

Learning by Ear
Health – Episode 9 (tetanus, vaccination)

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Intro:

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear's series on health. We invite you to Mandela Hostel, a small and dirty place where five students are living. They left their home villages to go to the secondary school in town. They have to take care of themselves as their families are far away and the landlady is only interested in getting her money. In today's story Jimmy is still suffering from a serious disease and his friends Manuel, Simo, Hassan and Steve are doing their best to help him. Stay tuned to hear how the boys solve the problem. And at the end you'll get some advice on how vaccinations can help you stay healthy.

Scene 1

Hassan, Jimmy, Manuel and the Landlady at the hostel in the morning (next day again)

- 1.SFX:** ***Mosquitoes buzzing. The boys are setting off for school.***
- 2..Hassan:** Are you skipping school again, Jimmy?
- 3..Jimmy:** **(Sick)** I am not feeling well, Hassan. I have a fever, and man, this wound is killing me.
- 4. Manuel:** I still do not understand how you got that wound.
- 5..Jimmy:** **(Sick)** Manuel, I tell you, it all started with a minor cut from the toilet's iron door but now it has become a deep wound.
- 6..Hassan:** It really stinks. Why don't you change the bandage? It's all yellow and dirty.

- 7..Manuel:** Jimmy, go and have it dressed at the health clinic before it seriously gets infected!
- 8..Jimmy:** **(Sick)** Manuel, I have had enough of health lectures -- I just want to go home to the village. For now, I will keep treating my wound with salt.
- 9.Hassan:** Manuel, I think we should do whatever it takes to help Jimmy go home but first we have to find Steve and Simo.
- 10.Manuel:** You are right. Maybe they got some money and decided to have some fun, forgetting there is a patient whose life depends on them.
- 11.Hassan:** We must leave for school now, we are really running late. See you later Jimmy.
- 12.Jimmy:** **(Jimmy groans in pain)** Ashhhhh ayyayya it really hurts
- 13.Landlady:** **(Coming in, knocking at the door)** I have got you! What sort of tricks are you playing this time?
- 14.Jimmy:** Oh landlady! Ahhh Landlady! It's my neck **(speaking with difficulty)**
- 15.Landlady:** **(On Mic)** What's up with you? Stop it now and get me my money!
- 16.Jimmy:** **(Groans in pain)** Kraaa ayiiii aohhhhh
- 17.Landlady:** Are you acting up or are you actually really sick?
(Jimmy starts to have convulsions)
- 18.Landlady:** **(panics)** Goodness this boy is going to die. I had better go and pick Hassan and Manuel from their school so they can rescue him. **(Jimmy groans loudly in much pain)**

End of scene 1

Scene 2

Landlady, school secretary, Hassan and Manuel at the school administration office, during break-time (10:15 am)

- 19.SFX:** **A secretary types on an old-fashioned typewriter
Schoolboys and girls’s voices in the distance**
- 20.Landlady:** Excuse me madam, I need Manuel and Hassan
urgently. I have been waiting here at this school for ten
minutes now and....
- 21. SFX:** **Stops typing**
- 22.Secretary:** I sent someone to call them -- didn’t you see the little
boy I sent?
- 23.Landlady:** Well since I arrived I have only seen you hitting that
thing with your fingers. How do you call that? Ah yes,
typing. Whatever. Can’t you send someone a little
faster?
- 24.SFX:** **Starts typing again**
- 26.Secretary:** Be patient madam! They will soon be here.
- 27.Landlady:** Death has no patience!
- 28.Secretary:** Are you about to die?
- 29.Landlady:** Not me. Their friend! Will you please stop what you are
doing and look at my face as we talk?
- 30.SFX:** **Stops typing**
- 31.Secretary:** Why -- no time -- I have lots of work. Oh, here they are!

- 32.Landlady:** Come on boys, you must come now...
- 33.Hassan:** (**Coming**) Manuel don't go! (*Whispers in Manuel's ear*) She is taking us to the police-station.
- 34.Manuel:** Leave my hand alone madam. What's wrong? Why did you come here? Let's go back to class, Hassan. We are missing our lectures.
- 35.Landlady:** Come on boys! It's Jimmy. Do you think I would lie to you in front of this crowd? Jimmy needs your help now, otherwise he'll die. (*murmurs from the crowd*)
- 36.Secretary:** Boys, better go and check on your roommate.

End of scene 2

Scene 3

Jimmy, Manuel, Hassan and landlady at the hostel

- 37.SFX:** *Mosquitoes buzzing*
- 38. Jimmy:** (*groans in pain*)
- 39.Manuel:** (**Scared**) Goodness, Jimmy, are you okay?
- 40.Hassan:** (**Scared**) Manuel, we must do something -- the guy's jaw is stiff -- he can't speak.
- 41.Manuel:** The problem is that he can't stand or walk, Hassan.
- 42.Landlady :** Boys, you cannot afford to waste any more time. Take him to the hospital immediately.
- 43.Hassan:** How, landlady?
- 44.Manuel:** I will hook a bike and rush to borrow the school van.
- 45.Hassan:** If it has not been taken already...

46.Manuel: Let me just try, Hassan.

47.Hassan: Manuel, just go and get whatever means of transport. Jimmy is going to die.

SCENE 4

Scene 4: **Doctor, Manuel, Hassan, landlady at the health clinic**

48.SFX: *Not very busy, some babies cry, some patients cough and sneeze, a mix of different voices from a*

49..Doctor: Well, your friend Jimmy has got the symptoms of tetanus -- his life is in danger!

50.Manuel: Doctor, is he really....

51.Doctor: We'll do our best to safe his life. You see, tetanus bacteria cause the muscles to spasm, and if tetanus attacks the jaw it causes lockjaw, which is the inability to open and close your mouth.

52.Hassan: Doctor, then he is not suffering from tetanus

53.Doctor: What makes you think that?

54.Manuel: I think Hassan is saying that because it is not only his jaw that is stiff but his whole body.

55.Doctor: Tetanus can also cause the breathing muscles to spasm. That can be deadly too. As a matter of fact, I suggest you get vaccinated against tetanus while you are here.

56..Manuel: Our landlady will go first.

57.Doctor: While you think about it, let me check on Jimmy (*leaving*).

58.SFX: (Door opens and closes)

- 59.Landlady:** I am scared of injections boys, you go first! Hassan!
- 60.Hassan:** No Manuel goes first. I've heard that the majority of people who get disease get it after they have been vaccinated.
- 61.Manuel :** Well, this is the time to get serious. That's a misconception we're always told.
- 62.Hassan:** Some people think that mandatory vaccinations are just interferences by the government.
- 63.Manuel:** I don't care about what people think about mandatory vaccinations. At the end of the day, we will suffer the consequences. This is about the choices we make brother!
- 64.Hassan :** If you were in church preaching , I would shout PREACH IT BROTHER!
- 65.SFX:** **(Door opens and closes)**
- 66.Manuel:** How is Jimmy, doctor?
- 67.Doctor:** He is doing well.
- 68.Hassan:** Can he come back to the ghetto **(laughs)**...sorry, I mean to the hostel with us?
- 69.Doctor:** Not now. Maybe in a few days -- he needs some rest now. So who's first for the tetanus vaccination?
- 70.Manuel:** Me mme, Manuel first.
- 71.Doctor:** Come on, don't be scared, it doesn't hurt.
- 72.Hassan:** I will have mine after Manuel.
- 73. SFX:** **Pushes chair, medical utensils knock each other, plastic is opened.**
- 74. Doctor:** Just a little prick and that's all. Was it that bad, boys?

- 75. Manuel:** Is that all? I did not feel anything. Did you, Hassan?
- 76. Hassan:** No, I did not, but even if I did, I wouldn't say. We are big boys, aren't we? And big boys don't cry!
- 77. Doctor:** Well, if you are that strong, why don't you come again for more vaccinations?
- 78. Manuel:** Time to leave now, Hassan. Or we'll find ourselves on the operation table later.... **(boys are giggling)**
- 79. SFX:** **(quick steps outside, door closes)**

End of scene 3

END EPISODE 9

Music

(2 speakers, one for headers, one for the rest)

Did you know? Vaccines

The facts

Vaccines can protect humans from a number of serious and potentially deadly diseases. When a vaccine is administered, it helps the body create antibodies. Antibodies are the body's defense cells. They protect the immune system and fight off foreign substances -- germs, bacteria and viruses.

The rumors

There are plenty of rumors in Africa about vaccines. Some people tell stories of people who have died or become insane after being vaccinated. Others think vaccines were developed by the West to kill

Africa's population. These rumors are not true. Genuine doctors are only allowed to administer vaccines, which have been tested and licensed by the World Health Organization. Most approved vaccines have few or no side-effects. However, the rumors are not totally unfounded because there are counterfeit vaccines circulating, which can be dangerous and even fatal. Therefore, it is incredibly important to make sure vaccinations are administered at by registered doctors in hospitals or health centers. Consult a doctor for advice on the possible side-effects of a vaccine and what to do about them.

The successes

Vaccinations have been used for centuries and over time some deadly diseases have almost been eradicated. Thanks to vaccines, smallpox has been eradicated across the world and tuberculosis has almost been wiped out of Europe. Incidents of polio and measles have been greatly reduced.

The recommendations

There are world-wide vaccination campaigns to combat flu, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus, yellow fever and many other illnesses. The World Health Organization recommends basic routine vaccinations to all humans depending on where they live. Health centers are the best place to get information about vaccinations.

Outro:

Thank you for joining us and our Learning by Ear series on health, written by Hope Azeda. Do you want to know how the story goes on? Or to tell your friends about it? Just have a look at our website: www.dw-world.de/lbe. You will find our whole range of series there, with stories on HIV, girls, the environment and other interesting topics.