

Surprise!

Jerry and Emma are husband and wife. It's summer, and Jerry's birthday is approaching. Emma wants to give him a present for his birthday, but she wants it to be a surprise, so she must keep everything a secret. But she has a big problem. If Jerry cannot know about her plan, how does she find out what to get him for his birthday? She decides to use a secret technique. For a whole week, while she pretends to be doing other things, she actually keeps her ears wide open for clues. However, Jerry doesn't really talk about the subject. A whole week passes with no mention of anything that he actually wants or needs!

Later that day, she calls her sister-in-law Mary, and they make a secret plan. Mary will call Jerry, ask him what he would like to receive for his birthday, and Emma will listen to the conversation (without Jerry knowing it). The scheme starts out as planned. Mary calls Jerry, and they have a nice chat about his birthday. Emma listens carefully from the other room. Finally, she hears what he wants - a pair of sneakers! "Excellent!" she thinks to herself. Full of excitement, she runs out of the house and goes to the shop to buy a pair of beautiful new sneakers for him. She's very happy. She will give him the present that he wants, and it will be a complete surprise!

Jerry's birthday arrives. Emma waits until their special dinner at night. Finally, the moment arrives. It's time for Jerry's present! Emma fetches the shoebox, wrapped in colorful paper. "Wow!" Jerry says with a big smile. "I wonder what it can be." "Open it and see for yourself!" Emma replies happily. He takes off the paper and opens the box. "Oh, it's a . . . pair of sneakers! What a lovely . . . surprise!" Emma notices that something is wrong. "What's the matter? You don't seem very happy. Don't you need a pair of sneakers?" Jerry says nothing. Emma asks him "Didn't you tell Mary that you want a pair of sneakers?". "A pair of sneakers?" Jerry starts to laugh. "I said a pair of speakers well, I guess that a pair of sneakers is quite useful!"

Questions

1. Why was Jerry confused about his present?
2. Whose fault was it that the words became confused?
3. Did Jerry like his present?
4. How do you decide what birthday present to buy for someone?
5. Have you ever received a gift you did not want or need? What did you do about it?