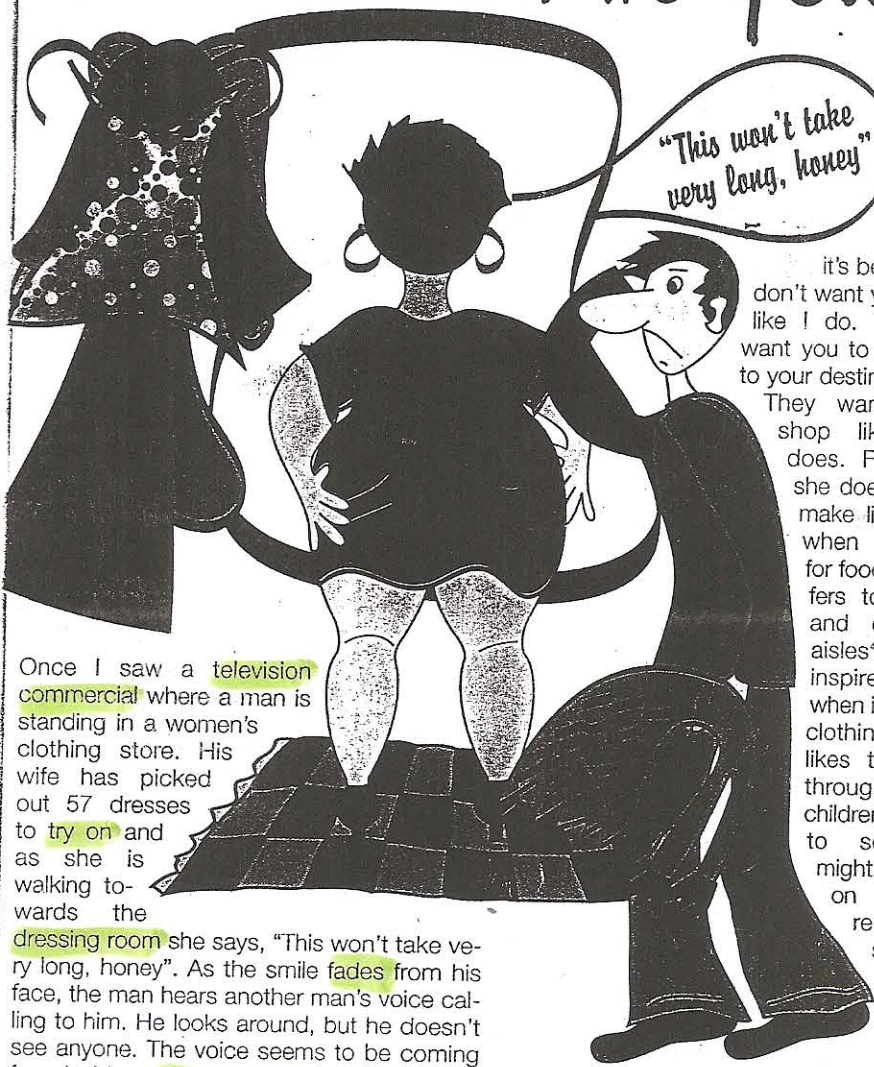


Are You a Shopper?



Once I saw a television commercial where a man is standing in a women's clothing store. His wife has picked out 57 dresses to try on and as she is walking towards the dressing room she says, "This won't take very long, honey". As the smile fades from his face, the man hears another man's voice calling to him. He looks around, but he doesn't see anyone. The voice seems to be coming from inside a circular rack of dresses. When he pushes two dresses apart, he sees four guys sitting inside drinking beer and watching a football game on television. The smile that had faded just a short while earlier, quickly returns as he climbs inside the rack. Boy, would I like that to happen to me sometimes. Don't get me wrong. I don't hate shopping. And I don't hate my wife. But, it wouldn't be completely untruthful to say that I hate going shopping with my wife. Why? Because generally speaking, men and women don't shop the same way. Well, it isn't fair to say that all men are like me and all women are like Elenka. So, let me just describe how we are different in this matter. I usually decide beforehand what I need and then I go into the store and get it. I don't look to the left or the right. I go straight to the "hardware" section of Tesco and find the hammer and buy it. I don't wander through the children's clothing section just to see what might look nice on my children. They each have enough clothing for six children. Speaking of Tesco, have you ever wondered why they always re-arrange that store? And why, when you're taking the escalators up or down, after reaching one level, you always have to walk around to the other set

"This won't take very long, honey".

of escalators to continue going in the same direction? I think it's because they don't want you to shop like I do. They don't want you to go straight to your destination. They want you to shop like Elenka does. First of all, she doesn't like to make lists - even when shopping for food. She prefers to walk up and down the aisles and get inspired. And when it comes to clothing, she likes to wander through the children's section to see what might look nice on our children. And if she finds

But then a funny thing happens. A week later when I'm wearing the new sweater, I realize that it does look good and that it does feel comfortable - maybe not as comfortable as the black sweater, but she's right about the holes. Suddenly, she doesn't have to beg me to wear it. Are you like me? Or are you like Elenka? Life can be complicated sometimes, but in certain areas it can be very simple. For example, you're either a smoker or a non-smoker. And you're either a shopper or a non-shopper. If you're a guy and you're like me, let me give you a little bit of advice about dealing with girls who are like Elenka. If you want them to like you, ask them to go with you to pick out a pair of pants for yourself. A couple of years ago, I had to buy a new suit because I was going to a "Stužkova". So, I asked Elenka if she would go with me to find one. The smile that came across her face was similar to the one she had when I asked her to marry me and when she held our children, as babies, in her arms. I'm not kidding. In fact, when I told a woman colleague that Elenka and I were going shopping for a suit, she said, "I would be so happy if Robo asked me to go shopping with him". Well, we all have to go shopping. If you like shopping, I wish you many happy hours in the stores of your dreams. And if you don't like shopping, I hope that you find that magic clothing rack with the television in the middle.

See you next month!

False Friends Quiz 4

1. Replace the word in **bold** with one of the following answers: We met **us** at the train station.
A. we B. ourselves C. the other one D. **each other**
2. What is the difference between a mine and a cave?
3. What is the English word for those long pointy pieces of ice that hang from roofs like stalactites in caves? *icicles*

Here are the answers to last month's quiz:

1. The "bed" that is made out of string and hangs in the air between two trees is a **hammock**.
2. The English equivalent of "Chýbal si mi" is "I missed you".
3. "I was angry" does not mean "I was fired".

Paul McCullough
illustrated by: Alica Dórová

something - like a "darling" pair of pants for "Liamko" she will buy them; it doesn't matter that we will soon have to get rid of our bed and sleep on the kitchen floor because the clothing needs that bedroom space. If it's "darling" and it's for "Liamko" or "Nufka", Elenka will buy it and they will have it. Yes, I am exaggerating⁵, now. But it's the way I feel sometimes. Don't get me wrong. I don't like going shopping with Elenka and I don't approve of her ideas about our clothing needs, but I am happy that our children are well dressed. She also likes to buy things for me. And usually I say, "Gee thanks, honey. But you didn't really need to buy that sweater for me. The black one is enough". She says, "Maybe you can still wear it when you work in the garden, but otherwise it has too many holes". Just try this new one on." Then I usually complain⁷ about not wanting to try it on. I try it on and she asks me to turn around about 50 times. I have an expression of pain on my face as she studies the sweater and how it fits. Then I take it off and forget about it.

1otáčavý stojan; 2ponevierať sa; 3túlať sa; 4pohyblivé schody hore a dole; 5ailz/ ulička-mi; 6zveličujem; 6dier; 7stažujem sa; 8prosiť ma; aby som ho nosil; 9stalaktity v jaskyniach