Title: Holiday Gift Exchange in the Office

Objective: By the end of the lesson, students will be able to understand and use vocabulary related to a Yankee Swap (gift exchange) in an office setting, identify key grammar points, comprehend a written passage, and engage in role plays related to the topic.

Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Duration: 90 minutes

Materials:

1. Whiteboard and markers

2. Handouts with the reading passage and comprehension questions

3. Audio clip or script for listening comprehension

4. Visuals of office holiday decorations (optional)

Introduction (15 minutes):

1. Begin with a discussion about office holiday traditions. Ask students if they have ever participated in a Yankee Swap or similar gift exchange.

2. Write key vocabulary on the board: Yankee Swap, gift exchange, festive, holiday spirit, surprise, etc.

3. Introduce the grammar point: Using modals for expressing suggestions and preferences (e.g., "We could exchange gifts," "I would prefer a small gift," etc.).

Listening Comprehension (15 minutes):

1. Play the audio clip or read a script of a conversation related to a Yankee Swap in the office.

2. Provide students with a set of listening comprehension questions.

3. Discuss the answers as a class.

Vocabulary and Grammar Practice (20 minutes):

Vocabulary: Yankee Swap, Festive, Upcoming, Sceptical, Exchange, Make amends, give it a shot.

Grammar: Modal verbs for suggestions and preferences

1. Conduct vocabulary exercises, such as matching words to their meanings, using the new words in sentences, or role-playing holiday gift exchange scenarios.

2. Practice modals for expressing preferences. Divide students into pairs and have them create mini-dialogues using modal verbs.

Role Play (10 minutes):

1. Put students in pairs.

2. Pass out role play slips and explain what to do.

3. Have students act out the roles and take notes of any grammar and vocab errors.

4. Correction

Reading Comprehension (20 minutes):

1. Distribute the reading passage about a Yankee Swap in the office.

2. Have students read the passage individually or in pairs and complete the sentences.

3. Check answers.

Reading Exercise: "The Office Yankee Swap"

Read the passage about the Yankee Swap scene from "The Office" and fill in the blanks with the missing words provided below.

In the Dunder Mifflin office, the employees were excited about the upcoming \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The atmosphere was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with holiday decorations, and everyone was in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The Yankee Swap took an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ turn when Jim decided to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a hilarious gift. The surprise and laughter filled the room as the employees exchanged their gifts.

Despite the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the holiday spirit prevailed, and the office celebrated with joy and camaraderie.

Missing Words:

Yankee Swap

Festive

Holiday Spirit

Unexpected turn of events

Exchange

Resolution

Answers:

In the Dunder Mifflin office, the employees were excited about the upcoming Yankee Swap. The atmosphere was festive with holiday decorations, and everyone was in the holiday spirit.

The Yankee Swap took an unexpected turn of events when Jim decided to exchange a hilarious gift. The surprise and laughter filled the room as the employees exchanged their gifts.

Despite the unexpected turn of events, the holiday spirit prevailed, and the office celebrated with joy and camaraderie.

Post Discussion:

Do you have this tradition in your country? What is it called?  
What other traditions do you have?

Role Plays:

Student A – You are an employee who received an unexpected gift during the Yankee Swap. Express your surprise and appreciation.

Student B – You are the colleague who gave the unexpected gift. Explain your choice and share in the holiday joy.

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Student A – You are an employee organizing the Yankee Swap. Explain the rules and encourage participation.

Student B – You are a sceptical colleague unsure about participating. Express your concerns and seek clarification on the rules.

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Student A – You are an employee who received a duplicate gift during the Yankee Swap. Politely address the situation and propose a solution.

Student B – You are the colleague who gave the duplicate gift. Apologize and suggest a solution to make amends.

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Student A – You are an employee who received a particularly thoughtful gift during the Yankee Swap. Express your gratitude and share the positive experience.

Student B – You are the colleague who gave the thoughtful gift. Explain your choice and enjoy the appreciation.