

Learning by Ear
Health – Episode 8 (sickness, malaria, hospital visit, mosquito nets)

Author: Hope Azeda

Editor: Katrin Ogunsade

Intro:

Hello and welcome to another episode of Learning by Ear's series on health. Today, you will once again join Manuel, Simo, Steve, Jimmy and Hassan in their daily activities and witness their struggle against illness. Two of the boys have to go to a health clinic. The boys have to cope with the ups and downs of daily life alone because they have left their home villages to go to the secondary school in town. They live at Mandela Hostel, far away from their families. The landlady doesn't really care about them much. She's mostly interested in getting her rent regularly. Thus, life can be very hard sometimes -- especially if serious illness strikes. Listen to how the boys try to manage their situation -- and at the end you'll get some information on how to avoid infection from dangerous malaria parasites.

Scene 1

Jimmy, Manuel and the male nurse at the health clinic (*in the morning*)

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

2.SFX: ***A door opens***

3.a male voice: (calls out) Who's next, please?

4. Jimmy: Good Morning, Sir. My name is Jimmy and this is my friend Manuel. I'm in poor health -- I don't know what the problem is...

3. Nurse (male): How do you feel generally?

- 4.Jimmy:** I have lost my appetite. I vomit everything I eat. My stomach hurts, I've got joint pains, a constant fever. Just to mention a few symptoms.
- 5. Nurse:** Well, what you have just described clearly indicates malaria. What I can do right now is to give you an instant malaria check up and if you are positive, I will give you some treatment. First give me your hand!
- 6.SFX:** **Pushes chair, medical utensils knock each other and a plastic small paper is opened.**
- 7.Male nurse:** You see Jimmy, this is a new syringe.
- 8.Jimmy:** Auchi...
- 9.Male nurse:** I am done. Now you have to wait for thirty minutes.
- 10.Manuel:** Where? Here?
- 11.Male nurse:** No not here go and wait outside on that bench.
- 12.SFX:** **Footsteps leaving and sitting on a wooden bench, wooden bench squeaks**
- Scene 1a
- 13.SFX:** ***Not very busy, some babies cry, some patients cough and sneeze, a mix of different voices.***
- 14.Jimmy:** I am feeling dizzy, let me lie on this bench.
- 15.Manuel:** Come here, Jimmy, lean on me.
- 16.Jimmy:** I hope the nurse's 30 minutes are indeed 30 minutes.
- 17.Manuel:** That is if he remembers to look at his watch -- sometimes these watches are just decorations.
- 18.Jimmy:** You are right...(almost vomiting)...Ahhh! I hate this feeling of nausea. It's the worst feeling you can get -- you feel like all your intestines are entangled around your heart and lungs...damn!

Scene 1b

19.SFX: Shoes approaching

20.Male nurse: Jimmy and friend! Come in please, your results are ready.

21.SFX: Chairs and a table being pushed.

22.Male nurse: Jimmy. I found malaria parasites in your blood -- I will give you medication.

23.Manuel: Are all those tablets going to go into Jimmy's stomach?

24.Male Nurse: Not at the same time. When you get home take four in one go. And then two of each for the next three days. Don't forget to drink a lot of water or juice. It is very important you finish your medication, otherwise it won't be effective.

25.Jimmy: So basically after this medication, will I feel normal again and go to school?

26.Male nurse: Yes. But I don't think you only have one problem. I would advise you to go for a proper medical check-up. But that will cost you a little more money.

27. Manuel: Goodness. What you just carried out my on my friend was not a proper medical check-up? Why does this place basically exist?

28. Nurse: We only give advice and treat minor cases. Your friend's case is a serious one; his fever is high and it could be caused by malaria parasites. Or his wound could be infected with tetanus, I don't know.

29. Manuel: I still do not see the point of your existence -- the advice you give exists in book. We might as well have read about it ourselves.

30.Nurse: You are right, it exists in books but directions to the hospital do not exist in these books. Am I right, boys?

- 31.Jimmy:** Manuel let's go. I just want to go home.
- 32.Nurse:** Much as you're complaining that I have not treated you well, let me ask you one thing. Do you sleep under mosquito nets?
- 33.Jimmy** Are you giving out some free ones here at your clinic?
- 34.Nurse.** No, but I would like to suggest to you that if you don't already sleep under mosquito nets, you had better start doing it now. It will reduce the risk of getting malaria -- this is important for your life.
- 35.Manuel:** Jimmy, you've already got one, but you've never hung it.
- 36.Jimmy:** Not any more. Steve sold it.
- 37.Nurse:** Then buy another one -- it costs nothing.
- 38.Jimmy:** In the future, not now. How can I buy one when I can't even afford the treatment?
- 39.Nurse:** Why don't you just check if you can get some free mosquito nets from the non-governmental organization next door? They deal with medical aid. You are still students -- I think they will give you some support. You see, prevention is better than cure. You should keep your surroundings clean, too. Then there will be less mosquitoes, and you will avoid being infected with malaria. But I have other patients to attend to so I beg you to leave now.
- 40.Manuel:** Are they also here for better clinic directions?
- 41.Nurse:** Whatever you say.

End of scene 1

Scene 2

Jimmy, Manuel and Hassan at the hostel (late morning)

42.SFX: *Mosquitoes buzzing, boys snoring, once in a while the boys slap themselves, attempting to kill mosquitoes, the snoring is interrupted by mosquito buzzing*

43.Manuel: How are you feeling Jimmy? Is the medicine working?

44.Jimmy: **(Sickly)** Not really. I tell you Manuel, I am becoming more and more ill. I am beginning to feel uncomfortable even when I swallow -- I could not finish the juice you gave me.

45.Manuel: I'm sorry Jimmy.

45.Jimmy: **(Sickly)** And these bloody mosquitoes don't give me even a single minute's break to sleep.

46. Manuel: This is serious -- it is as if these bloody mosquitoes have decided to feast on human flesh!

47.SFX" *(mosquito buzzes and gets slapped)*

Got you! Goodness, check out how much blood it tanked from my body.

48. Hassan: Manuel, shut up! Guys, I need some sleep...Let's try and cover ourselves with blankets from head-to-toe.

49. Jimmy: **(Sickly)** Well I have had my lesson about what malaria means, I cannot risk any more mosquito bites. Even if it is hot, I will cover myself and bear the heat.

50. Manuel: I can't bury myself alive in a blanket -- let me put on my shirt!

51.SFX: *(bed makes noise)*

Guys I cannot find my long-sleeved shirt.

52. Hassan: It seems as if someone is selling off our property.

53. Manuel: It could be the rats, they are capable of doing anything.

- 54.Jimmy:** (Sickly) Let us be serious for once! How can a rat take a heavy T-shirt like Hassan's?
- 55. Manuel:** Get serious here! I mean rats with human hair!
- 56.Hassan:** Manuel, it won't take long before we know ...every thief gets his comeuppance in the end! We will get him!
- 57.Manuel:** You know guys, it seems as if we are losing lots of things and in a very careless way. I propose we introduce a new system to stop these hostel robberies.
- 58.Hassan:** Let us first deal with the mosquitoes. The rest will be done in good time.
- 59. Jimmy:** (Sickly) Manuel, you should tell your girlfriend, the landlady, to do something about this dirty environment.
- 60.Manuel:** That is a fat joke, how can we dare approach her if we haven't paid the rent yet?
- 61.Jimmy:** (Sickly) Well, maybe you are right. Why don't we just listen to what the doctor said, then? He mentioned that non-governmental organization...
- 62.Manuel:** Yes, good idea, Jimmy! I will go there tomorrow right after school and ask for free mosquito nets. For the three of us, and of course, for Simo and Steve.
- 63.Hassan:** You surprise me, Manuel, when you include Simo and Steve in your plans. Haven't you realized that those two have lost their way? They're living on another planet.
- 64.Manuel:** True Hassan -- it is two days now and those guys have just disappeared.
- 65.Jimmy:** If they could only give me my money so I could go home. Where on earth could they be?

End of scene 2

END EPISODE 8

Music

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

Did you know...Malaria

The facts

Malaria is one of Africa's deadliest killers. Over one million people die of malaria every year world-wide -- 90 percent of them in Africa. Although people of every age can get malaria, it mostly kills children and pregnant women. It is transmitted to people by mosquitoes infected with the malaria parasite -- through mosquito bites.

The symptoms

The first effects of Malaria are usually felt after 10 to 15 days. These include fever, headaches, vomiting and chills. If the disease is not immediately treated, the symptoms can get worse and can even be fatal.

The cure

If you think you might have malaria, you should make sure you don't just have the common flu before taking any medicine. To be sure, take a blood test. Malaria is curable if it is diagnosed quickly. So the test should always be taken as soon as possible. There are various malaria drugs on the market but it is important to be very careful because not all of them are effective. Get advice from a doctor if you can.

The prevention

The best way of avoiding malaria, which can be fatal, is to avoid being bitten by a mosquito. Mosquitoes are usually most active at dusk and in the night. Therefore, you should wear long-sleeved clothes and sleep under a mosquito net. A net that has been treated with chemicals can offer even more protection. Anti-mosquito sprays can also be quite effective. However, don't over-use them as they sometimes contain dangerous chemicals. Pregnant women and children are especially vulnerable to malaria.

Outro

Thank you for listening to another episode of Learning by Ear's health series, written by Hope Azeda. Do you want to hear more stories or tell

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your friends about them? No problem, just visit our website: www.dw-world.de/lbe. And remember to tune in next time!