

Learning by Ear – Hygiene: How to avoid diarrhoea

Episode 04 “Finding Sam”

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Scene	Characters	
1	1. EDITH 2. CHEMU 3. MARIA 4. DR SALLY	SAM – 17, m. EDITH – 40, f.
2	1. DR SALLY 2. MARIA 3. CHEMU 4. SAM	MARIA – 43, f. EDDI– 36, m. DR SALLY – 34, f.
3	1. DR SALLY 2. CHEMU 3. SAM 4. NARRATOR	CHEMU – 15, f. GROUP OF STUDENTS – all male NARRATOR – m.

INTRO

MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

01. NARRATOR HELLO AND WELCOME TO EPISODE **FOUR** OF OUR “LEARNING BY EAR” SERIES CALLED “HYGIENE – HOW TO AVOID DIARRHOEA”. IN THE LAST EPISODE BABY FATU LOST HER LIFE TO DIARRHOEA. HER ELDER BROTHER SAM WAS ALSO VERY UNWELL AT HOME. THE FAMILY IS STILL SHOCKED BY THE BAD NEWS OF BABY FATU’S UNTIMELY DEATH. BUT THEY LEFT THE HOSPITAL IN A RUSH BECAUSE THEY NEEDED TO CHECK ON SAM WHO HAD BEEN LEFT AT HOME, IN BED. THERE MUST BE A WAY TO SAVE SAM FROM DIARRHOEA AND ITS CONSEQUENCES. LET’S LISTEN WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY GET TO THE HOUSE WHERE THEIR NEIGHBOUR, MARIA, IS WAITING FOR THEM...

SCENE 1: EDITH'S HOME

- 02. SFX: A CAR DRIVES IN. SCREECHES TO A STOP. CAR DOORS OPEN. CAR DOORS BANG SHUT. FOOTSTEPS. DOOR OPENS AND IS SLAMMED SHUT**
- 03. MARIA** (angry) Edith! And you, my daughter Chemu! What took you so long? I have been stuck here alone with Sam.
- 04. CHEMU** (calling out) Sam, Sam..
- 05. MARIA** (agitated) Chemu.. what is wrong with you, child? ...And you, Eddi and your Doctor wife Sally ... why is everyone wearing such long faces?
- 06. CHEMU** (distraught) Samu samu, Mother, Sam is dying... don't die Sam, ooh where are you?
- 07. MARIA** (angry) Chemu... ..Stop! Where are your manners? Stop pushing everyone out of your way! And where are you going anyway?
- 08. EDITH** (crying) Ooh.. everyone is dead now... Diarrhoea - come take me as well!!!
- 09. SFX: CHAIR SQUEAKS AND SOMEONE DRAGS IT ALONG A HARD SURFACE.**

- 10. MARIA** **Edith**, could someone tell me what is going on? And where is Baby Fatu? Asleep in the car? You know all she does is cry and sleep
- 11. DR SALLY** **(interrupts, soberly)** Maria, Baby Fatu is dead!
- 12. MARIA** What..? Dr. Sally, what are you saying? That's not possible... Ooh my friend Edith... I am so sorry... I didn't know ...You should have all told me immediately... oh no... I should have baked those bananas earlier... they sure would have helped. And now, Baby Fatu has
- 13. DR SALLY** Don't blame yourself Maria and there is no way those bananas would have helped.
- 14. EDITH** **(crying)** What do we do now?
- 15. NARRATOR** AS EVERYBODY ELSE WAS THINKING ABOUT POOR BABY FATU, CHEMU FINALLY MADE IT INTO SAM'S BEDROOM AND PALE AS HE LOOKED, SHE WASN'T SURE HE WAS STILL ALIVE...

SCENE 2: SAM'S BEDROOM

16. SFX: SOUNDS OF BED CREAKING, RUSTLE OF CLOTHES

17. CHEMU Sam... Sammuuu... are you dead? Are you dead?

18. SAM (**very weak**) Yes, Chemu, I am dead. The way I feel, I could as well be dead.....

19. CHEMU Don't die, Sam, don't die... Get up....get up... we have to go to hospital. If we don't, diarrhoea will kill you, just like Baby Fatu

20. SAM (**very weak**) What... is my sister dead? Oh no...

21. SFX: DOOR OPENS. FOOTSTEPS APPROACH

22. DR SALLY Sam... Are you awake? Get up, I've come to take you to hospital. **PAUSE (softly to herself)** Oh no, this room smells.

23. SAM (**very weak**) Then, it is true, about Fatu, Auntie Sally?

24. DR SALLY Yes, Sam, I'm very sorry, but the most important thing right now is to get you to hospital... NOW!!!

25. CHEMU He is trying to get up. He can't... He is too weak.. His legs can't carry him.

- 26. SAM** (crying softly) I don't believe it about Fatu. Dr Sally, will I also die? I have diarrhoea, don't I? And that may kill me.. Isn't that right?
- 27. DR SALLY** If you do not get medical attention immediately, you have a high chance of dying. How long have you been sick? When did you first notice you were going to the toilet too often?
- 28. SAM** I don't know... about... about two weeks ago...
- 29. DR SALLY** That is too long! You should have gone to hospital sooner. Now, come on, let me help you. Diarrhoea is very dangerous, especially when it just carries on. We must go to hospital at once.
- 30. CHEMU** Sam, you did not wash your hands. That is why you are sick.. I sang you my hand-washing song..... I must teach it to you...
- 31. DR SALLY** Not now Chemu.. let's help him get dressed and then we'll go to hospital...
- 32. SFX: DOOR OPENS. QUICK FOOTSTEPS APPROACH.**
- 33. MARIA** (disgust) Eeegghhh, this place smells like ... like.. a sewer.

- 34. DR SALLY** Oh Maria, it's good you are here. Help me get Sam ready. He is too weak to even walk, let alone dress himself.
- 35. MARIA** Don't ask me to touch this boy. The whole day, after you left me alone with him, this boy has been like two busy jets. Watery and smelly stuff has been gushing out from both ends. We just didn't know which end would be next. Look at this clothes, see...
- 36. SFX: RUSTLE OF CLOTHES**
- 37. DR SALLY** **(urgently)** STOP!!! STOP Maria, do not touch his soiled clothes with your bare hands. Now.... Go out.. out, out, now Maria and wash your hands immediately.
- 38. MARIA** What is wrong with my hands? I have nursed many other sick people! This is no different.
- 39. CHEMU** Teacher said we must wash our hands all the time....
- 40. MARIA** **(interrupting)** Young lady, I keep telling you, you are not....

41. DR SALLY **(firmly)** Maria, I am the Doctor here, and I am asking you to go and wash your hands thoroughly, right now. Otherwise, you too will be the next who .. how did you describe it? “Doesn’t know which end will be next.” Well, if you do not wash your hands immediately, you will be also be spraying from both end in a matter of hours. It is exactly by handling clothes contaminated with excreta like this, that you are passing on diarrhoea to each other! Now Maria, go wash your hands.

42. CHEMU **(softly raps)**

Wash your hands.
Only washed hands
should be used,
to eat.
Careless people,
Don’t wash their hands
after visiting the toilet.
Keep healthy.
Wash your hands.

43. SFX: FOOTSTEPS AWAY. DOOR SLAMS LOUDLY AS CHEMU SINGS

- 44. NARRATOR** AS THEY HELP SAM UP OUT OF THE BED AND TO THE HOSPITAL, CHEMU SINGS ON, REMINDING HERSELF AND EVERYONE WHO WILL LISTEN THAT THE SIMPLE ACTION OF WASHING HANDS WILL KEEP DIARRHOEA AWAY. AS WILL AVOIDING TOUCHING SURFACES CONTAMINATED BY EXCRETA.
- IT WAS SAD TO LOSE BABY FATU, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE AFRICA WILL NOT LOSE ANOTHER CHILD IN SAM, THAT IS, IF THEY GET TO HOSPITAL IN TIME.

SCENE 3: HOSPITAL WARD

- 45. SFX: HOSPITAL NOISES AND FAR AWAY SOUNDS OF INTERCOMS.**
- 46. CHEMU** Sam, they have put you on a drip like they did Baby Fatu... but it did not help her....
- 47. SAM** Dr Sally, thanks for bringing me to hospital but I am really scared. I am scared that I will die like my baby sister, Fatu.
- 48. CHEMU** Sam, if you die, I will die....

- 49. DR SALLY** Shhh, no one is dying. Actually no one needs to die of diarrhoea. You and I can prevent it and if unluckily you do get it, if you are treated early enough, you will recover. It is as simple as that.
- 50. CHEMU** I know, Auntie Sally, I know....
- 51. DR SALLY** You must tell all your parents, friends everyone: it is simple to avoid and to treat....OK?
- 52. SAM/CHEMU** Yes, Auntie Sally.
- 53. SAM** What are they doing with all the samples they took from me?
- 54. CHEMU** (**cheekily**) You had to put your poo and pee in a small bottle! Ha ha ha!
- 55. SAM** (**embarrassed**) Aaaah!!! Stop her, Auntie Sally.
- 56. DR SALLY** (**bemused**) Come on Chemu, give your boyfriend a break.
- SAM AND CHEMU TOGETHER:**
- 57. SAM** (**angry**) She is not my girlfriend!!!!
- 58. CHEMU** (**angry**) He is not my boyfriend!!!

- 59. DR SALLY** **(amused)** Glad we got that important fact out of the way... Can we now go back to your illness, Sam? You see Sam, I looked at your stool sample...
- 60. CHEMU** Yuuuk!
- 61. DR SALLY** **(ignoring Chemu)** It was watery with traces of blood and mucus. These are signs of amoebic infection. We call it amoebiasis.
- 62. CHEMU** Yuuuuuuk!
- 63. DR SALLY** The medical staff here will probably find protozoa infections like amoebiasis that has invaded and eaten away the inside of the intestine. That's what produces the blood and mucus. We call it dysentery.
- 64. CHEMU** Yuky yuky... dysentery is yuuky
- 65. DR SALLY** **(to Chemu)** Yes, Chemu, you also get to feel very yuuky!
- 66. SAM** Is that what killed my baby sister?
- 67. DR SALLY** There are different diarrhoeal bacteria and parasites. I believe what Baby Fatu had was Enteropathogenic bacteria.
- 68. SAM** **(interrupts)** Entertho-what?

- 69. DR SALLY** **(laughing)** I am glad you have re-found your sense of humour! The drip fluid and nutrients must be working. Let me try and explain in simple words. What Baby Fatu had was similar to you but slightly different. The bacteria in her produced toxins that eat away the inside of the intestine. They interfere with the body's ability to take up the fluids and nutrients which we get from what we eat and drink.
- 70. CHEMU** Poor Baby Fatu.
- 71. DR SALLY** She got dehydrated and lost a lot of body fluid. This, by the way Sam, is the main cause of deaths in children.
- 72. SAM** She cried a lot.
- 73. DR SALLY** This is because the dehydration eating away the lining of the intestine causes a lot of pain and discomfort in the stomach and bowels. You have been throwing up a lot, haven't you?
- 74. SAM** Yes, much more than Baby Fatu.
- 75. CHEMU** Yuk!

- 76. DR SALLY** Well, this is also because the pain you feel is due to the cramps as a result of intestines reacting to the bacterial toxins.
- 77. CHEMU** Dr Sally... this is getting hard... bacterial, amoeba to.. to.. toxins?
- 78. DR SALLY** Oh, I am sorry Chemu. ... actually it is time we leave Sam alone to rest. He will have to rest a lot to get well again. .
- 79. CHEMU** **(sulking)** I want to stay with Sam. Can I stay here? I want to take care of him....I promise.. I promise I will be good..
- 80. DR SALLY** **(laughing)** Chemu, the best care you can now give Sam is to let him rest and get his strength back. We will come back and see him tomorrow.
- 81. CHEMU** **(happy)** Promise?
- 82. DR SALLY** Promise Chemu, I promise you.

OUTRO:

83. NARRATOR WELL, FORTUNATELY SAM IS NOW ON THE MEND. THE HOSPITAL STAFF WILL MAKE SURE HE REGAINS HIS HEALTH BY GIVING HIM MEDICATION TO FIGHT THE BACTERIA OR PARASITES THAT IS CAUSING THE DIARRHOEA. THEY ARE ALSO HELPING HIM REGAIN HIS BODY NUTRIENTS AND FLUIDS. SAM WILL SURVIVE.

HOWEVER, BACK AT HOME, WE HAVE STILL NOT IDENTIFIED WHAT CAUSED THE DIARRHOEA IN THE FIRST PLACE. WE ALSO KNOW THERE ARE SOILED CLOTHES LEFT BEHIND BY BABY FATU AND SAM. ARE WE ABOUT TO HAVE ANOTHER CASE OF DIARRHOEA AT EDITH'S HOME?

TUNE IN TO THE NEXT EPISODE OF OUR 'LEARNING BY THE EAR' SERIES ABOUT DIARRHOEA AND FIND OUT.

YOU CAN ALSO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.DW-WORLD.DE/LBE AND DON'T FORGET TO SEND US YOUR COMMENTS AS WELL. GOODBYE AND TAKE CARE!