

Learning by Ear – Hygiene: How to avoid diarrhoea

Episode 01 “Running”

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Scene	Characters	
1	1. EDITH	SAM – 17, m.
	2. MARIA	EDITH – 40, f.
	3. CHEMU	MARIA – 43, f.
	4. NARRATOR	EDDI– 36, m.
2	1. SAM	DR SALLY – 34, f.
	2. CHEMU	CHEMU – 15, f.
	3. NARRATOR	
3	1. EDITH	NARRATOR
	2. SAM	
	3. MARIA	
	4. BABY FATU	
	5. NARRATOR	
4	1. EDITH	
	2. SAM	
	3. MARIA	
	4. CHEMU	

INTRO

MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

01. NARRATOR HELLO AND WELCOME TO THIS
“LEARNING BY EAR” SERIES WHICH IS
ABOUT HYGIENE AND DIARRHOEA.
DIARRHOEA IS VERY COMMON IN AFRICA
AND A MAJOR KILLER. IN THIS FIRST
EPISODE WE MEET SAM AND HIS FAMILY:
HIS SIX MONTH OLD BABY SISTER AND
HIS MOTHER EDITH. BUT THEY HAVE AN
UNWANTED RESIDENT – DIARRHOEA. WE
ALSO MEET CHEMU, WHO IS SAM’S
GREATEST ADMIRER AND MARIA, THE
KNOW-IT-ALL NEIGHBOUR, AND CHEMU’S
MOTHER.

LISTEN ON TO HOW SAM, HIS FAMILY AND
FRIENDS STRUGGLE WITH DIARRHOEA
AND LEARN ABOUT ITS CAUSES,
PREVENTION AND CURE.

SCENE 1: SAM'S SCHOOL'S ATHLETICS FIELD.

**02. SFX: BACKGROUND CHEERING BY STUDENTS. FEET
RUNNING.**

- 03. EDITH** Come on.. SAM, run, run... run son.. run...
- 04. CHEMU** **(screaming at high pitch)** SAMu...! SAMu...
!SAMu..
- 05. EDITH/CHEMU/MARIA** SAMmu... SAMmu.... SAMmu...
SAMmu...
- 06. EDITH** **(Excited)** That is my son.. Everyone, Maria,
Chemu.. look...my son SAM is winning....
- 07. CHEMU** Ooooh... he is so cute!
- 08. MARIA** Chemu, hold your tongue, my daughter, you
are too young to fancy boys.
- 09. EDITH** Not even my son... ? I thought we were good
friends, Maria! SAMu... SAMu... oh no no...
nooooo
- 10. CHEMU** **(horrified)** Sam, what are you doing?
- 11. MARIA** Well, there he goes... that did not last long!
You see Chemu, he is no good...the boy can
not....

- 12. EDITH** Look... Maria.. he has veered off into your farm. What is going on?
- 13. MARIA** That boy of yours is weird, Edith. Who rushes off into the bush when they are about to win an important race?
- 14. CHEMU** (**sad**) What happened to Sam?
- 15. MARIA** Since you are so worried about your friend, make yourself useful and go find out why he's suddenly gone crazy. Go on... We don't have all day!
- 16. NARRATOR** IF YOU COULD HAVE SEEN SAM A MONTH AGO, YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT WINNING THIS RACE WAS GOING TO BE A PIECE OF CAKE! BUT IN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, HE HAS BEEN GROWING WEAKER AND WEAKER. WHAT COULD BE HAPPENING TO HIM? LET'S JOIN CHEMU IN THE BUSH AND FIND OUT.

SCENE 2: IN THE BUSH – MARIA’S FARM

17. SFX: Birds, Crickets

18. SAM: (from some distance) SIGHS OF PAIN AND FORCED BREATH

19. CHEMU (worried) Sam? Sam..? Where are you. Sam?

20. SAM (closer) SOUNDS OF SIGHS OF PAIN AND FORCED BREATH

21. SFX: Liquid splashing on ground

22. CHEMU SAM... Saaaam... ? Stop playing this game at once.

23. SAM (strained voice) I’m..... I’m.... here. But don’t come! Keep away!

24. CHEMU Come out of there. Why did you stop running? Everyone is worried.

25. SAM (painfully) Don’t come near me. Go away. Go away now!

26. CHEMU Why did you stop running?

27. SAM I did not stop running. I am running.

28. CHEMU Stop being silly, you stopped running. You ran off the track and into the bush. Get out of there right now!

29. SAM I can't. My feet stopped running because my stomach started running. Don't come any closer!

30. CHEMU Eeeeeeeekkkk..... What is that smell? Has something died?

31. SAM **(a bit sarcastic)** I am just spreading manure on your mother's garden.

32. CHEMU **(Kidding, but also disgusted)**
SAMmmuuuu..... you have that diarrhoea again!

MUSIC BRIDGE

33. NARRATOR OH MY, OUR SAM IS IN TROUBLE. HOW EMBARRASSING FOR SAM TO BE FOUND IN THIS COMPROMISING SITUATION BY THE VERY GIRL HE WANTS TO IMPRESS. POOR SAM! ONE ALSO WONDERS, HOW HE GOT INFECTED? AND ARE THERE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY SIMILARLY AFFECTED? LET US JOIN SAM AT HOME AND FIND OUT MORE.

SCENE 3: EDITH'S HOME

34. SFX: INTERMITTENT NOISES OF A BABY CRYING

35. EDITH (anguished) Ooh no, what do I do now?
Maria, tell me. My baby is passing liquid stool.
What has happened to my family?

36. MARIA Edith, I told you many times before. Make a really thick porridge for Baby Fatu. The porridge will hold the baby's intestine together and make the fluid thicker. I will go and make thick porridge that falls not pours out of the pot. That should fix the diarrhoea. Meanwhile, tell that son of yours to stop defecating in my garden!

37. SFX: DOOR SLAMS: BABY FATU CRIES EVEN MORE

38. EDITH Sam, please come and help with the baby.
Here, hold the baby while I....

39. SAM (screams with disgust) AAAHHH! Look what Baby Fatu has done, she has soiled my hands and shirt.

40. EDITH She is your sister. A little dirt from her won't hurt, and it is not the first time this has happened to you. Here is a cloth, wipe yourself dry and throw it in that corner.

BRIDGE MUSIC

41. NARRATOR WELL, DIARRHOEA SEEMS TO REIGN IN THIS HOME! IT'S ALL OVER THEIR BODIES, CLOTHES .. AND MORE IS COMING OUT OF THEM! AND THEY ARE IN THE KITCHEN. THIS CAN'T BE GOOD. COULD THIS BE WHY THE DIARRHOEA IS SPREADING? THE ENTIRE FAMILY COULD UNKNOWINGLY BE INFECTING EACH OTHER AND THOSE NEAR THEM. BUT WHAT ABOUT BABY FATU? SHE DEFINITELY SEEMS VERY SICK.

SCENE 4: EDITH'S HOME

42. SFX: Door opening and slamming, intermittent baby cries

43. MARIA Chemu, put that porridge over there.
(**exclaiming**) Sam, why are you holding the baby like she is a bunch of bananas? Here, give her to me so I can feed her this porridge.

44. CHEMU Mother, I am telling you, it is not thick porridge Baby Fatu needs, she needs a Doctor.

45. MARIA What does my 15-year-old know about running stomachs! The Baby, Sam?

46. SFX: Wet drip/drop

47. SAM (hasty) Careful... she has no.....oooh too late.

48. MARIA (disgust) Now look what you have done. Now the smell is worse than..... the City cesspit!

49. EDITH My grandmother always said when a baby does that to you, it is a blessing.

50. MARIA Mine used holy water, not baby excreta. Chemu, are you going to pass over that porridge or not?

51. CHEMU STOP!

52. MARIA & EDITH What?

53. CHEMU Wash your hands!

54. MARIA Why? I have not been handling charcoal..

55. EDITH Chemu, you think we have so much water to waste, washing hands every now and again?

56. CHEMU Baby Fatu has diarrhoea and the teacher said we must always wash our hands to protect ourselves.

- 57. MARIA** Shut up, girl. This is only a baby not a poisonous chemical factory. Are we going to feed her or not?
- 58. SFX: Chair being pushed**
- 59. EDITH** (**in surprise**) Now what?
- 60. SAM** (**in urgency**) I have to go. (Runs to the door)
- 61. SFX: Door being opened and slammed**
- 62. CHEMU** It's his stomach, it's running again.
- 63. MARIA** Then we need more thick porridge for him as well. Chemu, go to our house and make some more.
- 64. CHEMU** I think they both need to go to hospital.
Teacher said.....
- 65. MARIA** (**Angry**) Shut up. Teacher this, teacher that. That boy is lazy. Have you noticed how he just sits and does nothing these days. He does not even want to run anymore.
- 66. EDITH** Maria, you are my friend but I think you are very mean towards my son. Give him a break. Be thankful. Has he not, for the last two weeks, spread free manure on your land?

- 67. MARIA** When I want organic fertiliser, I get it from my cow, not from your lazy two-legged son, Edith.
- 68. EDITH** It's free.
- 69. MARIA** It is smelly and it's all over my vegetables. I don't see what my Chemu sees in him. Anyway, young girl, I prohibit you from spending time with a boy who cannot control his bowels. Who knows what else he cannot control!
- 70. EDITH** Maria, are you going to help me with my sick children or are you intent on causing me more grief.
- 71. SFX: BABY CRYING STOPS AND BABY FALLS ASLEEP**
- 72. MARIA** (**apologetic**). Ah.. sorry Edith, you know me and my big mouth. Ha... Baby Fatu has gone quiet. Is she asleep? But she has not eaten her porridge yet.
- 73. EDITH** She does that. She has diarrhoea, cries, gets exhausted then falls asleep, only to wake up and start crying again. She does not eat well anymore.
- 74. MARIA** She seems to have lost colour too. She looks... like a dry leaf!

- 75. CHEMU** Our teacher told us that dirt brings diarrhoea.
- 76. EDITH** (**shouting**) Girl, what are you saying? That my house is dirty?
- 77. MARIA** (**Shouting back**) Edith, don't you dare yell at my daughter. She is only saying what the teacher said.
- 78. CHEMU** Teacher said people suffering from diarrhoea lose all the water that is supposed to stay inside them.
- 79. MARIA** Now, now.. Chemu, when did you become so clever. We can always get some medicine from the local kiosk.
- 80. CHEMU** She said anyone who needs to go to the toilet for a hard-call, well, what is supposed to be hard – more than four times a day should see a Doctor immediately.....
- 81. MARIA** Now you are getting on my nerves, girl!
- 82. EDITH** Maybe we should get some advice from my brother in-law Eddi and his doctor wife Sally. You know, just to be on the safe side.
- 83. MARIA** Aaahh whatever!!

MUSIC BRIDGE

OUTRO

84. NARRATOR INDEED, EDITH'S HOUSEHOLD IS A SAD ONE. HER CHILDREN ARE SICK AND CHEMU, WHO SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION IS NOT BEING LISTENED TO. LET'S HOPE THAT EDITH WILL FOLLOW UP ON HER IDEA OF SEEKING ADVICE FROM EDDI AND DR. SALLY. BUT WILL SHE FOLLOW THROUGH AND WILL EDDI AND DR SALLY ARRIVE IN TIME FROM THE CITY?

DON'T MISS EPISODE TWO OF OUR "LEARNING BY EAR" SERIES AND FIND OUT WHAT BECOMES OF BABY FATU AND THE REST OF THE FAMILY IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST DIARRHOEA.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE OF DIARRHOEA? AND **(with a smile)** HAS EVER IT INTERFERED WITH YOUR LOVE-LIFE, LIKE POOR SAM?

PLEASE SEND US YOUR COMMENTS. YOU CAN ALSO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OTHER LEARNING BY EAR PROGRAMMES BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT www.dw-world.de/lbe.

GOOD BYE!