

**Deutsche Welle Radio**  
**“Learning By Ear”**  
**Jobs & Training 02: Motor mechanic**

***Part 1:***

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***Part 2:***

***Interview: Catherine Sikombe***

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**1 Narrator**

**4 Voice-overs: - Estelle, young female mechanic**

**- Mamadi Ouedraogo, male owner of garage**

**- Ali, young male co-worker**

**- Mother Ouedraogo**

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**Intro**

Hello and welcome to our special Learning by Ear series about jobs and training where we introduce you to people following different careers..

We will also suggest ways into the profession. You might have heard that there are certain jobs that are considered to be only for men. For example, technical things like repairing motor vehicles. In Africa, there is a big demand in this sector: In major towns lots of cars are on the streets while in the country you find many mopeds and motorbikes. But there are very few women who can repair them. Today, however, you'll meet one who knows how: Estelle Christian Ouedraogo from Burkina Faso. She lives in the capital Ouagadougou, a city with so many mopeds and motorcycles that it is even nick-named the “City of Two-Wheeled Vehicles”. Twenty-year-old Estelle works there as a female motor mechanic.



**1. O-Ton Estelle (Frz)**

I'm fixing a carburettor that floods making it difficult to spark easily. It is the jet that is dirty. If I remove that dirt, blow into the carburettor and make sure that the dirt is cleaned out, the motor will start without difficulty.

**2. SFX sound of motor****3. O-Ton Estelle (Frz)**

Repairing motors is a job that pleases me. I have never seen a female mechanic and that is what has pushed me so much into this job. I'm employed by a mechanic who is called Mamadi Ouedraogo.

**3. SFX sound of street and garage**

Mamadi is the owner of the garage where Estelle works. It is located at the side of a very busy street.. With an average of about 30 repairs a day, it is a medium-sized business. Even though, it is fairly neat with all the appropriate cleaning tools and rags. You may have noticed that Estelle has the same family name as her boss but they are not at all related. What does Mamadi think of Estelle working as a female mechanic?

**5. O-Ton Mamadi Ouedraogo (Frz)**

In fact I do appreciate her work very much. You must admit that she is very brave and I admire that. She has encouraged many young people and indeed it is interesting to see a woman who is so devoted to doing mechanical work on two-wheel vehicles - repairing motors and mopeds so well. She is an example to other girls to do the same.

Estelle and her boss get along well. But the whole team of mechanics appreciates working with Estelle, says her colleague Ali.

**6. O-Ton Ali (Frz)**

I admire Estelle for her high knowledge of mechanics. She will always check what she has repaired by trying out the motor herself on the road before delivering it to the customer.

**7. SFX sound of garage**

Estelle, her colleagues and the boss are all wearing dirty blue overalls with grease all over their clothes and hands. She and six other men make up the team. Estelle says she has no inferiority complex working with men since their knowledge about repairing motor cycles is no different from hers and thus they are paid the same by the owner.

**8. O-Ton Estelle (Frz)**

There is no friction but mutual respect here since we consider one another as colleagues. As we work for the same boss, in the same garage, towards the same end – there are no problems. So my contribution has always been very much appreciated by colleagues and costumers.

**7. SFX sound of garage**

After many years of working as an employee, Estelle believes she now has enough practical experience to start up her own business.

**9. O-Ton Estelle (Frz)**

I plan to open my own mechanics workshop within 2 months which belongs entirely to me. And if I have enough money I'll open a spare parts shop, and employ young people. Particularly young girls like myself, who like me want to learn how to be motor mechanics, in order to repair motorcycles.

**7. SFX sound of garage**

In Ouagadougou and in fact, in most of the cities and towns of Burkina Faso, the majority of the young people are not employed and have practically nothing to do. Estelle understands their situation but she always tells them to try and do something for themselves, however insignificant it may be. The devil finds work for idle hands, she warns.

**10. O-Ton Estelle (Frz)**

I tell boys and girls that it is profitable and nice to be a mechanic. Those who see me on the street should be encouraged and come and work as one. I advise them not to remain idle, or to beg or to be tempted into bad behaviour like stealing or prostitution. That is not good. They should stay away from those evil ways.

Estelle got a formal education as a mechanic from a Vocational Training Institute at Koudougou, a town about 100km West of Ouagadougou.

**11. O-Ton Estelle (Frz)**

It is a female-only Mechanical Training Institute. I was part of a group of nine girls who passed the test and we all got awarded with certificates. Our teachers were not all mechanics since we had four subjects: Theory and practical work, accounting, management and civics which, for instance, was taught by someone from the Social Welfare Department.

Even though Estelle is not married and therefore has no family of her own, she does not forget that there are other duties to perform. When the garage closes at the end of the day, she goes home to her parents to help out her mother.

**12.O-Ton Estelle (Frz)**

I do the housework to help my mother and when I finish preparing the evening meal, we all eat together and talk. My parents always gave me and my sisters good advice. My father often tells me to be respectful towards my boss, my colleagues and to all our customers. Even if someone acts insultingly you should put up with it and not quarrel. We say the customer is always right.

In their discussion at the dinner table, Estelle’s mother talks about the problems that girls face who want to get a job on their own.

**13. O-Ton Mother (Frz)**

Going about stealing or being a sex-worker – all that is not good. I advised her to be serious in her work because life is hard on earth. For a woman here, often, the first husband is employment. May God help other girls to follow in my daughter’s footsteps.

Her parents are proud of Estelle. But, there still remains a question concerning her work as a mechanic. Do men find it attractive for women to be shabbily dressed and dirty with grease all over the body? Estelle is amused...

**14. O-Ton Estelle (Frz)**

(Laughs) That question is really weird but I'll answer. Beauty comes second to intelligent men of today. What they are looking for is a good character and a woman who is self-supporting. Look at me. I have a couple of boys who are wooing me at present and the smell of grease, oil or petrol doesn't seem to deter either one of them...

**15. SFX sound of people/ garage**

**Outro**

From her garage in Ouagadougou, the “City of Two-Wheeled Vehicles”, in Burkina Faso, you have been listening to Estelle. She decided to do learn how to repair cars and motorbikes and now works as a female mechanic. It is in fact an interesting and rewarding occupation, but still not very common for girls in Africa.

**Jingle “Ways into the job”****Intro Interview:**

How about becoming a motor mechanic yourself? If you want to hear more about training and education listen to our reporter Catherine Sikombe, who talked to Steven Zulu. He is the Manager of “Daniel Motors Garage” in Lusaka, Zambia.

**Interview Catherine Sikombe****Outro:**

That was Steven Zulu, the manager of “Daniel Motors Garage” in Lusaka, the Capital of Zambia. Talking to him was our reporter Catherine Sikombe.

And that’s all for today’s Learning by Ear programme about job-profiles. Thanks for being with us. If you would like to find out more about this and other professions, or other Learning by Ear programmes, or if you just like to listen to this show again, go to our website at [www dot dwworld dot de forward slash lbe](http://www.dwworld.de/forward/lbe)  
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