

Learning by Ear – Media & Information Episode 10

Learning by Ear 2009

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EPISODE 10

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”.

INTRO

Hello everybody, and welcome to this the 10th and final episode in our Learning by Ear series, “Media & Information”. Let me bring you up-to-date with recent developments. Charlie, Young J. and Sister P. have found office space, they set up a studio and an antenna and, most importantly, they got a license! They are now literally ready to rock. The question about where to get information and news from, also seems to have been solved. Apart from tapping into informal community contacts, Ezra will motivate his network of journalists in various African countries to give the stories covered by Dot.Com FM a genuine African spin. It looks like everything is going according to plan. Or is it?

SCENE ONE

The radio station.

SFX Soft music in the background. Noise of rattling CD covers.

1. Young J: Charlie, watch out. Don't mix up all the CDs. It will make it so much more difficult to find them again later.
2. Charlie: Don't worry, Young J. Actually I am simplifying our work. I am saving all the music on the computer according to category.

3. Young J: That's a great idea. So you have created a reggae folder, a hip-hop file, then R&B and...
4. Charlie: Yes, all you have to do is click on it and the music is on air.
5. Young J: Yo yo yo, the famous Dot.Com FM radio station is going to be rippling the airwaves in a few short seconds.
6. Charlie: This is scary, Young J. Imagine being live on air, and thousands of people are listening to you! And when you do something good, the whole world thinks you're great.
7. Young J: And when you do something silly, the whole world blows you a raspberry. I am actually more worried about all the girls falling in love with me.
8. Charlie: Don't even talk about that. I've got to pop off for a moment. **SFX Footsteps.** My problem is that when I get nervous, I have to run to the loo every five minutes.

SFX: Door opening and closing

9. Young J: **(laughs and talking to someone in the distance)**
You'd better learn to control yourself, coz there'll be no running to the loo when you're on air.

SFX: Door opening.

10. Sister P: Who are you talking to?
11. Young J: My goodness, Sister P, you look smashing. Who's your lucky prince tonight?
12. Sister P: Young J, you're crazy. Have you forgotten that our radio station is going on air for the first time today?

SFX:Door opening and closing.

13. Charlie: Wow! Sister P, you look gorgeous.
14. Sister P: Guys, this is a very special day in our lives. I am surprised to see that you are dressed like you are going to a banana plantation.
15. Young J: **(laughs)** But this is radio, not TV. Or are you still dreaming about your TV programme, "*The Me in Me*"?
16. Sister P: Alright, guys enough of your lullabies.
17. Charlie: By the way, who goes on air first?

SFX Door opening and closing.

18. Sister P: Hi, Ezra.
19. Ezra : Yeah, what's up, Sister P? You're all dressed up. Is this a beauty contest or a serious community radio station? Are you all set to go on air?

22. Charlie: Yes, all set, but we don't know yet who goes on air first.
23. Sister P: Young J and I will go on first.
24. Ezra: Are you ready with the programme content?
25. Young J: Sure, we've got the hottest hits. Tumpa tumpa tumpa tumpampa. The national station won't know what's hit it. Who's ever going to listen to it again?
26. Sister P: Well, lots of grannies, of course.
27. Charlie: Ezra, once Dot.Com FM is broadcasting, I beg you to go down on the street and listen to what people are saying about our programmes.
28. Ezra: But you can still ask for feedback about your radio station in the programmes you make. Anyway, guys, now that you are finally going on air I think I should remind you about a few things
29. Charlie: What about, Ezra?
30. Ezra: I just want to remind you once again that radio is one of the most powerful forms of media. It can reach millions of people at the same time with a singular message.
31. Young J: So?

32. Ezra: You have to be careful when using radio. Running a radio station is like crossing a river. You either get over safely or you make a mistake and get drowned along with all the people you are carrying.
33. Sister P: Ezra, when did you start speaking in parables like a prophet? Get to the point.
34. Ezra: What I mean is that radio has particular advantages and dangers when it broadcasts information.
35. Charlie: How do you mean radio can be dangerous when it broadcasts information?
36. Ezra: If you use radio to incite the masses to do bad things. Or if you make programmes with misleading information, or information which is not researched properly. This is all dangerous.
37. Sister P: Summing it up, what I think Ezra is trying to say is that we have to stick to the ethics of journalism otherwise we will be crap in the end. Am I right?
38. Ezra: You are to the point, Sister P.
39. Sister P: Now guys, tell me what happens after we have formally opened the radio station? Shall we throw a party and dance like crazy? Or should we have some time to think about what we have achieved? What should we do on such a special day?

END SCENE

SCENE TWO

In the studio

SFX hot music is playing

40. Young J: And I hope you are having fun listening to the top of the pops. This is Dot.Com FM steriooooo... Young J here, hanging out with you.
41. Sister P: For those of you who have just tuned in, this your new community radio station known as...
42. Young J: Dot.Com FM stereo and it's Young J at the microphone, the youngest and smartest guy in town, together with my co-presenter whose name is...
43. Sister P: Sister Patricia but you can call me Sister P. We are here to give you the best of the best in your life, hot music every hour...
44. Young J: ...and educative programmes about every walk of life.

45. Sister P: Reliable and up to minute news from your community and from the big, big world out there. Don't touch the dial! We'll be right back after this music.

SFX music for thirty seconds.

46. Sister P: We promised to give you the best of everything with music and that is exactly what we are doing. Wherever you go, be it in your garden or the market, go everywhere with your radio. All the information that you need, you'll get from Dot.Com FM radio. Young J, why don't you tell our esteemed listeners about some of the programmes we've got lined up for them.

47. Young J: The first thing I want to tell you is that Dot.Com FM radio is a community station for you. You can always suggest changes to the programmes we offer according to what you want to hear. We'll be providing a ton of news for you. Who is meeting whom, when and where and why? Is there an exciting new film screening at the local cinema? We have watched it before you!

But first, here is Sister P with a local news broadcast. Don't miss the news for your locality. Find out what is going on around you, in your community and only on Dot.Com FM stereo.

48. Sister P: We will also broadcast service announcements and personal ads. City admin is having a public debate on that feeder road they have been discussing for decades? We tell you how you can make your voice heard. Elections looming? We'll be parading the candidates before you and you can file those hard-hitting questions. Add in top environment issues, human rights and agriculture and there's no reason in the whole world why you shouldn't make Dot.Com FM your favourite station. We'll be back after this short music break.

SFX Reggae Music

SCENE THREE

A bar

SFX general noise, voices, music in the background

50. Ezra : So guys, how do you feel after the first day on air?
51. Charlie: I feel relieved.
52. Young J: So you no longer have to rush off to the loo every five minutes?

53. Charlie: Very funny. Anyway, I don't know when the fear and panic stopped. Suddenly I just felt confident doing the job

Sfx	Glass falling and breaking from a distance.
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54. Ezra: What's that? Is it a fight?

55. Young J: I think a waitress dropped a glass.

56. Sister P: Guys, I feel great. I was so looking forward to this day. So Ezra, what did you think of our show?

57. Ezra: It was cool. The pace was good and with time, I am telling you guys, you will be great.

58. Young J: We were right to come here rather than have a party. We needed a moment like this. A moment to reflect on what we have done after such an exhausting experience.

59. Sister P: For sure it was a big experience. Can you imagine? People are already listening to our radio station!

Sfx bottles and glasses.

60. Waitress: You ordered four cold, soft drinks am I right?

61. Young J: Yes.

SFX Opening bottles and pouring sounds

62. Sister P: Guys, here's to Ezra. He's been a great help. Ezra you definitely deserve a bit more than a bottle of soda but...
63. Ezra: Don't worry about it. Cheers guys, cheers to you all. We will all benefit from your success.

OUTRO

And that was the last episode of our Learning by Ear series on Media and Information. We hope that you enjoyed listening to the adventures of our young journalists, how they struggled to make their way through today's media business and how they finally succeeded in setting up their own radio station.

Remember, if you want to hear any of the programmes again, tell friends about the series or send us any comments, please visit our website at: dwworld.de/lbe.

Thank you and goodbye!

THE END