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A Non-Traditional Tradition

By Low Jeremy

More and more people are talking about home schooling and online schools. As talk about it increases, so do the questions of parents as to what exactly is home schooling and online schools. Are these two things the same and do these methods really work?

Well to begin, home schooling and online schools are not the same things although it shares a basic principle, which is that the student studies and learns at home.

These two types of schooling are considered non-traditional learning methods as opposed to the regular schoolroom type of setting. However, being non-traditional is one of the few things these two methods have in common with each other.

Home schooling entails that the child or children, are taught by a parent at home. Although done outside of the classroom setting, children that are home schooled still learn the same things that other children learn in school like basic curriculum.

Also, home schooled children will still go on field trips or other social activities that the parent-teacher will plan, as well as learn music and physical education, among other things. There are many reasons as to why a parent may decide to home school their child or children and some reasons may include the fact that traditional schools have their own philosophy and set of values that they teach to their students, so much so that certain basic lessons will be taught with certain slants toward their own preference. To avoid this, a parent may decide to home school his or her child or children.

Another reason could be that one of the parent's job entails a lot of traveling and instead of breaking up the family unit, home schooling will allow the flexible of learning anywhere home is. This same flexibility is shared by home schooling with online schools. An online school is available to its enrolled student anywhere, anytime as long as there is a computer connected to the internet.

An online school's main benefit is the flexibility in time it affords a student. This is why, online schools are preferred by a lot of adults who may want to pursue further studies but cannot do so in a traditional setting because perhaps they already hold jobs or they have other responsibilities that prevent them from learning in a traditional setting. Just like in a regular school, online schools have set curriculums

and lesson requirements that an online learner needs to accomplish to earn an online degree.

Home schooling and online schools are considered non-traditional methods of learning only because it is yet to have enough people utilizing them to become the norm. Although they are non traditional, this does not mean that they are any less better than attending a regular traditional school. In fact, in some cases, these non-traditional methods are the best solution available.

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Traditional & Modern Anniversary Gifts

By Alex Daniels

An anniversary is the annual celebration of a couple's wedding date. In addition to the husband and wife exchanging gifts, it is customary for friends and family to present the couple with a gift in honor of their joyous celebration. For many, it is difficult to know what gift to purchase and which coordinates with the traditional anniversary gift for the number of years the couple has been wed. As time has passed, a modern gift list has also been created for the individual who wishes to give a gift that is less about tradition and more about current trends.

Tradition suggests that the first wedding anniversary be honored with the gift of paper, while the modern list suggests a clock would be appropriate. For the second anniversary, the traditional gift would be cotton and the modern gift would be china. The third anniversary is said to be traditionally honored with leather, but the modern trend suggests crystal or glass. Linen remains the classic anniversary gift in celebration of four years of marriage and an appliance is considered the modern alternative. For year five, it is customary to present a gift made of wood and the trendy choice is silverware.

When a couple reaches milestone anniversaries, which are usually measured in decades, the gifts become more expensive and are designed to be as precious as the years of wedlock. Tradition suggests that a 10-year anniversary be celebrated with the gift of tin, while the modern alternative is diamond jewelry. The 15-year milestone anniversary is traditionally honored with crystal and the modern list suggests a watch would also be appropriate. It is customary for china to be given for a 20-year anniversary, while the modern option is said to include platinum. For the 25th anniversary, couples are to receive silver according to both tradition and modern gift etiquette. Pearls are suggested from the traditional list for a 30-year anniversary and diamond jewelry is noted as a modern alternative.

Both the traditional and modern list offers the same suggestions for the remaining noted anniversaries. For year 35, suggested gifts are those made of coral or jade. A 40th anniversary should be celebrated with ruby, the 45th with sapphire, 50th with gold and 55th with emerald. For the 60th, 70th and 75th anniversary, diamonds remain both the traditional and modern gift option.

If you or someone you know is celebrating an anniversary, this list can be a helpful checklist to ensuring the proper gift etiquette is observed. Of course, there's no rule that says you have to purchase that which is noted, but it may point you in the right direction of the perfect gift to honor the perfect couple.

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