

The Spirit of Christmas

- Interviewer:* Well, hello, there. I've taken the camera crew down a busy shopping street in search of one thing. What is it? Bargains? Interest-free offers? Once in a lifetime deals? No. I'm in search of the Spirit of Christmas. Is there such a thing? Or is this Spirit the ghost of Christmas past? Let's find out ... Hello, sir ... yes, you, sir, with the nasty tie ... What do *you* think is the Spirit of Christmas?
- First Man:* Well, it's being friendly and that. You know, having a laugh, buying presents ...
- Interviewer:* Let's hope someone buys you another tie. But is there more to Christmas than just buying presents? Let's ask this lady ... yes, *you*, lady, with the wig on. What's Christmas really about? Here we are rushing around spending money we don't have - why do we do it?
- First Lady:* Well, it's for the kids, isn't it? The little ones love it, get all excited, don't they. The look on their little faces when they open their little presents, takes me back to when I was a girl.
- Interviewer:* What, to when you had your own hair? Anyway, let's move on in search of the elusive Spirit of Christmas. Madam, yes you, madam, with the squirrel on your head.
- Second lady:* It's a fur hat, actually. And before you ask, it's not real fur but false.
- Interviewer:* What, like your teeth? But seriously, madam, what do you think Christmas is about?
- Second lady:* Well, it's about goodwill to one's fellow man, about sharing and doing that bit extra.
- Interviewer:* Anything else?
- Second lady:* Yes, mince pies and mulled wine, a kiss under the mistletoe.

Interviewer: I'd rather kiss the squirrel. Must dash. Let's try in this department store. Lots of lovely decorations - tinsel, lights and angels. There's Santa talking to one of the children. Surely, *he* must know. Santa, hello, can I ask you a few questions?

Santa: Be quick, it's my tea break in two minutes.

Interviewer: Well, excuse me, grandpa. Can you tell me what Christmas is all about?

Santa: I can. It's little horrors asking for this and that computer game, a mountain bike, a whole new outfit - you name it, they want it.

Interviewer: And I hope you promise to deliver ...

Santa: Deliver, my foot! They'd need a big chimney. I tell them if they're a good boy or girl, I'll see what I can do.

Interviewer: You mean, you lie to them?

Santa: At five pounds an hour plus tips for this job, you bet I lie to them.

Interviewer: So there's no such thing as the Christmas Spirit?

Santa: Well, it's got too commercial, hasn't it? In my day we got less and appreciated it more. Christmas started on December the 25th and not before - and my tea break starts now, if you'll excuse me ...

Interviewer: But I haven't told you what I want for Christmas.

Santa: Come back in twenty minutes.

Interviewer: I want one of those lovely squirrel hats ...
Well, folks we're not getting much nearer the truth. Let's go to our 'phone lines. Remember that number 0181 252525, our lines are busy - the question: what's Christmas all about? What do we mean by the Christmas Spirit?