

Knowing what to buy a person living with dementia for a special occasion can be difficult: here are a few ideas:

Compact calendar clocks

Ideal for those in early and mid-stage of dementia. Some styles feature old-style clock faces and clearly displayed day and dates. Some clocks may additionally have a specific alarm function to remind when to take pills or eat. (Be mindful of whether the person can follow through with reminders)

Bird feeders/houses

Also seed bells and trays. This type of gift may stimulate conversation and relaxation, as well as encourage the person to feel useful, as they take responsibility for tending the bird feeder.

Outdoor Mobiles

Colourful and spinning mobiles hung to catch the breeze.

A Colourful Drinking Glass

Think about cups or glasses that are bright and in contrasting colours for easy recognition. Some people report that the person appears encouraged to drink more with a red cup!

Magazine Subscription

For people living with early-stage dementia, purchasing a subscription to a magazine suited to their interest may be suitable. Choose one that features lots of pictures and fewer articles.

Dress Jewellery

For ladies in the later stages, try inexpensive jewellery. Everyone in the family can add an item, building up a treasured collection but one where it will not matter if a piece becomes lost.

Giant Balloons

In different colours for people living with any stage of dementia, can be a great idea to keep grandchildren engaged as well.

Musical Boxes

Pretty or masculine designs – excellent for people at all stages of dementia.

Aprons

Choose fun and colourful BBQ style aprons for the men and pretty, floral, animal or bird designs for the ladies.

Basket of Pretty Hand Towels or Face Washers

Items may be printed or embroidered flowers, birds, or animals. Often the person may enjoy tracing their fingers over the patterns, and folding the items repeatedly, fulfilling a need to feel useful. The beauty of the designs may also stimulate conversation.

Key Chains

May provide stimulation for men, as they love to jiggle keys in their pocket. Purchase inexpensive key chains that clip onto belt loops with a chain attached to hold keys inside the pocket. Men may also enjoy a set of *large size* bolts and nuts in a container.

Photobook

You may have hundreds of photos, so consider making a photo book filled with images of all the important people in the person's life. Label each image with the name and relationship, such as "John and Jane Smith, your grandchildren."

Comfortable clothes

Consider the persons preferred clothing choices, and even if you think your mother would be more comfortable in leisure clothing, she may have other ideas. Changing clothing preferences may be difficult.

Weighted blankets

Some people find comfort in weighted blankets, as the pressure may reduce anxiety. If the person can't handle such a large item, consider purchasing a weighted pad rug or wrap.