

## Learning by Ear – Media & Information Episode 2

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### **EPISODE 2**

#### *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”.
“Mr.T”:	Male, 30, sound technician

## **INTRO:**

Welcome to the second episode of Media & Information, a programme in the series Learning by Ear. In case you missed the first episode, let me bring you up-to-date with what happened. Sister P, Young Junior and Charlie are the faces behind the infamous *Dot.Com.Club* and they all have their eyes firmly set on a career in the media business. But things aren't going so well, especially since the national radio station refused to air any of their songs. This leads to some serious soul-searching on the part of our characters. We hope you enjoy today's episode!

## EPISODE 2

### SCENE 1

**SFX: *In the studio, a keyboard is playing hot R&B samples for some 15 seconds and then it suddenly stops.***

1. **Mr T:** Ooops! Guys, what's up? Sister P, what is wrong?
2. **Sister P:** Sorry, Mr T, that was our mistake. Let's take it again. Young J, Charlie, let's get serious.
3. **Young J:** Come on! Who's not being serious? Don't make Mr T think it's our fault.

4. **Mr T:** Eh, Young J, I gave you the cue to start singing three times like this -
- (sfx a hold on keyboard notes)** and you just stared at me like a scared rabbit. **(Losing his temper)** What the heck do you want me to do?
5. **Young J:** Ok, oookay! Mr T, please don't get mad at us. It is our music and it is our money. We are not here for free.
6. **Mr T:** Guys, I have lots of people waiting. If you don't understand that time is money and just want to get on my nerves, I'll simply throw you out of the studio.
7. **Charlie:** Calm down, Mr T, let's sort this out.
8. **Sister P:** Ok, fine. We've been talking too much. Let's get moving. Charlie, what do you want Mr T to do?
9. **Charlie:** It's the tempo.
10. **Mr T:** What about the tempo?
11. **Charlie:** You should reduce it.
12. **Sister P & Young J:** What?
13. **Mr T:** Ok, fine. If that is what you want, I will reduce the tempo.

**SFX starting the key board.**

**14. Sister:** No, stop, Mr T.

**SFX Key board stops.**

**15. Sister P:** I think we just need to compromise. Charlie, if we reduce the tempo then we risk producing music that lags.

**16. Young J:** You are right, Sister P, if we reduce the tempo we are in danger of producing oldies' music. Charlie, you know the kind of music us guys want. Tupa tumpampa tutumpa tupa.

**17. Sister P:** Actually I thought Mr T should increase the tempo a bit.

**18. Mr T:** Guys, I am the producer, so do as I say. Ok?

**19. Sister P:** Ok, boss.

**SFX Keyboard plays hot R&B tunes**

**20. Sister P:** Dream on ..... yeah dream and dream on x 2

**21. All together:** Dream on ..... yeah dream and dream on

All night ..... dream on

All day .....dream on

Yeah Yeah....you hear me?

**Sfx Suddenly keyboard stops**

- 22. Charlie:** Oh no! What is it, Mr T? A power cut?
- 23. Mr T:** No... the groove thing in you guys is just dead.
- 24. Charlie:** You see, I told you the tempo should slow a bit.
- 25. Mr T:** Charlie, it is not the tempo. You guys are low battery. Your voices are going crazy as well. I mean.....
- 26. Sister P:** What can we do?
- 27. Mr T:** Let's take thirty minutes out. Relax and come back fresh.

### End Scene one

*In a busy, restaurant people are heard from a distance making orders, pulling chairs back and forth and some music in the background Non-stop footsteps in and out.*

- 28. Sister P:** What on earth is this mess? Newspaper stands, portraits of the pope, Bob Marley. Is this a church, a print factory, disco or restaurant? This is madness. Can't we find another place to eat?
- 29. Young J:** Not in this part of town. This is the only restaurant about, Sister P.
- 30. Charlie:** (**sniffing**) Nice smell. Food might be tasty.
- 31. Sister P:** Hopefully, it tastes as good as it smells.

**SFX pulling chairs and table**

- 36. Young J:** (**Yawning**) I am really exhausted and hungry. Are those newspapers on sale?
- 37. Sister P:** Of course, yes ...you can have one for lunch. No wonder you were giving us all a headache in the studio.
- 38. Charlie:** (**Approaching**) Tupa tumpampa tutumpa tupa
- 39. Young J:** Charlie, give us a break. Let's get back to that after lunch.
- 40. Charlie:** (**Whispering**) I was just showing off to those guys. They all turned and looked at me whispering that I must be the one of the Dot.Com.Club, and I decided to come bouncing in on the tupa tu bit. Now, where are the waiters and waitresses?
- 41. Sister P:** This snail service is killing me. I wonder if they think we are here for a photo shoot. Ah, there she is.
- 45. Waitress:** (**Broken English with strong accent**) Yes, you call me? Today you come for the restaurant to your first time?
- 52. Sister P:** What does it matter whether it is the first time or not? Are you going to serve us, or what?

- 53. Waitress:** Please, don't angry with me, it is safe service. You do everything self, I only collect drunk plates, cups and bottles.
- 54. Young J:** Oops, Sister P, I think you owe her an apology.
- 55. Sister P:** Sorry, thanks, we will serve ourselves. Guys, we have to hurry now. Time is not on our side.  
(*Laughing*) Did you hear that? "It is safe service".
- 56. Charlie:** (*laughing*) Sister P, don't make fun of her, she tried at least and she has communicated with us.

**SFX as they talk, a radio gets louder and corny, kitschy being played on the lunch time music programme.**

- 57. Sister P:** Aah, that must be our wonderful national radio station.
- 58. Young J:** Of course it is. Where else would you find such music being played, apart from your grandpa's gramophone. Of course it is the national radio station.
- 59. Charlie:** Sappy music aaaall the time. It bores me. It is the main reason we have to start our own radio station, I am sure no one will ever tune in to the national station again, once Radio Dot Com FM is on the air.

- 60. Young J:** I wonder the kind of programme I would host if Radio Dot Com FM really happened. I think radio is not only about music but informing and educating people as well.
- 61. Sister P:** I have wild dreams about the radio station. I think about all the funky programmes I could produce like African Idols, the Lover's Nest, The Late Night Show. I can already see the kind of music I'd play. Aha! I would also host the Top Ten Countdown.
- 62. Young J:** Guys, we are talking and the food's running out! Let's go and get something to eat, and then after lunch I will tell you what I think about the radio idea.
- 63. Charlie:** What's that, Young J?

**SFX pushing chair and table as they stand up**

**End scene two.**

**SCENE3**

**SFX: On the verandah, on a slightly busy street, a few vehicles people and motor cycles pass.**



**64. Charlie:** Tumpa tumpampa tumpa.

**(Sfx trying to open the door)**

Guys, forget it. It's locked.

**65. Sister P:** Now, why did Mr T have to do this? He told us to come back in a short while and now he's not in the studio anymore. I hate little Napoleons.

**66. Young J:** He must have gone for lunch too. Anyway, guys, while we are waiting for Mr T, what do you think about my idea?

**67. Charlie:** Idea?

**68. Young J:** I mean the **THE BRAIN DRILL** newspaper. Instead of a radio station, we start up a newspaper I don't know why, but I feel strongly about a newspaper.

**69. Sister P:** Come on, Young J. Why do you want to go in for print? There is nothing earth shaking in the print media. I mean, you saw how all those newspapers in the restaurant were covered in dust. No one cares about them at all.

**70. Charlie:** I don't see a newspaper project working at all either. What makes you think it would work, anyway?

- 71. Young J:** You see, from the time you started talking about a radio station, I kept thinking about it and what it means, and the costs etc. I came to the conclusion that print media could be the best alternative to the boring national radio station.
- 72. Sister P:** Does that mean that if we went in for print, we would have our music printed in the paper instead of singing it?
- 73. Young J:** Basically, what we are looking for is something affordable and attractive to guys like us. We just need to put in stuff that is relevant to our generation.
- 74. Charlie:** Exactly, that's what we want.
- 75. Young J:** With my little mathematics and economics, I worked out that with our limited resources a newspaper would be the cheapest form of media to work within. With a newspaper we wouldn't need to hire space for a studio. We'd just have to put our edited stuff on a flash disk, take it to a printer and then the paper is out. But with a radio station you have to look for a studio, equipment....

**76. Charlie:** Well, maybe your idea is good but to me I think it might be more expensive to do print than radio. You also need an office, computers with layout software, a professional printing press etc. And did you think about storage of the printed papers as well as their distribution?

**77. Sister P:** Unless he keeps the papers under his bed, that would be a big challenge. We'd have to find distribution agents etc. But with radio you don't have any of those problems. What you give out is only radio waves and they reach almost everywhere in the city and surroundings. It's all types of information without any further distribution charges.

**78. Charlie:** Which is why many papers start and fail. We don't want to get disappointed. Sometimes I see a paper which was published in January and it is still on the stand in June.

**79. Sister P:** The reading culture here in our country is poor. Very few people would spend their money on a newspaper. Just look at the literacy rates in our country. How many people can actually read and write? The literate are the minority but with radio, literacy wouldn't be a problem.

**80. Young J:** Guys, you talk as if you have rehearsed this.

- 81. Charlie:** Unless you are lucky and there are lots of people like my uncle. He always wanted to show people that he was literate, so he would buy newspapers, look at the photographs and just pretend he was reading. The worst day for him is when he was discovered reading the paper upside down.
- 82. Sister P:** **(laughs)** Our people here like to use old newspapers in the toilets or to wrap groundnuts in, or cassava.
- 83. Young J:** I can't imagine how I would feel if I went into a toilet and found the front page my newspaper there.
- 84. Sister P:** Anyway, Young J, are you still for your newspaper or shall we continue with the radio idea?

**End episode.**

## **OUTRO**

Now, that's what I call a good juicy cliff-hanger. Will they go for the paper or the radio station? Make sure you tune in next time for more about Media & Information. For the time being, stay well, and do remember to visit our LBE-website at:

d w world dot d e slash l b e.

Good-bye for now!