

LBE Computers and the Internet – Programme 8

Author: Richard Lough

Editor: Maja Dreyer

Characters: Beatrice (teenaged girl), John (teenaged boy), Computer
(computer voice)

Clips (English) to be overvoiced: Clement Mwange (around 30 years old
interpreter)

Additional voices: 1 speaker for in- and outro

Package 8.1

Music – [Full up for 0.10 then fade under Intro]

Intro:

Hello and thank you for joining us on Deutsche Welle's Learning By Ear series on Computers and the Internet. In today's eighth programme Beatrice and John learn how to use the Internet as a tool for political participation. That means how the Internet can provide important and useful information on political developments in Africa and the world. As some countries censor what they tell their citizens, the Internet can help people learn how their countries are viewed from the outside and in some cases what is going on inside their own country...

Package 8.1

SFX_Dialing_Up_Internet [Fade under...]

- 1. Computer:** Hello John, Hi Beatrice...
- 2. Beatrice:** Hi there, Computer. I had an e-mail from a girl I've been chatting with over the Internet who lives in Sudan. She was telling me there are so many websites she uses to check up on what's going on in Sudan because she says information coming from the government can't always be trusted.
- 3. Computer:** Hold on a minute while I connect, but yes, what your friend in Sudan says is very true and very interesting. There are many countries in the world, including in Africa, where governments aren't perhaps very open and restrict access to information they don't want their citizens to know about.
- 4. John:** Really? You mean we shouldn't necessary believe everything we are told by the government?
- 5. Computer:** I think we can say it's useful to have a healthy scepticism towards governments and politicians all

over the world. But there are many organisations which can help us do this and see things from another perspective.

6. Beatrice: That’s exactly what my Sudanese friend was saying. She said, for example, she often checks out the websites of Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International to find out what they are saying about the situation in her country.

SFX_Typing

7. John: What other organisations does your friend mention Beatrice?

8. Beatrice: Well, she also says I should have a look at the African Union’s website as well as the United Nations website as they also give their “official” views on situations in countries who are in turmoil or in trouble.

9. John: But what about for example Kenya (or take any other country from target region) where you have government of National Unity and what if I want to do a bit of research on how its supposed to function. Do even governments have websites?

10. Computer: Yes, nearly all governments do. For example if you want to find out who runs which ministry you can go to the website. Or perhaps you want to understand about the Constitution, what it means and how it affects you and your family and friends, the website will also explain this as well.

11. John: I never imagined governments would have websites, I thought it was just commercial businesses and enterprises.

12. Computer: One thing to remember though John and Beatrice is that all of these organizations – governments, non-governmental organizations, human rights organisations, they all have their own agendas which they want to push. So taking what they say on their websites as the gospel truth isn't always a good idea.

12. Beatrice: Do you mean they sometimes lie?

13. Computer: Not necessarily. What I mean though is these organisations have their own vested interests like we all do sometimes, and they want to get their point of view across to the outside world. It's

important to be able to read between the lines and that's where research on the internet comes in handy.

14. John: What do you mean by that?

15. Computer: Well, really that's why the Internet is such an amazing help for us all. It gives us access to so much information from so many points of views and then we can come to our own conclusions. And that's what democracy and freedom of speech is all about.

16. Beatrice: It's hard to imagine what we did before the Internet. There's just so much to know and read about.

17. Computer: It's mind-boggling but it's a great resource, an invaluable tool. Just make sure you use it safely and wisely.

18. John & Beatrice: Thanks Computer. You're the wise one!

Outro:

So really it is up to each and everyone to use the Internet wisely to get valuable information about the world of politics and also in all other fields.

And there is still so much more to learn about the Internet. Stay tuned for the next Learning by Ear episode on Computers and the Internet to get to know who to use the web when you don't have any cables to plug in...

Package 8.2

Music – [Full up for 0.10 then fade under Intro]

Intro:

Hello and thank you for joining us on Deutsche Welle's Learning By Ear series on Computers and the Internet as Beatrice and John are about discover that you don't have to be in school or at a cyber café to go online. New technology means that more and more people can connect wherever they are – in a car, at home, in a café – just by plugging in their phones or another small, portable device. Listen to find out how...

SFX_Java_cafe [Fade under...]

- 1. Beatrice:** John, there's a man over there who looks like he's using the Internet so he must have a mobile Internet device.
- 2. John:** Hey, that's true, let's go and meet him.

3. Beatrice: Hi there, my friend John and I are doing some research on computers and the Internet. Can you tell us why you decided to get a mobile Internet device? Is it for your job?

Clip: 8.2_Clement_1

My name is Clement Mwange, I'm an interpreter. I decided to go mobile because my work entails a lot of moving around.

4. Beatrice: An interpreter? I see.

Clip: 8.2_Clement_2

I have to do a lot of meetings when I'm interpreting in hotels and the connection there sometimes doesn't work, is expensive and thus I decided to have my own solution that I could use at home.

5. John: But how do you actually connect to the Internet if you don't have all those wires that we always see in the cyber cafes?

Clip: 8.2_Clement_3

Well, there are two ways of doing it. The first way is by using your mobile phone because you are using the same card and then you are able to connect if you have an Internet cable for your phone.

6. Beatrice: But that's not what you're using because your phone isn't connected to your laptop

Clip: 8.2_Clement_4

Yes, the other way is to buy a USB modem which is much easier to use. Some of them you just plug them in and they work, others you just have to install the system with a CD ROM and then of course have a computer or laptop.

7. John: Clement, do you think life is easier now you can e-mail anytime?

Clip: 8.2_Clement_5

Yes, it has made things easier for me, because I live outside Nairobi and to get a proper Internet connectivity I had to drive all the way to Nairobi on Sundays and everyday and sometimes late in the night.

8. John: We find it frustrating too, now that we have all this Internet knowledge but we can only go online after school or at the weekend in the café. It must be so amazing to be able to go online anytime!

Clip: 8.2_Clement_6

Well, its very convenient because if I have something urgent I can do it from anywhere – my office, I could do it form my house, I could do it from a

restaurant if I'm taking a drink, I could take it to my car – I could actually do it anywhere even in a bus in public transport!

9. John: Do you use it for other things apart from work?

Clip: 8.2_Clement_7

I could also follow up other things that I'm interested in – my hobbies like football matches or that kind of stuff.

10. John: That's pretty cool, just think: 24 hour access to football scores! But Clement, is the Internet connection always good or does it blip like in the cyber cafes?

Clip: 8.2_Clement_8

The main disadvantage I would say, the first thing, we still have a lot of issues in connectivity here in Kenya because we don't use fibre optic cable. The other disadvantage is depending on where you are sometimes the network is not very good but apart from that I would say its more of a good thing.

11. Beatrice: It sounds like its revolutionised your life as I guess you feel connected to the cyber world 24/7!

12. John: We envy you Clement! But thanks for explaining how the mobile device works...Maybe if we have

our own laptops one day we'll be able to get
mobile. I can't wait!

13. Beatrice: Me neither, it would be amazing. Bye Clement!

Outro:

And here we have to leave Beatrice and John to their dreams and say
goodbye until next time for another programme about Computers and the
Internet, a Learning by Ear series from Deutsche Welle. If you missed a
programme, you can check out website at www.dw-world.de/lbe and listen
to it again or write us your opinion about the Internet. Goodbye for now and
don't forget to tune in next time.