

**Learning by Ear 2011 – Road Safety
Episode 02 – Overtaking**

Text: Victoria Averill

Editing: Johannes Beck, Katrin Ogunsade

Proofreading: Martin Vogl

CHARACTERS:

Scene 1:

- ♣ PAMELA (FEMALE, ADULT 30-40)
- ♣ PETER (MALE, 60-70, Pamela's father in law)

Scene 2:

- ♣ NURSE (FEMALE, ADULT)
- ♣ PAMELA (FEMALE, ADULT 30-40)
- ♣ NELSON (MALE, 14)

Intro/Studio/Outro:

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

Note: it could also be a male presenter and a female safety expert

Intro:**1. Beatrice:**

Hello, I'm Beatrice and I would like to welcome you to Learning by Ear and the second part of our radio drama series about road safety.

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

In the last episode Samuel refused to put safety belts into his minibus despite new government regulations. His minibus was in a fatal accident; 2 passengers were killed and 3 passengers, including his son, Nelson, were seriously injured. If they had all been wearing seat belts, they may have been ok. In this episode Nelson's grandfather, Peter, is taking Nelson's mother, Pamela, to visit Nelson in hospital. Even though his grandson is injured in hospital, Peter drives recklessly and takes unnecessary risks on the journey.

Scene One: in the taxi

- 2. SFX Atmo:** **driving along inside a car**
- 3. PAMELA:** I still feel sick every time I think about Nelson and the accident. To think two people died... I know Nelson has a neck injury, but it could have been him. And to think it was his own father who was driving, how will he ever forgive himself?
- 4. PETER:** It's gonna be a tough time and that's if the police don't prosecute Samuel. Pamela, let's just hope Nelson gets well soon and there aren't other expensive complications.
- 5. PAMELA:** Daddy, it's the drivers in this city... The roads are bad enough, it's true... but the drivers just don't care even about staying alive, it seems. They take unnecessary risks with other peoples' lives as well.
- 6. PETER:** No one is taught how to respect the roads these days. When I was younger you had to really work to pass your driving test. Nowadays it seems people can almost buy their way through. And it seems size rules... these big four by fours think they own the roads and bully everyone else...
- 7. SFX:** **sudden sound of horn**

- 8. PAMELA:** **shrieking**
- 9. SFX:** **car bumping over dirt and stones, then stalling**
- 10. PETER:** What happened there! Are you ok?
- 11. PAMELA:** **(shocked)** Oh my god, that pick-up came right into our lane - if you hadn't driven off the road we'd have hit him. What was he doing?
- 12. PETER:** I feel quite shaken by that. But I think the car's ok.
- 13. SFX:** **starts the engine**
- 14. PETER:** Shall we go, Pamela?
- 15. PAMELA:** If we can get there in one piece. These roads are just lethal. You were just in the middle of saying how those big four by four cars think they rule the roads and look what happened. He just overtook without a second thought of us coming towards him.
- 16. SFX:** **car moves off back onto the road**
- 17. PETER:** We'd better get a move on. We'll miss visiting hours at I otherwise.

- 18. SFX:** **sound of car accelerating**
- 19. PAMELA:** Sure. At least we're off the main road now, these country lanes are a bit windy but at least there's less traffic. Apart from these lorries... Are we going to be stuck behind this one all the way up the hill?
- 20. PETER:** No, Pamela, we're not! I'll try and overtake him.
- 21. PAMELA:** But, can you see what's coming, Daddy?
- 22. PETER:** Errrr not quite, I think it looks ok.
- 23. SFX:** **sound of horn as a car goes speeding by**
- 24. PETER:** Upps, that was close! I'll try now, again.
- 25. SFX:** **car accelerates and overtakes**
- 26. PAMELA:** **(nervous)** Daddy, I really don't think we should be overtaking like this. I mean there's a long queue of traffic and this road is really windy so you can't survey it properly and we're traveling up hill. Let's just be patient and wait until we get to the top of the hill. I think I'd rather get to the hospital late than not at all.
- 27. PETER:** We can't just wait behind these trucks. Look. Everyone else is overtaking - it's fine.

- 28. PAMELA:** Daddy, if you can't see... please don't risk it!
- 29. PETER:** I told you it's fine, Pamela. Everyone always does it. Don't worry!
- 30. SFX:** **sound of horn as a car goes speeding by**
- 31. PAMELA:** Daddy, that was close again! Your car doesn't even have enough acceleration to get by quickly enough... Don't overtake again... don't I said.
- 32. SFX:** **car accelerating**
- 33. PAMELA:** Look out Daddy, that truck is pulling out too...
- 34. SFX:** **screech of brakes and crash, the car rolls over**

Scene Two: Hospital

- 35. SFX Atmo:** **inside a hospital room, people passing by in corridors**
- 36. NURSE:** Pamela, can you move your fingers for me...Pamela I need you to try to move your fingers...Can you hear me Pamela?
- 37. PAMELA:** Ahhhh ahhh, ahhhh, my head hurts...where am I?

- 38. NURSE:** You're in the hospital, Pamela, and I am your nurse. The doctor will be here, soon. You were brought in after your car rolled over. We think you've injured your back which is why I'm asking you to try and move your fingers... Can you do that for me?
- 39. PAMELA:** I think so. Yes, I can.
- 40. NURSE:** You're lucky. Your back isn't broken. We've put you on a drip to give you some pain killers - you were unconscious you know.
- 41. PAMELA:** What about my father in law, Peter? And my son, Nelson? We were on our way to the hospital to see my son.
- 42. NURSE:** They're ok. Well, your son came to see you. He was in the ward upstairs but they've just discharged him. He's waiting outside with your father-in-law. You were lucky you know. The car you were in is totally wrecked.
- 43. PAMELA:** Oh god! That car is a taxi and my father in law's business. How will he earn any money? And my husband almost lost his minibus in an accident yesterday... The police are questioning him too.

44. NURSE: Maybe they'll both drive more safely now... I lose count of how many people we see in this hospital who've been in car accidents. Some leave here alive. Many don't. You're one of the lucky ones.

45. SFX: DOOR OPENING

46. NELSON: Mum!

47. PAMELA: Nelson! Oh Nelson (breaking down, sobbing).
How are you? Come here, are you ok?

**48. SFX: FOOTSTEPS MOVE TO THE BED; PAMELA
KISSES NELSON**

49. NELSON: I think so...and what about you? I can't believe what's been going on. What's happening to us, mum? Why are we involved in these awful accidents? And dad, where is he? Why hasn't he come to see me?

50. PAMELA: He's in shock, Nelson. He can't forgive himself for what happened. He's being questioned by the police and we don't know what they're going to do. Just as soon as I'm given the green light to leave the hospital we'll all go home. We just need some time all together to talk things through...
Away from hospitals and roads.

END OF SCENE TWO

SHORT MUSIC

51. BEATRICE: Well, as you've just heard in the second episode of our radio drama about road safety, another member of the Wanjiru family has ended up in hospital. With me in the studio is George, our road safety expert. George, welcome.

52. GEORGE: Thank you.

53. BEATRICE: George, you've just listened to the second episode. And again, the injured person is the passenger who was pleading with the driver to drive more carefully before the accident happened. It seems the passenger has absolutely no control over their safety.

54. GEORGE: Worryingly that does seem to be the case. Pamela was warning Peter to slow down and not overtake as she felt he couldn't see round the bends. She was right and she is the one who has ended up in hospital.

55. BEATRICE: So why did the driver continue to overtake round a bend when he couldn't see oncoming traffic? And why didn't he listen to his passenger?

- 56. GEORGE:** This is something we see a lot in Africa. Aggressive driving, no regard for other people on the road and no regard for the passengers' views.
- 57. BEATRICE:** Why did Peter feel he was so invincible? Why did he think that he was safe to overtake even though he couldn't see round the bend?
- 58. GEORGE:** Peter clearly felt he was driving a car capable of moving faster than the trucks and that he shouldn't be stuck behind the trucks. But if you're driving up a hill or on a road with many bends and you have no clear vision of vehicles coming towards you, you should never overtake. You're playing Russian roulette with your and your passengers' lives.
- 59. BEATRICE:** What about the oncoming vehicle?
- 60. GEORGE:** Head-on collisions are some of the worse collisions, especially at speed. And generally, if you are overtaking, you are traveling at high speeds. So the combination of overtaking, high speed and overtaking round a bend with no clear vision is absolutely lethal.
- 61. BEATRICE:** People are in such a hurry these days they don't stop to think about the consequences.
- 62. GEORGE:** Exactly. And I would say that on the roads,

people who are driving under pressure, or are in a hurry are far more likely to have accidents. Overtaking is one of the major causes of these accidents. You should always have a good view of what is ahead before overtaking.

63. PRESENTER: Thank you, George for coming into the studio.

MUSIC (FADE UNDER OUTRO)

OUTRO

64. BEATRICE: In the next episode we will hear how Alice Wanjiru, Nelson's sister, who is neither driving nor a passenger in a vehicle, is involved in a road accident. Tune in as we take a look at how local drivers take more risks on the roads in another radio drama written by Victoria Averill. 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!