

Learning by Ear 2009
Media & Information. Episode 1
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EPISODE 1

CHARACTERS

Announcer:	Male/female
“Young Junior”	Male, 15 years old
“Sister P.”	Female, 16 years old
“Charlie”	Male, 18 years old
“Ezra”:	Male, 22 years old. Brother to “Young Junior”.
Askari:	Adult male

INTRO/Scene Setting

Hello and welcome to a brand new series of Learning by Ear. This time around we are looking at *Media and Information*. Have you ever fancied a career in TV? Or maybe you are the radio type, humming away to your choice tunes and hitting the cell phone when your favourite call-in show comes on? In this new LbE series we are going to take you behind the scenes of the media world. What is media all about? How can you start up your own media outfit? Where do you get information from?

Come on then, let's meet our main characters.

Young Junior is a street-wise fifteen-year-old who is the face behind the infamous "Dot.Com.Music.Club" or "DCC". Despite being a music buff he is also into reading and dreams of one day running his own newspaper which he is going to call "The Brain Drill".

Next there is **Sister P**, a sixteen-year-old girl with a voice to die for. She sings in the Dot.Com.Club, but dreams of running her own TV programme that would feature girls and their experiences in society - a programme that would entail interviews and live discussions on air, to be called: "The Me in Me". She's tough talker and not to be messed with – as the guys will no doubt discover pretty soon.

Then there is **Charlie** who's a natural born man of rhythm. His hands are always itching for a good beat. He is also a member of the Dot.Com Club and dreams of becoming a famous DJ on a local FM radio station.

Finally, there's **Ezra**. At 22, he is the oldest of the bunch, a brother to Young Junior and a student of journalism at the local university.

He is a genuine radio enthusiast with lots of experience and he's also a presenter at the campus radio. Ezra also helps out at a local recording studio where the Dot.Com.Club members are currently recording their first tape. Too bad the national broadcaster won't play any of their music. This is where we pick up the story...HOPE YOU ENJOY IT!

SCENE 1 Youth centre

SFX: *with quite a number of extra-curricular activities going on, a basketball keeps bouncing. In a distance next to the basketball court is a soccer field, and a group of young boys are playing soccer. They keep calling out each others names. Footsteps in classroom and finally window is shut.*

- 1. Askari:** **(Rough and scary voice)** Stop it! What do you think you are doing? You are not allowed to close those windows! Open them again.

- 2. Sister P:** Ahha **(breath of relief)**...Askari you scared me. We need a quieter room.

- 3. Askari:** What for?

- 4. Charlie:** We are the Dot.Com.Club. We are here to rehearse our song. My name's Charlie.

- 5. Sister P:** And I am Sister P. Here is our permission from the authorities. **(SFX shuffling papers)**

6. Askari: Do you keep this permission in the mouth of a goat?

7. Charlie: We will not be long, Sir. Just one hour.

8. Askari: Just one hour and no more!

9. Sister P: Goodness, Charlie...that guy's breath reeks of booze. He must have had a liquid lunch.

10. Charlie: Sister P, you'd better start singing.

11. Sister P: (*starts singing*) *Dream On...Yeah Dream on...*

SFX: (<i>Running footsteps and screaming/ laughing kids</i>)

12. Askari: (*shouting and scolding*)
If I catch you, I will smack your behinds! (*Kids laugh so loud that Charlie ends up laughing himself, Sister P stops singing*)

13. Sister P: Aaaah! This isn't working.

16. Charlie: One wonders where we get the courage to sing.

17. Sister P: What are you talking about?

- 18. Charlie:** I mean, look at all the time and effort we put into our first R&B demo that we recorded and then finally sent to the national radio to broadcast and up until now, they have never aired it.
- 19. Sister P:** You are right... when you listen to the national radio it's is all about talking...talking ...funeral announcements, irrelevant speeches, organised news and stuff. It's all so boring I wonder what grandma likes so much on that radio. She's always got it glued to her ear.
- 20.Charlie:** Same as my father. You should see the smile on his face when he is sitting on his wooden bench on the veranda, drinking some local beer, with a small radio held up to his right ear, tuned to the national radio, **(takes a deep breath in and out)** aaaaah... he's in Paradise.
(a bicycle bell rings)
Young J. is here! What's up, guy?
- 21. Sister P:** You are late.
- 22. Young J:** I know **(not bothered)**. Yeah, so what's up, Sister P.?
- 23. Sister P:** Get lost, Young Junior. You don't even excuse yourself? Shall we go ?

24. Young J: Yes, in a minute. Ezra said he would call us when he is ready for you guys. In the meantime, rehearse.

25. Sister P: No. It's too loud here. So what's new today Young J?

26. Young J: Eh! Have you heard that motorcyclists in Nigeria are getting round the law about having to wear helmets by wearing pumpkin shells instead?

(All: Laugh)

27. Charlie: Madness! Where do you get all this info from ?

28. Young J: Foreign radio stations. Come on, Charlie, don't you tune to other stuff , or are you glued to the Radio Granny?

29. Sister P: That's the disadvantage with radios. News is gone with the air.

30. Young J: That's why I want to start my newspaper, Sister P.

31. Charlie: That is even worse Young J. Who's going to read it?

32. Sister P: What do you want to you call it?

33. Young J: The *BRAIN DRILL* ! Forget names like *THE SUN* or *THE TIMES*. (***excited***) The brains of our community have been suffering from overdose of sleeping pills, with our so called National Radio Programmes. In order to wake them up we need to kick-start their brains with a drill newspaper.

SFX: (<i>Phone rings</i>)

34. Sister P: Is that Ezra, Young Junior?

37. Young J: Yes, Ezra, all right, we will be there in a minute.
Guys, we must take off like the wind, NOW!

40. Sister P: Young Junior, before you start acting like a mad goat, how far is it from here to Ezra's studio?

43. Young J: Come-on sister P, it's just five minutes. Let's go.
Ezra says the studio producer is quite busy and we need to be there NOW!

SFX: (<i>Desks being pushed, bicycle bell rings, kids screaming and laughing</i>)

SCENE 2

SFX: *A Path from the youth centre to the recording studio, sounds of nature: afternoon. Sister P and Charlie breathing very fast, confused footsteps, once in a while sticks are broken, a bicycle's chain is constantly heard and the bell clinging.*

44. Charlie: **(breathless)** This is nonsense. I can't wait to start my own radio station. We could just go in and sing acapella, or play all the latest hits and promote our talents.

45. Sister P: I think television is better because you can serve both the ear and eye. And TV would give a chance to people like Young Junior to display his break dance strokes.

46. Young J: **(from a distance)** Why don't you join me in starting a newspaper.? Don't you want to "drill brains"?

47. Sister P: How much further is the studio, Young J?

48. Young J: **(From a distance)** Not far now,Sister P, Not far now

SFX: **(Mobile phone rings)**

49. Young J: Hello...helloooooo....yes, Ezra.

50. Ezra: ***(unclear voice on phone)*** Young Junior!
51. Young J: Yes, Ezra...Talk louder, I can't hear you properly.
52. Ezra: Can you tell your friends to come another time
 because the producer has changed his mind.
53. Young J: ***(almost in a whisper)*** Now, that is total rubbish.
 Ezra! ***(calling with begging command)***
54. Ezra: The producer says he's too busy now.

SCENE 3

SFX: ***Outside the recording studio some soft choir music is heard in the background. It is at the road side and once in the while motorbikes and cars are heard passing by.***

55. Young J: (to himself) There is no way I can break that
 news to these guys. They will kill me...

SFX: ***sounds of breathless sister P and Charlie, hurried footsteps***

- 56. Young J:** Guys meet Ezra, Ezra meet the *Dot.Com.Club*.
- 57. Ezra:** *Dot.Com.Club?* Great name. Nice to meet you. A million apologies, guys.
- 58. Sister p:** Oh, no worries. We should be the ones to apologise you for keeping you waiting
- 59. Ezra:** No, actually you are right on time. It's just that the producer had to do something else, so we'll just have to reschedule.
- 60. Charlie:** What?
- 61. Sister P:** Unbelievable! Young Junior!
- 62. Young J:** Don't give me that look, Sister P. Guys, it's not the end of...
- 63. Sister P:** Enough is enough. I am out of this business. I'll keep my music to myself.
- 64. Ezra:** No, nooo guys. You are still young. Giving up is not good. It's not easy for me either but I keep going.
- 65. Charlie:** So, have you managed to make your dreams come true?

66. Ezra: At least I like what I am doing, being a media student. And how about you guys? Do you know what you want?

67. Charlie: As for me, my dream is a radio station where I would air hot music all day long. And since this club thing is not working, I will call the station *DOT COM FM STEREO*.

68. Sister P: Now, because I am frustrated with the way things are going, I want to focus on television, and interview talented girls and do live discussions of stories of girls of my age. You never hear these things on our national radio. I would call my programme... *THE ME IN ME*... and this is how I would start (*clears her throat*) “*This is Sister P, your soul sister!*”

69. Young J: *DRILL THE BRAINS* is my dream newspaper. “Meet the Editor-in-Chief, Mr. Young Junior”

SFX: <i>Thunder and windy air</i>
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70. Ezra: Looks like it is going to rain...and the national radio said it was going to be a sunny day

71. Sister P, Charlie, Young J:
Do you listen to that stuff, Ezra?

72. Ezra: You are right. The national radio is never accurate about that, but they also rely on the information the weather stations provide. Your ideas are all great. But I believe that three heads are better than one. You should sit down and consider the pros and cons of each idea and then focus on just one. Radio could be cheap and fast. TV is great but expensive and the audience in our community is small.

73. Young J: Then, let's settle for a newspaper since you can keep the info as long as you want.

SFX: <i>Thunder and windy air</i>
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74. Charlie: That depends on where you keep it. If you keep it at you father's thatched house and heavy rains pour through the roof, it will become junk.

75. Ezra: Printing lasts longer...but like I said, I am going to think about it. Let's discuss this media stuff at length, next time. The rain is not on our side tonight.

SFX: <i>(Rain fall)</i>

END EPISODE

OUTRO

And that was the first episode in our series „Media & Information“. What do you think? Will Sister P succeed with her idea of setting up a TV station ? And will the Dom.Com Club get their music played on a private station?

Tune in next time and find out for yourself. In the meantime if you want to listen to this first episode again online, you can do so by visiting our LbE-website at dwworld.de/lbe.

Till next time.....take care!