

Health – Episode 10 (drugs)
Author: Hope Azeda

Learning by Ear Health – Episode 10

**Author: Hope Azeda
Editor: Katrin Ogunsade**

Intro:

Welcome to the last episode of Learning by Ear's series on health. This time we're taking a look at drugs and the harmful consequences they can have on health and life in general. Two of the five friends living at Mandela Hostel are arrested by the police today -- after being caught red-handed buying drugs. What happens to them at the police station? How do their parents and teachers react? Will they manage to get back to the hostel and the other students living there? Keep on listening to find out!

EPISODE 10

SCENE 1: Hassan and Manuel at the hostel inside the room, in the morning

1.SFX: There are distant voices, once in a while there is a motorbike noise or a bicycle bell. **Radio**

2.Manuel: Hassan, I am really getting concerned about Steve and Simo. Where could these guys be?

3.Hassan: Don't bother Manuel; those boys are not babies that we have to baby sit.

4.Manuel: We should do something. If anything has gone wrong, we will be the first suspects held for questioning.

Hassan: Are you out of your mind? Steve and Simo are on another level -- there is nothing you can do to change their behavior. They do not even listen to their parents.

- 6.Manuel:** Hassan! Steve and Simo are our roommates -- they need help. Can't you see that drugs have taken over their lives -- nothing else matters. Books, food, friends, family, health. They are sick, they need us.
- 7.Hassan:** Manuel, I thought you just said that friends are useless to those guys. Come on, don't waste my time here! I have enough of a workload.
- 8.Manuel:** Hassan?
- 9.Hassan:** What?
- 10.Manuel:** We should do something...
- 11.Hassan:** Like?
- 12.Manuel:** You know we can go and smash that whole clique of boys who believe that you can only be popular if you smoke marijuana and drink yourself to hell.
- 13.Hassan:** You know that peer group very well -- they go to great lengths to get drugs, using whatever means necessary and you want me --Mr Hassan -- to cross their line? Over my dead body! Silence! I want to listen to the radio now! Manchester and Arsenal in the finals....(***sfx switches on radio***). National news first.
- 14.Radio:** Today in the suburbs of the city, two mechanics at one of the central garages were caught red-handed selling drugs to a group of six students from different schools. The boys and the two mechanics are being held at the central police station.
- 15.Hassan:** Listen to this, Manuel.
- 16.Radio:** The names of the two mechanics are not yet known as they were found without their identity cards and

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they refuse to disclose their identities. The boys' names are: Patrick, Simo, from Green Valley Secondary School. And Mupenzi, Matata, Steve, and Frank from St Mathew's Secondary School. The parents, guardians and head teachers of these students are requested to report to the police station as soon as they hear this announcement.

(turns off radio)

17.Manuel: Hassan, this is what I was saying. Now the police might come to question us.

18.Hassan: Goodness! Those guys are in hot soup now -- what are they gonna do? ...Oops my match!

(switches on radio)

19Manuel: Hassan, let's think about what we are going to tell the police.

20. SFX: *turns off radio*

21.Hassan: Police?.Is it a crime to listen to a match? Manuel do not be a coward -- we are 100 percent sober and innocent, so we can face the police.

End of scene 1

SCENE 2: Police constable, Simo's mum, school head and Simo at the police station in the morning, where there is a small crowd.

22.SFX: *Walkie talkies are heard once in a while, there is constant murmuring from the small crowd, it's quite busy*

23. Police constable: (*addressing the crowd*)

We must say that this has been a great breakthrough for the police. Teen drug use is not only costly to families but to society as a whole. Your sons are going to be under a six-month probation. They will be expected to report to the police every Saturday. Please come over to this desk to sign this discharge form.

24. Simo's mum: Excuse me sir, are there any other options? We do not live in the city.

25. Police constable: This is the minimum, madam. If your son was above 18 years of age we would prosecute him and he would have to face justice. Please sign quickly, I have other urgent matters to attend to.

26. SFX: (*Footsteps approaching, followed by signing*)

Thank you, see you on Saturday.

27. School head: Simo, can you look at my eyes? Who am I?

28. Simo: You are the school head.

29. School head: And who is this?

30. Simo: That is my mother.

31. School head: Bring your hands (*smells them*) how much marijuana have you been smoking?

(*Simo begins to cry*)

32. Simo: I am sorry Sir, please forgive me.

33. School head: It's too late Simo, if anything, you should have been expelled long time ago.

34. Simo: I will never do it again, please do not expel me.

35. School head: I am more hurt than you Simo, you know how much I like you, you have always kept our school flame burning -- both with good grades and as a basketball player. But now you have blown out the flame and tarnished our school's image -- it's a big shame!

36. Simo: Mum -- Sir -- please forgive me! I will never ever...

37. School head: Too late! I have protected you enough. You promised you would change, but you never did. There is nothing else I can do but to expel you. I am sorry. And best of luck in your quest for a new school!

38.SFX: **Pushes chair -- footsteps leaving**

39. Simo's mum: How do you expect me to explain this to your father? What does your future look like, Simo?

40. Simo: Mum...

41. Mum: Do not "mum" me now! Look at your eyes -- they are red. You look like you've had neither sleep nor food for the last ten years.

42. Simo: Mum, please? Quietly! My friends will hear you shouting at me.

43.Simo,s mum:Let them hear! I don't care. What haven't we done for you, Simo? I sold all my goats so you could study, hoping that one day you would liberate us from poverty... **(breaks out in tears)** and this is how you pay me back?.

End of scene 2

Scene 3:

Hassan, Simo, Manuel and Simo's mum at Mandela Hostel (11:00 am)

44. **SFX:** There are distant voices, once in a while you can hear motorbike noises or a bicycle bell.

45. **Hassan:** Oh Simo, it's you! Welcome back to Mandela Hostel. We have....

46. **Simo:** Hi Hassan, Hi Manuel! Yeah of course it's me! I have been at home.

47. **Manuel:** You were at home? Is the police cell your home?

48. **Hassan:** Come on Simo, do not lie to us! We heard everything on the radio. Is this your mum? Hello mama!

49. **Simo's mum:** Hello boys! Simo, hurry up and pack! We have to catch the last bus.

50. **Simo:** I am done mama.

51. **Simo's mum:** Is that all you are leaving with? Where is all the property we gave you? You sold it? Let's go home first. We will have a word and you will have to discuss with your father what your future looks like. Whether you're ready to go to school again or whether you want to be useless on the streets.

52. **Simo:** I promise you, mama, I want to study! Believe me! Guys, take good care of yourselves. I'll see you again, as soon as my parents have found me a new school. Here, take five! (*sfx ,slaps hands*) Avoid

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bad company! That stuff will only bring you trouble!
I've learnt my lesson. Bye!

**53: Manuel
and Hassan:** (together) Bye, Simo.

End of scene 3

END OF EPISODE

Music

Did you know? Drugs

Drugs go back a long way in Africa -- traditional drugs that is. Herbs such as khat or miraa have been consumed for centuries. Until recently, however, Africa did not have a big illegal drugs problem -- as opposed to Europe, Asia and America. But that's no longer the case. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime claims the African continent is now the new front in the global war against drugs.

The illegal drugs

One widely consumed illegal drug is cannabis. Also known as ganja and hashish, cannabis is eaten or smoked. The short-term effects of smoking cannabis include memory and attention loss and slowed reaction time. Long-term use of cannabis can cause lung cancer and trigger severe psychological disorders.

Cocaine is also gaining popularity in Western and Southern Africa. It is derived from the leaves of the coca plant and usually comes in the form of a white powder. Users snort it through the nose, smoke it or inject it. Cocaine induces feelings of euphoria and high energy as well as acute awareness of the senses. But it is highly addictive. The regular use of cocaine can cause loss of appetite and chronic weight loss as well as insomnia and long-term depression.

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One drug that is potentially more dangerous than cocaine is heroin -- a synthesis drug from opium. It can be smoked or injected. Heroin tends to trigger stronger feelings of euphoria and well-being than cocaine. But even short-term use can be addictive. Withdrawal symptoms include intense shivering, loss of appetite and sleep.

Crystal meth is becoming increasingly popular, especially in South Africa. Also known as, ice, glass or tuk-tuk, the drug can either take the form of a fine powder or large crystals. It can be snorted, injected or smoked. The drug gives an immediate pleasurable rush, followed by a feeling of euphoria that lasts for hours. But exhaustion and depression soon replace the enjoyable feelings. Chronic use can lead to violence and anxiety, insomnia, and paranoia.

All drug overdoses can cause death.

The legal drugs

Not all drugs are illegal. Cigarettes and alcohol are legal and popular across Africa. But even if they are legal, they both pose huge risks. Regular alcohol consumption can damage the liver and the kidneys, and can cause premature death. Drunk-driving can cause fatal accidents. Smoking causes lung cancer.

Outro

Thank you for listening to the last episode of our Learning by Ear series on health, written by Hope Azeda. Did you miss one story or want to hear more? No problem, just visit our website: www.dw-world.de/lbe. You will find all of our series there as well as further information on how to make the best of your everyday life.