



# perfect

Gifts for Graduates

**G**raduation is upon us and you know what that means. Presents. Lots of presents. And not just those wimpy presents like the sweater you got for Christmas last year.

Graduation means big presents. After all, you can't really honor such an achievement, such a milestone in one's life with new socks and underwear. So open up your wallets because these graduates are about to go out and face the real world. They need something that will help them get a start on life — like a job.

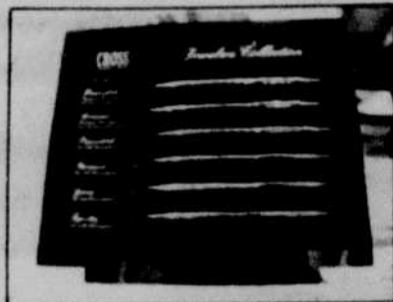
But if you lack connections you can always give them a good start on their first million instead. And if money is tight I think you owe it to your favorite graduate to take out a loan. Let's be honest, what do they have to look forward to after graduation other than presents? Hectic, dead end job searches and annoying little things like loan repayments?

So give your graduate something that will make their transition into the real world a smooth one, something that will help them learn a few of life's tough lessons early.

An initial suggestion is a gift certificate to Century 21. Both thoughtful and practical, this gift will enable your graduate to choose their own place of residency, while at the same time learning how to deal with nasty mortgage payments via your credit card.

Or if your graduate is already a home owner why not buy them a gold plated spatula engraved with their initials. This is sure to impress their new boss at the local fine food establishment specializing in quickly prepared foods and will make a lovely compliment to their polyester uniforms.

A trip (preferably to Europe or some place warm where they drink margaritas) is a great way to show you care and will give them a chance to relax before moving back home.



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And don't forget that your graduate will probably want to wear something other than those raggedy jeans and sweat shirts displaying their alma mater. So why not go to your local Polo or Anne Cline boutique and purchase a new wardrobe which they can wear while lounging around their new house, driving their new car, and putting golf balls at their new club. Don't worry about buying them any fine polyester, their work establishment will provide these uniforms free of charge.

And parents, a word of caution, luggage is not acceptable. Graduates who are presented with luggage at the advent of their special day have been known to seek revenge by doing things like moving back home, or going to graduate school for another three years and 30,000 dollars. In the long run a good graduation present is like a good investment.

But don't shy away from small gifts altogether—remember its the thought that counts. So adorn your graduate with jewels. Anything that makes it difficult for them to lift their hand and easier for you to lift your wallet is acceptable.

Some people say that gifts of money are impersonal, but a blank check or the number to your credit card are sure to bring tears of joy to any graduates eyes.

If creativity fails, you can always fall back on the usual graduation gifts; pens, appointment books, briefcases, or scrapbooks, but they should be neatly placed in the glove compartment of a brand

new shiny red sports car.

To keep your graduate in shape a membership to your local country club will help them unwind after a stressful day at the office (or restaurant). We don't want any early heart attacks from all those burgers eaten on the employee discount.

If your graduate is one of the lucky few who will not be provided with free food at their place of work perhaps they would enjoy gift certificates to the local restaurants around town. This way they can see all the friends they graduated with and still avoid cooking their own food for another year or two. Besides, their stomachs may go into shock if they suddenly revert back to normal home cooked meals after 4 or 5 years of college.



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