

# 2 Giving and Receiving Gifts

In this unit, you will ...

- identify topics and main ideas.
- identify strong and weak topic sentences.
- practice writing topic sentences.
- combine sentences using *and* and *but*.
- learn how to use commas in sentences with *and* and *but*.

## 1 Tell a partner about the last gift you received.

- Who gave you the gift?
- When did they give you the gift?
- What was the gift? Did you like it?

## 2 Read the paragraph and answer the questions.

- a. What is the topic of the paragraph?
  1. celebrating birthdays
  2. the writer's family
  3. choosing gifts
- b. What is the writer's most important opinion about the topic?
  1. Gifts should be old.
  2. Gifts should be chosen carefully.
  3. A photograph is a good birthday gift.
- c. Why does the writer like the photograph?
  1. It helps him think about his father.
  2. It wasn't expensive.
  3. It was a birthday gift.



### A Birthday Gift

<sup>1</sup> Choosing a birthday gift for a friend or family member is fun, but it can be difficult. <sup>2</sup> The gift should be personal and has to be thoughtful. <sup>3</sup> For example, the best birthday gift I ever got wasn't fancy or expensive. <sup>4</sup> Last year my mother gave me a photograph of my father when he was my age. <sup>5</sup> He is standing with his mother and father (my grandparents) in front of their house, and he looks happy. <sup>6</sup> I think of my father every time I see that photo. <sup>7</sup> It was a perfect birthday gift.