

CHOICES

Scenario 2

No one's watching

You are in a shopping mall. You are with your friend. You have gone into your favourite store. You have been looking at something that you really, really want – but it is too expensive to buy.

Your friend looks at you and says, “No one's watching. I know you want it. Take it. No one will ever know. You deserve it. And this store is plenty rich enough. Go on – put it under your coat.”

What should you do?

A “Sorry. I can't do that. I could get into trouble. No.”

What next?

Your friend gets mad at you and says something about being a sissy. You go after your friend.

Then you stop and think, “Why is my friend mad? He wanted to see if I would do it – without taking any risk himself. Is this person a good friend or a bad friend?”

You leave the store. There is a security guard outside. He is watching you carefully. You smile and keep going. What if?

Think about it

Friendship is super important. But we can't be led by our friends if it takes us where we don't want to go.

Your Mom has probably said, “And would you put your hand in the fire if he/she said to?”

We need to resist the urge to obey if we know it is wrong. “Just following orders” is one of the oldest and most dangerous of mistakes if it’s not a responsible adult giving the orders.

Do you want to look at another scenario involving pushy friends? (Go to 5)

Do you want to try the scenario again? (Go to 2)

B You decide to take a risk. You always wanted it. You grab it and put it inside your coat. You walk out of the store.

What next?

You are walking away laughing, when a voice says, “I saw what you did, you know. Let me see what you’ve got inside your coat.”

You blush and start to tremble. You open the coat. And there it is. He takes it from you.

“Come with me please.”

At this point your friend says, “Well, gotta go. See you later.” And your friend disappears.

Miserably, you follow the security guard to the mall office.

“What’s the number for your parents?”

Think about it

The argument that stealing doesn’t matter in the big scheme of things ignores that it is a criminal offence. You could get into serious trouble. And it’s just plain dishonest. Stealing is against all religions and all around the world is considered bad behavior. No fancy arguments can justify it.

Do you want to look at another scenario about breaking the law? (Go to 24)

Do you want to try the scenario again? (Go to 2)