



# 20 ways to say Thank you

**FC** A “thank you” is a genuine gift, no matter how it’s expressed. Oblige someone who deserves a “thanks,” needs a hug or could use a kind word. You’ll find gratitude is a boomerang in disguise—once you offer some, it comes right back to you. Here are creative ways to show appreciation without spending tons of time or money.

**1** Cakes (homemade or store-bought) are generally inexpensive and much appreciated. Your note? “You take the cake!”

**2** “You’re an absolute angel!” is the natural sentiment to accompany the gift of an angel food cake.

**3** Create a heart-smart gift basket with low-fat, low-cholesterol foods. Say, “Thanks to you from the bottom of my heart!”

**4** Fattening snacks like cookies or chocolate could accompany a note that says, “I’ve gained so much with you as my friend...now it’s your turn!”

**5** “Thanks for getting me out of a jam!” is an ideal note to tape on a jar of jelly or fruit preserves.

**6** Give jars of mixed nuts to friends to let

them know you’d “go totally nuts without them!”

**7** Greet your mate with thanks in an unexpected place, like on a mirror, written with bar soap.

**8** Teacher-supply stores often sell colorful, inexpensive award certificates. Give them out as earned.

**9** Keep a variety of greeting cards, including blank ones, on hand. When someone does something unexpected but appreciated, dash off a quick “thanks.”

**10** Tie a big, blue bow around a token gift for a “blue ribbon” winner.

**11** Fill a mug with gourmet tea bags. Attach a note that says, “You suit me to a tea!”

**12** Offer to plan an evening out just to



● **Be a writer.** Acknowledge gifts in writing as soon as possible. If you expect your note to be delayed, call the giver first, but follow up with a note as well. Notes can be savored and saved; phone calls cannot.

● **Be timely.** Offer your thanks as soon as possible. The sooner, the better!

thank a friend. Check the movie timetable or find a new restaurant to visit, and arrange for a baby sitter if necessary. All your friend has to do is enjoy!

**13** Thank a great teacher by having your child make a list of the important things she learned that year. Add a note saying you feel lucky your child was taught by someone so enthusiastic and professional.

**14** Help your child create a “Teacher Feature.” Paste a drawing or photo of her teacher on a large sheet of paper, then have the child write a lively, newspaper-type action story with a caption.

**15** Homemade soup, or the home-style type in a can, is a great cold-weather thanks for a truly “souper” friend.

**16** Thank your boss when she offers valuable career advice. Write a brief note saying what you learned from her.

**17** Thank someone for an evening’s job well done by offering bagels or doughnuts for the morning’s breakfast.

**18** Consider someone’s interests when trying to think up a thank-you. Give a running enthusiast socks designed for her sport. How about a beautiful bookmark for an avid reader? In other words, use your thinking cap to dream up a gift that’s right on target!

**19** To thank a lot of people if, say, you were the chairperson of an event committee, consider a “group” thank-you. Many local newspapers sell ads for a



nominal fee, and you can acknowledge everyone at once. Consider following up with notes to those who made a special effort.

**20** Above all, never underestimate the power of saying “thank you.” They are among the most important, most meaningful words you can say. Use them often. ■

## Gratitude Is the Best Attitude

- **Be specific.** Mention the gift by name (the sweater, the flowers, the book, etc.).
- **Be original.** Use key words for a note that will be read again and again. Some words to describe how you felt: *delighted, honored, thrilled, grateful, touched, moved, appreciative, speechless, captivated.*

Some words to describe a gift: *fabulous, gorgeous, exquisite, unforgettable, sensational, lovable, striking, phenomenal, awesome, superb, stylish, charming.*

● **Be sincere.** Thanks are always appropriate, no matter how big or small an action. Try not to overdo or underplay your gratitude.