimental so try to give them something that will give them an emotional buzz years later.

Gifts for the home are always a hit. Consider candles, rugs, cushions, throws and quilts. Something handed down through the family will bring tears of pleasure. Antique items of jewellery or old, interesting

bric-a-brac will appeal to their reverence for times past. Photograph albums or an attractive silver frame complete with a personal family photograph or two will go down well.

Cancer is a water sign so opt for snugly bathrobes, bath salts and bathroom accessories. Consider other water-type paraphernalia – goldfish, aquariums, fishing tackle or items for the boat or beach.

Avoid impersonal mundane gifts – electrical appliances as gifts are usually too sterile, although baking items or a good cookbook will usually be well received.

Choose a Cancer's card carefully – make sure it's a little schmaltzy and contains a meaningful message.

## **Leo 24 July – 23 Aug**

Leos love things with panache and style so make sure your Christmas gift has a touch of grandeur. Always select the large size for a Leo. They enjoy nights out and amusing experiences so dinner, theatre or movie tickets are popular. Or purchase gift vouchers from chic boutiques.

If you're buying clothes, buy items that appeal to their lazy, lounging side. Kimonos, bathrobes, top-of-the-range toiletries and mirrors with gold frames will appeal, particularly in classic colours of black or gold. They love gifts with their name or initials on so monogrammed items will go down well.

They're vain about their "manes" so receiving items for their hair will have Leos purring with pleasure. Or present Leo with a new throne – a deck chair or a sun lounger is perfect.

Opt for crystal prisms, stuffed toy lions, gold bracelets, gold rings, lockets – in fact, anything in the shape of a heart. Wrap everything flamboyantly with plenty of gold paper topped with opulent ribbon.

my true love gave to me...

# present for any star sign



PHOTOGRAPH

## **Libra** 24 Sept – 23 Oct

Librans are relatively easy to buy for. If it looks beautiful, they'll be happy. Flowers, perfume or cologne are tried and true favourites. They'll love anything attractive, especially for the den or boudoir. Give them delicately scented drawer-liners, containers of potpourri, lovely linen, lace pillowcases or handkerchiefs.

Make your way to the beauty counter and select skincare, make-up or manicure items for your Libran. "Body beautiful" experiences such as a facial, manicure or massage will be a hit.

European-style clothes with a touch of class will appeal to both sexes. Pastels, pinks, mauves and blues are their favourite colours. They adore silver, crystal or lace – avoid everything kitsch or New Age and steer clear of fussy prints and batiks.

They love tasteful decor so interesting boxes, statues, fine art, prints and stylish picture frames are sure to please. For an unrivalled gift, give Libra an item of jewellery with something significant engraved on it.

## **Scorpio** 24 Oct – 22 Nov

When it comes to the subject of Scorpio folk and Christmas presents, there's no mystery. Scorpios want a thrillingly intense gift experience.

They'll either love or hate what you've given them – there'll be no half measures. Give them something to engross them totally, nothing pale and insipid.

Scorpios will love dramatic sombre paintings with depth and lots of intense, brooding colours. Choose exotic perfumes, good liqueurs and wondrously decadent concoctions of chocolate or confectionery.

If you're giving a Scorpio clothing, lingerie or underwear, opt for rich, deep colours such as maroon, emerald green, black, indigo or claret. Buy them sumptuous, tasselled cushions in damask, velvet or brocade.

Murder mystery board games, detective novels or whodunits will give them something to solve. Books on Nostradamus, the paranormal, unsolved mysteries, magic, psychic experiences or life after death will spellbind them. Helpful and informative books on sex and sexuality will intrigue most Scorpios. ▶

## **Virgo** 24 Aug – 23 Sept

Virgos are notoriously difficult to buy for. They don't like surprises. If you want your gift to be a hit, try to find out what they need and then buy accordingly.

If you pick practical and functional gifts, you won't go wrong. Select well-made gifts with attention to detail – nothing plastic or trendy. Virgos prefer understated and tasteful items so select beiges, blacks and neutral, classic colours for most things.

They'll enjoy how-to psychology books, also those on health, herbs and healing. Book, music, cosmetic or lingerie gift vouchers that enable them to choose for themselves were invented for Virgos. They also like natural skincare lotions and potions so investigate health food stores for interesting options.

If you slip in a gift that is shamelessly indulgent – a bottle of wine, a piece of well-designed jewellery or the silkiest and laciest lingerie you can find – it's guaranteed to make shy Virgo's heart sing.

## Sagittarius 23 Nov – 22 Dec

Sagittarians are uncomplicated folk who are a joy to buy for. Swing on down to the nearest sports gear emporium and buy them running shoes, towels, track pants, gym or sporting gear.

They're constantly on the move and ready to head off on the next adventure so give them luggage, overnight travel kits or bags to stuff their gear in. With their love of outdoor experiences, bikes and backpacks can be just the thing.

Pop lottery tickets or tickets to sporting events inside a Christmas card or give them a mobile phone so they can keep in touch while they're off skiing, kayaking, mountain climbing or hiking.

Driving gloves, shortwave radios or cassette tapes to listen to while they're in the car are all suitable. They'll love philosophical, uplifting books or a subscription to a magazine. Failing that, buy them guidebooks or map books, adventure books and games.

## Capricorn 23 Dec – 20 Jan

Capricorns are fairly conservative when it comes to Christmas gifts so make sure you front up with a "real" Christmas present in traditional wrapping.

They love organising so diaries, calendars, personal planners and mini-filing systems are perfect for them. Include a wristwatch, alarm clock or some elegant-looking timepiece in their Christmas stocking – an orderly life is important to Capricorns.

Framed photographs to put on a desk, letter openers, stylish stationery and quality writing pens are favourites. They're favourably disposed towards "how-to-be-successful" books and enjoy biographies of people who made it to the top despite difficult lives.

If you're buying clothes, get carefully chosen combinations – jeans and T-shirt, trousers and a shirt, socks and a matching tie. They like brand names so opt for a classically stylish look. Steer clear of plastic, disposable things and brightly-coloured, faddish fashion items.

## Aquarius 21 Jan – 19 Feb

Aquarians love anything different, zany or unconventional. With their broad range of interests, they can be attracted to the deeply traditional yet still have an eye for the modern and contemporary.

They have lightning-quick minds and can get bored easily so you'll need to find out their current passion before shopping for Aquarians. They're known for their fashion sense and the latest fashions and fads usually appeal.

Aquarians are pretty switched on to modern technology so electrical appliances, electronic devices and gizmos are safe bets. Tape recorders, radios, telephones, TVs, computers and computer games are all suitable.

Anything to do with photography attracts Aquarius so opt for cameras, photographic equipment or even a studio portrait session.

The latest kitchen equipment or chef's gear from your favourite kitchenware store will usually appeal. If you're buying books, get them something tastefully risqué yet light and modern.

## Pisces 20 Feb – 20 Mar

When it comes to Christmas and Christmas gifts, Pisceans want to have a totally magical experience. With this sign of the zodiac, you have a veritable treasure trove of gifts to select from and nothing but your imagination to limit you.

Pisces rules bodies of water – so give them beach balls, beach towels, swimwear and swim or dive gear. Bits and pieces for the boat, fishing tackle and anything decorated with whales, dolphins or fish will warm the cockles of their hearts.

Candles, incense, good luck charms, aromatherapy oil burners and essential oils will strike a chord with their mystical souls. They have penchant for magical, mysterious things so give them fantasy paintings or posters, books of poetry, medieval-looking clothes or soft furnishings.

As Pisces is associated with the feet, gifts of footwear – slippers, boots and shoes – are always popular. Alternatively, alcoholic beverages and bartending items will be a sure-fire hit.

