

Learning by Ear 2011 – Road Safety

Episode 07 – Motorbike riders wear helmet and safety strip

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CHARACTERS:

Scene 1:

- ♣ GRACE (FEMALE 70-80, Pamela's mother)
- ♣ PETER (MALE 60-70, Samuel's father)

Scene 2:

- ♣ GRACE (FEMALE 70-80)
- ♣ DRIVER 1 (MALE 18-25)
- ♣ DRIVER 2 (MALE 18-25)
- ♣ PETER (MALE 60-70)

Scene 3:

- ♣ GRACE (FEMALE 70-80)
- ♣ DRIVER 1 (MALE 18-25)
- ♣ DRIVER 2 (MALE 18-25)

Scene 4:

♣ GRACE (FEMALE 70-80)

♣ PETER (MALE 60-70)

♣ DRIVER 1 (MALE 18-25)

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.

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. I'm 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 Pamela's ageing mother, Grace braves the long distance bus to come to the city. But the bus is in an accident after the driver falls asleep at the wheel.

In this episode Grace and Peter must take a motorbike taxi to reach home. But to Grace's horror the drivers don't have helmets and aren't wearing reflective clothing.

Scene One: At the bus station

2. SFX Atmo: buses coming and going

3. GRACE: There are still no taxis, Peter. What do we do? How are we going to get to the house? I am tired.

4. PETER: I know. It's rush hour I guess. Let's give it 10 more minutes. Otherwise we may have to take a motorbike taxi.

5. GRACE: I'm almost eighty. How can I go on a motorbike at my age?

6. PETER: Look, that's our last resort. You know we've got to get away from here. So if a taxi doesn't come we'll have to take one of those motorbike taxis over there.
Otherwise we'd have to wait here for hours.

Scene Two: Getting on the motorbikes

7. SFX Atmo: buses coming and going in the distance

8. SFX: motorbike starting up

9. GRACE: Hey driver, where is my helmet? And where's yours for that matter?

10. DRIVER 1: We don't have them. What's the point, it's so hot in this city, who needs a helmet. Much better to be riding along, weaving in and out of the traffic without one. Anyway, I'm sure a helmet holds you back and doesn't let you see so well.

11. GRACE: Are you crazy? There's no way I'm getting on this motorbike without a helmet. This city is full of crazy drivers and most of the vehicles are a lot bigger than your motorbike. We wouldn't stand a chance if we got knocked off your bike.

12. DRIVER 2: Hey, come on lady. What's the problem? Get on the motorbike, we need to get going. We're busy you know.

13. PETER: Come on Grace. At the moment we don't have much choice. The motorbike is our only option. You can see how busy the roads are and there are still no taxis.

14. GRACE: Peter. I can't. Even if this driver promises to drive slowly I know he won't. And I've seen how cars and buses and lorries have no respect for motorbikes.

15. DRIVER 1: Look lady, if you're not coming then get off and I can take another passenger, ok? You're wasting my time.

16. PETER: Grace, please just get on properly! It's not a very long journey, maybe 20 minutes and we'll be fine. Come on. Pamela and the kids are waiting for us at the house.

17. GRACE: **(with fear and doubt)** Why did I come to this city? I should have stayed at home. First the bus and now this. I just don't understand why these young kids don't take safety seriously. Who ever heard of traveling on a motorbike without a helmet? This is dangerous... I just hate it! But without a taxi what are we supposed to do... **(pausing, convincing herself)** Ok I'm getting on! But that's it. I'm going back home first thing tomorrow morning.

18. PETER: Thank you, Grace! **(to the driver)** Ok, I think we can go now.

19. SFX: **motorbikes starting up and driving away**

Scene Three: driving along on the motorbikes

20. SFX Atmo: driving along the streets, traffic, honking of horns

21. DRIVER 1: (shouting) So which street is it we're going to?

22. GRACE: (shouting back) I think it's about three blocks away from here... But you'll have to ask Peter on the other bike. I haven't been here for some years so I can't quite remember the details!

23. DRIVER 1: (shouting to driver 2) Hey, ask your guy where we're going!

24. DRIVER 2: (shouting back) Just follow us, he's just explaining to me where to go!

25: GRACE: (shouting) What's he doing turning round like that? This road is bumpy, he won't see the potholes if he keeps turning round like that to talk to you.

26. GRACE: Hey driver! Look out, there's a car coming! Oh my god that car can't see him. **(Shouting)** Look out the car!

27. SFX: **Motorbike falling over and engine cutting out.**
Yelling by Peter and driver 2

Scene Four – by the side of the road

28. SFX Atmo: **street traffic**

29. GRACE: Peter, are you ok?

30. PETER: Yes, I'm fine just a grazed leg. I stopped myself falling onto my head but this driver doesn't look in a good way. His head is swelling up. I don't think he's conscious.

31. GRACE: **(speaking to driver 1)** You'd better get your colleague to hospital. He's got a head injury. Look there's blood everywhere.

32. DRIVER 1: Oh god. Just what we need... Our boss is going to kill us.

33. GRACE: What!? If you had worn helmets we wouldn't be in this position. You get on the phone to your boss right now and get him to take this man to hospital otherwise I'm reporting you to the police.

END OF SCENE FOUR

SHORT MUSIC

34. BEATRICE: Well, as you've just heard in the seventh episode of our radio drama about road safety, people on motorbikes are extremely vulnerable and so it's even more important they take safety measures seriously! With me in the studio is George, our road safety expert. Welcome George!

35. GEORGE: Thank you.

36. BEATRICE: Well, George, it seems Grace was right to be worried about traveling on a motorbike without a helmet.

37. GEORGE: Of course and I shuddered to myself when I was listening to that episode and I heard they were all traveling on the roads without helmets. If a motorcyclist is knocked off his or her bike, the chances of serious injury are extremely high and if they are not wearing a helmet and they get a head injury – potentially fatal.

38. BEATRICE: Why are people so reticent to wear a helmet? They are not expensive.

39. GEORGE: It seems to be a cultural thing and again, people not taking their safety or their passengers' safety seriously. On the roads in Africa I often come across motorcyclists with helmets but they're not even wearing them correctly – half balanced on their head or round their necks. This is just ridiculous and makes me quite angry because a helmet could save your life.

40. BEATRICE: What about the episode we just heard?

41. GEORGE: Well, Peter and his driver weren't in a major crash, the car just clipped their wing mirror and they lost their balance – a minor incident if this had been two cars. But driving a motorbike, small accidents can cause major damage. The driver has a bad head injury and is unconscious. Imagine a major crash - he would be dead, without a doubt.

42. BEATRICE: Very sad. And it also sounded like the oncoming car couldn't see the motorbikes?

43. GEORGE: Yes, it did. Motorbikes have such a small silhouette, so sometimes the person driving the car can't see them approaching. And it doesn't sound like either of the drivers were wearing reflective strips. They glow in the dark but even at day time a reflective strip can save your life. It will alert other cars and vehicles you're actually there on the roads and they can avoid you. It's your responsibility to make it easier for other vehicles to see you.

44. BEATRICE: It's sobering to hear how the passengers traveling on a motorbike have absolutely no protection if something happens to them.

45. GEORGE: You're absolutely right. There is no margin for error on a motorbike which is why these small safety measures – wearing a helmet and a safety strip – are all the more important.

46. BEATRICE: Thank you George.

MUSIC (FADE UNDER OUTRO)

OUTRO

47. BEATRICE: In our next episode, it's a dark day for Alice and her friends. They are going to suffer harsh consequences of driving under the influence of drink and drugs in another radio drama written by Victoria Averill. So tune in!

If you want to hear this radio drama or another Learning by Ear program again, please visit our website at www.dw.de/lbe. Thank you for joining us and keep safe on the roads!