

ELF 1 Santa, can we have a word?

SANTA Sure, I'm all ears.

ELF 2 *You're* all ears? Try working in a toy factory all day with ears this size. The noise is deafening.

ELF 3 We have to use car sponges as ear plugs...

ELF 1 ...and that means we can't hear each other speak.

SANTA I'm sorry to hear that.

ELF 2 Are you trying to be funny?

SANTA No, not at all. Just not choosing my words very well. Sorry, busy time of Year.

ELF 3 Tell me about it! I was wrapping presents in my sleep last night.

SANTA Well, we are a seasonal business. But soon it'll be over for another year. You'll be able to have a nice holiday.

ELF 2 Holiday! You think we can afford a holiday on what you pay us?

SANTA Well, it's not about the money. Think of the joy we're bringing.

ELF 1 Actually, Santa, it *is* about the money. That's what we came to see you about. We want a pay rise.

SANTA A pay rise! I don't know about that. I mean, every time we advertise for new staff, I get hundreds of applications from elves who are all quite happy with the pay. Not to mention the gnomes – there's more money in factory work than in fishing or gardening these days.

ELF 2 So if we're not happy with the noise, the long hours and the poor pay, you can just get rid of us and find some gnomes to replace us, hey?

SANTA That's not what I meant.

ELF 3 We thought this would happen. That's why we've started the EUU – the Elf Unsafety Union. If you go bringing in other workers to keep down our pay and working conditions, we're all going on strike.

ELF 1 I put our demands into a list. You should like it, you're good with lists.

SANTA Ho, ho, ho.