**Lesson:** *The Best Gift I Ever Survived*

**Level:** B1 B2

**Lesson Text From:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKbet4RdSo4>

By: Stacey Krammer

**Warm Up** (5 min)

* In your opinion, what’s the greatest gift you’ve ever received?
* Can this gift be sold or exchanged? If so, how much would it be?

**1. Vocabulary: Before you go!** (5 min)

**Directions:** *Familiarize with the meaning and pronunciation of the following words before going over the lesson text.*

* envision /en-ˈvɪ-yshən/ (v.): visualize in the mind
* wrapped up /ˈræp-tôp/ (adj.): to be covered in something
* acquaintance /a-ˈkueɪn-tns/ or /a-ˈkueɪ-nans/ (n.): a person whom one knows casually
* spirituality /ˌspɪ-rɪ-chuæ-lɪ-tɪ/ (n.): the condition of being spiritual
* unsurpassed/ôn-serˈpᴂst/ (adj.): unbeaten, second to none.
* gourmet/gurˈmeɪ/ (adj.): fancy or exotic
* humble /ˈhôm-bol/ (adj.): not proud or arrogant
* alter /ˈol-ter/ (v.): change

**2. Listening Comprehension** (10 min)

**2.1. General Comprehension**

**Question:** *What narrative technique does Stacey Krammer use to present her story?*

**A.** Linear narrative: She tells the story through a chronological structure. That is, the story is told in the order it happened.

**B.** Backstory: She firstly provides the audience with some background context that makes her story senseful before revealing the truth.

**C.** Cliffhanger:Her story is left open-ended and unresolved.

**2.2. Specific Comprehension**

**Directions:** *Watch the video again and answer the following questions.*

**a)** What unexpected situation did Stacey Hammer go through?

**b)** How did her life change afterwards?

**c)** In the end, did she view it as a positive or negative experience?

**d)** Had you ever imagined what her gift was about?

**3. Pronunciation Practice: Video Transcript** (10 min)

**Directions:** Under your teacher’s supervision,read the video transcript out loud. As you read, pay closer attention to American /t/ & /d/ flapping and -ed forms.

*Imagine, if you will -- a gift. I'd like for you to picture it in your mind. It's not too big -- about the size of a golf ball. So, envision what it looks like all wrapped up. But before I show you what's inside, I will tell you, it's going to do incredible things for you. It will bring all of your family together. You will feel loved and appreciated like never before and reconnect with friends and acquaintances you haven't heard from in years. Adoration and admiration will overwhelm you. It will recalibrate what's most important in your life.*

*It will redefine your sense of spirituality and faith. You'll have a new understanding and trust in your body. You'll have unsurpassed vitality and energy. You'll expand your vocabulary, meet new people, and you'll have a healthier lifestyle. And get this -- you'll have an eight-week vacation of doing absolutely nothing. You'll eat countless gourmet meals. Flowers will arrive by the truckload. People will say to you, "You look great. Have you had any work done?" And you'll have a lifetime supply of good drugs.*

*You'll be challenged, inspired, motivated and humbled. Your life will have new meaning. Peace, health, serenity, happiness, nirvana. The price? $55,000, and that's an incredible deal.*

*By now I know you're dying to know what it is and where you can get one. Does Amazon carry it? Does it have the Apple logo on it? Is there a waiting list? Not likely. This gift came to me about five months ago. It looked more like this when it was all wrapped up -- not quite so pretty. And this, and then this. It was a rare gem -- a brain tumor, hemangioblastoma -- the gift that keeps on giving.*

*And while I'm okay now, I wouldn't wish this gift for you. I'm not sure you'd want it. But I wouldn't change my experience. It profoundly altered my life in ways I didn't expect in all the ways I just shared with you. So, the next time you're faced with something that's unexpected, unwanted and uncertain, consider that it just may be a gift.*

**5.** **Vocabulary Practice** (10 min)

**5.1.** **Verb Synonyms** (5 min)

**Directions:** *What’s a good synonym for the highlighted verbs?*

* I'd like for you to ***picture*** it in your mind. Answer:
* ***Envision*** what it looks like all wrapped up.
* But before I ***show*** you what's inside, I will tell you, it's going to do incredible things for you.
* You will (…) ***reconnect*** with friends and acquaintances you haven't heard from in years.
* It will ***recalibrate*** what's most important in your life.
* It will ***redefine*** your sense of spirituality and faith.
* You'll ***expand*** your vocabulary.
* Does Amazon ***carry*** it?
* It profoundly ***altered*** my life.

**5.2. Word Families** (5 min)

**Directions:** Under your teacher’s supervision, complete the chart with word families according to given suffixes.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NOUN** | **VERB** | **ADJECTIVE** |
| \*\*\*\*\*\*e | *picture* | \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*que |
| \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*ary | *envision*  | \*\*\*\*\*al |
| \*\*\*\*e | *adoration* | \*\*\*\*\*ble |
| \*\*\*\*\*\*ion | *expand* | \*\*\*\*\*ive |
| \*\*\*\*\*\*\*ion | *alter* | \*\*\*\*\*ed |
| \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*ion | *expect* | \*\*\*\*\*\*\*ant |
| \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*ion | *appreciate* | \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*ive |

**6. Speaking** (15 min)

**6.1. Speaking Activity 1:** *Unexpected Situations*

- What has been the most unexpected situation you’ve ever been through?

- How did you face it? Who else help you do so?

- Did it change you in some way? If so, how?

- What good things did this situation bring into your life afterwards?

**6.2. Speaking Activity 2:** *Turning Points*

- In your opinion, how can a negative experience turn out to be positive in someone’s life?

- What should our attitude be like to be able to make “bad into good”?

- In what way can a person’s views change after going through a challenging experience?