

**Learning by Ear 2011 – Road Safety
Episode 03 – Pedestrian precautions**

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CHARACTERS:

Scene 1:

- ♣ ALICE (FEMALE, 13) (+ 2 glass bottles)
- ♣ NANCY (FEMALE, 11, ALICE FRIEND)

Scene 2:

- ♣ NANCY (FEMALE, 11)
- ♣ ALICE (FEMALE, 13)

Scene 3:

- ♣ NANCY (FEMALE, 11)
- ♣ ALICE (FEMALE, 13)

Scene 4:

- ♣ ALICE (FEMALE, 13)
- ♣ CYCLIST (FEMALE OR MALE, ADULT)
- ♣ DRIVER (FEMALE OR MALE, ADULT)

Intro/Studio/Outro:

- ♣ PRESENTER BEATRICE (FEMALE, ADULT)
- ♣ GEORGE – ROAD SAFETY EXPERT (MALE, ADULT) □

Intro:

1. Beatrice: Welcome to Learning by Ear and our radio drama series about road safety. My name is Beatrice and I'm going to be your host during the next ten minutes.

Throughout our ten programs we are following the Wanjiru family and a period in their lives where they see and experience how dangerous the roads in Africa can be, with sometimes, tragic consequences. We are also talking to a road safety expert to find out how we can make travelling on the roads safer and, crucially, save lives.

In the last episode Nelson's grandfather and mother were on their way to visit him in hospital. But grandpa Peter became impatient stuck behind a truck and overtook without being able to see the oncoming traffic. The car hit the truck. Nelson's mother woke up in hospital. She was lucky as the car was a write-off.

In this episode Alice, Nelson's younger sister is on her journey home from school with her friend Nancy. And they have to cross a busy highway.

Scene One: Walking home from school

2. SFX Atmo: children's voices leaving school, car noises in the background

3. NANCY: **(walking along)** I'm finding Maths so hard, Alice. I just can't seem to get my head round that algebra... Have you got any spare time to give me a hand? You're so much better at it than me... Just a few hours?

4. ALICE: Sure, Nancy. What about now? Mum's still in hospital, but Nelson is with her so there isn't anyone at home at the moment. I'm halfway through the homework already so if we head back to your house we could get started and I could go through the first half with you...but can we grab a soda first? I'm so thirsty!

5. NANCY: Thanks so much. Yeah let's have a soda at the kiosk just over there by the highway. Then we could grab a bus on the other side of the road to my place.

6. ALICE: Sounds good.....

Scene Two: at kiosk

7. SFX Atmo: sound of cars going past on the busy highway

8. SFX: two bottles clinking

9. NANCY: (takes a nip from the bottle) How is your family by the way?

10. ALICE: Oh they're OK. Well as OK as you can be after two accidents in two days. Dad's still in shock after he caused that crash, the police are still questioning him too. He may have his license taken away which I can't even bear to think about.

11. NANCY: But Nelson is ok? And your mum?

12. ALICE: Yes, he seems fine now. Just in shock I think. And of course the realization that he was probably lucky to survive when two people were killed. And mum - well she's just beside herself about ever going in a car again. She keeps on saying how she told my grandfather not to overtake and he didn't listen... She won't be able to trust him again that's for sure.

13. NANCY: It's just unbelievable how people drive here. You'd have thought your dad and your grandfather because they drive everyday for a living, would drive more carefully - but it seems it's just the opposite.

14. ALICE: I know. It's all slightly pulling my family apart at the moment... So much guilt and blame... anyway.

15. NANCY: I'll just pay for the sodas, then we can go.

16. SFX: **sound of bottles clinking, coins on the counter**

17. ALICE: Right, let's go. God I hate crossing this road everyday. Cars seem to accelerate almost when they see you about to cross the road. Crazy drivers!

18. SFX: **NOISE OF THE STREET COMES CLOSER**

19. NANCY: Oh it's not that bad. You just have to pick your moment and then make a run for it. I'll go first... Watch!

20. ALICE: You're not going now, are you? There's a car speeding up!

21. NANCY: **(shouting from the middle of the road)** I'm already at the middle! I'll see you on the other side...

22. SFX: **screeching of brakes, shouting**

23. ALICE: **(shouting)** Naaaannncyyyy, are you ok???
Jeez??? **(runs to the middle of the road as cars slow down to see what has happened)**
What are you doing, Nancy? That car almost hit you!

24. NANCY: That was horrible! I just slipped when I climbed over the wall. Thank god that driver managed to swerve. He didn't stop though, he's just driven off.

25. ALICE: You gave me a heart attack. My mum in hospital, my brother in an accident and then you... Come on Nancy, let's get a bus to your house now before something else happens!

Scene Three: Nancy's house

26. SFX: **music in the background**

27. ALICE: Do you think it's a bit clearer now then? I think you've just got to go over and over the figures and then it'll click, I promise. Algebra is just like that.

28. NANCY: Ummmm maybe. Guess I'll just have to keep practicing. When's our exam, two weeks?

29. ALICE: Just under. End of next week. Guess I should get going. It's already dark and mum hates me on the roads when it's dark. See you tomorrow?

30. NANCY: Yes. Thanks so much for the help. See you tomorrow!

31. SFX: **door opening and closing**

Scene Four: On the road

32. SFX Atmo: road at night

33. ALICE: (walking along talking to herself) You'd think someone would build sidewalks. It's just lethal having to walk along the road at night.

34. SFX: bike bell ringing

35. CYCLIST:(screaming) Hey watch out, I didn't see you there. You shouldn't be walking in the dark dressed like that, no one can see you...

36. SFX: bike riding off

37. ALICE: (talking to self) Yeah right, as if I'm going to put on those awful reflective bands, not exactly very cool... Think I'd rather...

38. SFX: sound of cars speeding up

39. SFX: Wing mirror hits person

40. ALICE: screaming

41. SFX: Car stops, door opens

42. DRIVER: Are you ok? I didn't see you on the road. You were lucky - I think my wing mirror just caught your shoulder. Are you ok? Let me help you up.

43. ALICE: **(Shouting)** What the hell do you think you were doing? You didn't even slow down. Don't you look out for people on the roads? Just because you're in a car doesn't mean you own the roads!

44. DRIVER: Hey, don't you shout at me! How could I see you? You're in a black t-shirt and a black jeans. Don't you know anything? If you walk around at night you should wear something light so at least drivers can see you.

45. ALICE: That wouldn't make any difference. You people think you own the roads! Just knocking people over like that. You watch where you're going.

46. DRIVER: Listen lady! I could have just driven off and left you but I stopped to help. But if you're going to talk to me like that I won't bother. **(gets in car)**

47. SFX: **door slamming, car driving off**

END OF SCENE FOUR

SHORT MUSIC

48. BEATRICE: Well, as you've just heard in the third episode of our radio drama about road safety, it was a near-miss for yet another member of the Wanjiru family. But what could have been done to avoid such an accident? With me in the studio is George, a road safety expert, who will discuss with me how we can make small changes in our lives in order to travel the roads more safely. Welcome George!

49. GEORGE: Thank you, Beatrice. I think the first thing to point out is there needs to be a mutual respect between pedestrians and drivers - when that breaks down you get the kind of accident we've just heard about.

50. BEATRICE: Can you be a bit clearer on what you mean by mutual respect?

51. GEORGE: Well at the beginning of the episode we hear how both the girls feel that drivers don't think about pedestrians. Alice even said she felt drivers speed up when she tried to cross the road. Drivers must respect the rights of pedestrians especially as they are the most vulnerable in Africa with the absence of pavements and sidewalks.

52. BEATRICE: So drivers should slow down to let pedestrians cross the road? Or go more slowly when they see pedestrians walking at the edge of the road?

53. GEORGE: Yes. Of course. But on the other side of the coin pedestrians must respect drivers and not put themselves in positions where a driver can't see them, for example. When Nancy crossed the busy road and climbed over the wall in the middle, she fell into the road. She was very lucky the driver swerved to avoid her. But she should have only crossed when nothing was coming.

54. BEATRICE: And what about Alice walking home in the dark?

55. GEORGE: She had no choice but to walk on the road. But at the same time she was dressed totally in black. Impossible for a driver to see her until it's almost too late. If she had worn some reflective clothing, like a reflective band or even a white t-shirt, she'd have helped herself and the driver. Fortunately both parties were fine. But I think the lesson from this episode is that you don't have to be in a vehicle or driving it to have an accident.

56. BEATRICE: And what safety precautions pedestrians should take?

57. GEORGE: If you're walking at night, wear light or reflective clothing. Be extra careful when crossing roads - allow yourself enough time to get across the road - don't take risks. You are putting not only yourself but also drivers at risk.

58. BEATRICE: Thank you George for coming into the studio.

59. MUSIC (FADE UNDER OUTRO)

OUTRO

60. BEATRICE: In the next episode we will hear how the Wanjiru family narrowly avoids another accident as local drivers take more risks on the roads. If you want to hear this program again, please visit our website at **www.dw.de/lbe**. Thank you for joining us and keep safe on the roads!