

Mr West intended to buy his wife a Christmas present, but he was always very busy, so he was never able to find time to go to the shops. At last, when it was the week before Christmas, and the shops were very crowded, he decided that he could not wait any longer. He worked in an office, and usually had lunch in a restaurant, but one day he bought some sandwiches, ate them quickly and went out to a big shop near his office during his lunch hour. The shop was full of women, who were also buying presents during their lunch hour. Mr West stood politely at the edge of a crowd of women who were pushing forward to try to get to the people who were selling necklaces and ear-rings. He tried to move forwards slowly, taking his turn with the others, but more and more women were coming into the shop the whole time and pushing selfishly past him.

After half an hour, he was just as far from the people who were selling the necklaces as he had been when he came in, and his lunch hour was coming to an end, so he decided to change his way of doing things: he put his head down, gave a sudden loud shout and started to push his way towards the front of the crowd as hard as he could.

The woman around him became very angry when they saw what he was doing, and began to scold him. 'Why can't you behave like a gentleman?' they shouted.

'Ladies,' he answered them, 'I have been behaving like a gentleman for the past half hour, and it has got me nowhere, so now I am starting to behave like a lady!'