

Learning by Ear – Media & Information Episode 3

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EPISODE 3

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”.
“Mr.T”:	Male, 30, sound technician

INTRO

Hello and welcome back to another episode of “Media & Information”, a Learning by Ear production. Let’s recap on what happened last time. Our would-be journalists seem to have settled for radio, and are talking about what they need to get a radio station to go on air. In this episode they work out that they will need training – and equipment. Also, Mr.T, the producer makes them aware of the responsibility of journalists. So, let’s see what’s going on.

SCENE ONE

At Mr T’s studio.

SFX Knock knock on the door, door opens

1. Sister P: Hello Mr T.
2. Mr T: Hi guys, come in.
3. Charlie: Uh, what’s up? It’s so dark in here. What happened?
4. Young J: I was hoping we’d finish off our album today.
5. Mr T: That depends on when the electricity comes back on. The power cut started only a minute ago.
6. Sister P: That’s bad luck! I also thought we’d get our album finished off today and could start planning how we would launch it. I imagined a big banner in town

saying: Dot.Com.Club launches its first album, “Dream On”.

7. Charlie: So guys, what do we do now?

Sfx Knocks into things, sounds of things falling down.

8. Young J: Mr T, you should have a back-up generator.

9. Sister P: Young J, let’s wait a few minutes and if the power doesn’t come back on then we’ll walk down to the youth centre and do some stuff there.

10. Charlie: Actually, what’s happened here has made me realize something as we plan our radio station. We must have a back-up generator.

11. Sister P: You’re right. We don’t want to be like the national radio. They are always getting power cuts in the middle of programmes and all you hear is shssssssssssssssssssssss for five minutes then a bit more of the programme and then shssssssssssssssssssssss again. It’s so embarrassing.

12. Charlie: We can’t let that happen at Dot.Com.Fm.

13. Young J: By the way, Mr T, when our radio station opens, do you want to join us hitting the airwaves to give the best of the best.

14. Mr T: No thanks, I'm happy here.
15. Sister P: Hey, you don't have to be there all the time. You could just have your own special hour-long programme. You'd rock the waves, man. We want to smash the monopoly of the boring national station.
16. Charlie: If we had our own radio station we could play our own music and all our other favourite songs. I am sure we will soon become really popular even beyond the borders of our country. We'll have a massive impact.
17. Mr T: Actually, when you talk about impact and media, I'd think twice about it.
18. Young J: Why?
19. Mr T: Radio, actually mass media in general is only as good as those who produce it and why. Therefore you have to think objectively when you plan to start up a radio station.
20. Charlie: Now you are beginning to worry me.

21. Mr T: The media and especially radio were at the forefront of the genocide in Rwanda. Radio was used to spread messages of hate, telling people to turn against their neighbours and that is what happened. So, when you talk impact...
22. Sister P: Ah, I get your point and you are right Mr T., but we want to give radio a brand new face. Dot.Com.FM will be an entertainment, music radio. Hits and then more hits...not a hate radio but a radio of unity, life and love.
23. Young J: Yes, we don't want to produce shows that make people nod off. I've had enough of what I call "sleeping pill programmes" like when a presenter speaks into the microphone sounding like they are going to die soon.
24. Charlie: And we will make sure that our radio station will also be available online.
25. Mr T: You guys have got some big dreams there.

END SCENE.

SCENE TWO

SFX: At the bus station in the evening. There is not a lot of traffic passing, but many people are gathered waiting for the bus. Sister P, Charlie and Young J are among the people waiting. Vehicles come and go.

26. Charlie: We've been waiting for the bus for thirty minutes now. This is not my idea of a joke. We are usually home by this time.
27. Young J: Don't worry about the bus. There are things to discuss that we have not thought about as we work out this idea of a radio station.
28. Sister P: What kind of things, Young J? Or do you want to go back to your newspaper idea?
29. Young J: You persuaded me to drop the newspaper plan and I accepted. What I mean is, we did not think about training for example. It's one thing to have great ideas but none of us has ever actually done any technical or journalistic training for radio.
30. Charlie: Actually, he's right. What's more, apart from training and aiming to be the Number One FM station, we also need some good equipment.
31. Sister P: Sure, not only do we need all that, we also have to find a good, secure space to work from.

32. Young J: I think it is a big challenge.

33. Sister P: Well, it is a big challenge, so we will have to work out exactly how we are going to do it. We have to devise some really good plans.

34. Charlie: How, Sister P?

35. Sister P: Listen, as long as we believe in our dreams, we can start off small and grow big. We can start off with second-hand equipment and we can rent a small room and build it all up from there. My grandpa used to tell me that even cocks that crow today, were once eggs.

SFX Sound of bus approaching.

36. Young J: I really do like your proverbs. Ah, here comes the bus. Hopefully it won't break down. Sister P, be careful with your bag, those boys standing behind you might be plotting to snatch it from you.

SFX Bus drives up and stops.

END SCENE

SCENE THREE

SFX On the bus, noisy

37. Charlie: Well guys, we are about to reach our busstop. Apart from the music we made today, and our discussions, what are we actually going to do next about our radio station project?
38. Sister P: According to my limited experience in business, I think the first thing we have to do is apply for a license from the National Media Authority. What do you think, Charlie?
39. Charlie: You are right Sister P. But I don't think we will have any problems with the application.
40. Young J: Why? Have you done it before?
41. Charlie: No, but we have an expert in writing letters.
42. Sister P: Who is it? We can't afford to start paying for a consultant all ready.
43. Charlie: Not a consultant. I mean Young J. I remember when we were at school, Young J used to help boys write love letters to the girls and not one girl he wrote to, rejected him. He can use that same skill for drafting the application for a license.
44. Young J: Charlie, enough of your jokes.

45. Sister P: Look, this is serious so let's be serious about it.
46. Young J: I've got an idea! We haven't got enough experience in media but what about my brother, Ezra? He could be very helpful. One thing, he is studying journalism at the national university and two, he works at the university radio station.
47. Charlie: You're right. Ezra would be the best person to ask for advice. And maybe he has an idea about where we can get training and some equipment, etc.
48. Sister P: Will you give him a call and see if he will help us out?
49. Young J: Not now. The bus is too noisy. I'll call him when I get at home. To set the ball rolling, I suggest that tomorrow we go out to the university, and even if Ezra's too busy, maybe we can find someone else to give us at least some basic information.
50. Charlie: (**Excited**). I agree, Young J. Let's get set to storm the university tomorrow. Tupa mpampapa, tupa.

END EPISODE 3

OUTRO

With this exciting plan we have to leave the guys until next time. What will Ezra say to them? Will he encourage his younger brother and his friends? Make sure you tune in next time for more on Media & Information. To listen to this or the earlier episodes of our series, get online and visit our LbE-website at dwworld.de/lbe.

Please send us your comments & suggestions too.

All the best and good-bye for now!