

## Learning by Ear – General Knowledge, episode 9 “Why do we fall in love?”

**Text: Christine Watty**  
**Redaktion: Maja Dreyer**  
**Translation: Anne Thomas**

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### Directing infos

#### **People:**

Announcer  
Jenny  
Jack  
Nele                    (Jenny' little cousin -- ca. 7 years old)  
Jenny's grandmother  
Tom (Jack's big brother)

#### Atmos and sounds:

Atmo: "Outside school" children's voices in the background / cars driving past / birds twittering / steps (Jack shuffles up), steps (Jack, then Jenny, goes away)

Family celebration, lots of people are partying, music, relaxed atmosphere, steps (Nele comes running up)

Knocking at door, door opens, noise of someone sitting on a bed, yawning and stretching out (Jack), easy-listening music or radio in background, rustling bedcovers, leaving the room, typing text messages, door slams

Football game, ball hits Jack's head, steps (Jenny comes running)

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#### **INTRO (Announcer):**

A warm welcome to another radio story from our Learning by Ear "General Knowledge" series. In today's episode, which is also the last, we're talking about "love". And as always love is complicated -- especially for our budding scientists Jack and Jenny. They're both experiencing all the usual symptoms of being in love -- you know, the pounding of the heart, the feeling sick, the dizziness. But *are* they in love? If yes, who with? With each other? But until now they were just good friends, weren't they? Or were they? Hope you like this special episode about why we fall in love...

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**1. SCENE:**

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**Atmo:**      **Atmo: "Outside school" children's voices in the background / cars driving past / birds twittering / steps (Jack shuffles up), steps (Jack, then Jenny, goes away)**

**Jack:** *(shuffles up and pats Jenny on the shoulder roughly. He's in a mood to annoy people)*

"Are you still dreaming or what? Wait, I know that look -- lost in thought and smiling softly to yourself -- you can't be thinking of your maths homework! No! I think I know what's going on *(theatrical, speaking like an excited host, getting into the story)*

Ladies and gentlemen, here you have Jenny before you and although it looks like she's simply sitting on a bench, in truth she is at a Robbie Williams concert *(change name of singer for one that everybody in focus region knows)* and she's about to be pulled up onto the stage by his highness Robbie himself and there are little lovehearts in the air..."

**Jenny:** *(interrupts Jack annoyed, feels caught, is embarrassed)*

"Stop it Jack! Stop making fun of me! That's not true at all -- i was just thinking about, about, about , oh god, I was just thinking about..."

**Jack:** *(talks whilst laughing and thinks he's very funny)*

"Come on then! What were you thinking about? The weather? About what's for dinner tonight? Or about something totally different. Maybe you were thinking about the football results..."

**Jenny:** *(getting really angry)*

"OK, OK, you idiot I *was* thinking about Robbie Williams *(or whichever singer)* but don't think I'm the only one here who's been dreaming -- you should see your own twinkling eyes when you come back from football after being cheered on by all your new female fans!"

**Jack:** *(surprised and defensive)*

"What's all that about? My eyes don't twinkle at all. Never! Not because of anybody and certainly not because of girls. What are you talking about?"

**Jenny:** *(smugly):*

"Well, maybe you're in love?"

**Jack:**

"Nonsense! You're in love! Not me! What are you talking about? I've got to go. Have a nice day!!"

**Atmo: steps going away**

*(mumbles to himself as he goes away)* "What is she talking about? What does it even mean to be in love anyway?"

**Jenny:** *(calls after Jack then thinks aloud)*

"Jack? Jack! Wait up! What's wrong with him? Is he annoyed with me? What's our problem -- we're talking about being in love and Jack doesn't even want to listen whereas at the same time he thinks that I'm in love with Robbie Williams *(or other singer)* which is of course total nonsense. How do we even know when we're in love? Has there always been love? What do we feel? Oh god I don't know anything -- I have to ask grandma to explain the whole thing to me..."

**Atmo: steps going away**

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**2. Scene:**

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**Atmo:**      **Family celebration, lots of people are partying, music, relaxed atmosphere, steps (Nele comes running up)**

**Jenny:** *(to the side, talking to herself quietly)*

"Aargh! Just what I needed -- the whole family having a party! I just wanted to be alone and talk to grandma about this crazy little thing called love..."

**Atmo: steps coming up**

**Nele:** *(small girl comes running up and tugs at Jenny's arm excitedly)*

"Coommmme oonn Jenny -- come on, grandma's telling a fairy-tale. Coommmme oooooonnnn!!!"

**Jenny:** *(a bit annoyed)*

"Nele, you're seven years old and I'm 14. Do you understand? I'm too old for fairy tales!"

**Nele:**

"No, you're not and anyway I want you to come and listen. Grandma's telling a love story about princesses and..."

**Jenny:**

"OK OK I'm coming. At least it's about love..."

*Both go to their grandmother*

**Jenny' grandmother:** *(telling a fairy-tale, the two girls join the gathering)*

"... and then the king decided that his beautiful daughter Adetola should get married and Adetola agreed with her father, who said: 'I want to find a man who will marry you not only because of your beauty and your wealth but because he loves you with all his heart.' The king called on all the young men of the kingdom to come. And they

all came bearing big gifts -- all of them determined to win Adetola's love. One of them didn't bring a big gift, however -- he just brought three bracelets because he was poor. But when he saw Adetola his eyes filled with tears because she was so beautiful and he liked her so much. At the end of the day, the princess couldn't decide on any of the young men -- she went to bed and decided to consult her father the next day. In the night, Adetola dreamt of her dead mother, who gave her a piece of advice. She said: ' Adetola, if you really want to know who loves you the most, tell your father to announce that you died in the night. You'll be able to tell from the reactions of the young men, who is serious about you.' Adetola told her father about her dream the next day and they decided to go along with the plan. The king told the waiting suitors that Adetola had died. Most of them were a little sad but they seemed to recover quickly and made their way from the palace. However, one remained -- his heart broken. The man with the bracelets loved Adetola so much that he burst into tears as soon as he heard the news of her death. And that's how the decision was made. The young man, whose name was Alaba, was wedded to Adetola and the two of them loved each other and lived happily ever after... (*Grandmother looks around*). Isn't that a beautiful fairy-tale children? Jenny, were you also listening to me? Are you crying?"

**Jenny:** (*embarrassed, sniffs, and speaks confusedly*)

"No I am not crying. Of course not! It was just such a beautiful fairy-tale and everything at the moment seems to be about love and being in love and ... and I've got such a strange feeling in my tummy... and this argument with Jack .... and anyway, whatever, but thank you grandma, you don't know why or how right now but you just really helped me somehow."

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**3. Scene:**

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**Atmo: Knocking at door, door opens**

**Tom:** *(knocks and crashes into the room, in a good mood)*

"Good morning! Wakey wakey! Time to get up little brother, come on now, up up up!"

**Atmo: Rustling the covers**

**Jack:** *(hides under the covers and is grumpy)*

"Man! Can't you be QUIET? What are you doing waking me up? I don't have to go to school today!"

**Tom:**

"So what? No reason to stay in bed till noon! Come on, let's do something -- I think it would do you some good to get out a bit. You've been so strange lately. What's going on?"

**Jack:** *(mumbling into the bedcovers)*

"What a surprise, big brother knows everything! I'm in a bad mood! Everything and everyone is so annoying! I think I'm ill."

**Atmo: someone sitting on a bed**

**Tom:** *(sits on Jack's bed)*

"Hang on a sec, get out from under those covers -- one thing after the other. What is wrong?"

**Atmo: someone pushes the bedcovers away and sits up**

**Jack:** *(pushes the cover away and sits up in bed -- speaks quickly and annoyed)*

**DW-Radio Learning By Ear      General Knowledge: Falling in Love**

"Oh I don't know -- everything's going wrong -- me and Jenny had an argument and it's all connected to love and the feeling of being in love..."

**Tom:** *(astonished)*

"Hang on a sec, did I understand you correctly? You're in love?"

**Jack:** *(really angry)*

"Oh now, don't start again! NO, I am not in love. And if I was I would have to know what it actually means because nobody explains what being in love actually is. It sounds like an illness."

**Tom:** *(sighs deeply and leans back)*

"Sounds like it's time for a man-to-man chat. Throughout my long research about the feelings of being in love I have discovered *(laughs)*, no, no, seriously now -- you're not far wrong with this idea about illness -- I'm gonna tell you something that you're not allowed to tell ANYONE, do you hear? Swear, you won't tell anybody!"

**Jack:**

"Yes, I swear, I promise!"

**Tom:**

"OK, the first time I was in love I was about as old as you -- I had no idea what was going on with me -- I was so wound up and I felt ill everytime I saw Dina..."

**Jack:** *(guffaws, bursts out)*

"DINA? Dina our neighbour?"

**Tom:** *(a bit annoyed at first but then controls himself)*

"Yes that Dina. Shut up! Otherwise I won't say anything more! So, every time I saw her I felt completely weird. I even went to the doctor about it *(Jack sniggers in background)* because the sickness wouldn't go away and my head was always so warm. The doctor laughed as hard and meanly as you now and told me that my symptoms could mean I was in love. He said it was to do with hormones. He said hormones were what regulated the body and were responsible for us growing and for

us boys turning into men. And he said that's when boys started being interested in girls and he said that some boys like boys too and some girls like girls. In any case , whoever you like, when that happens the body produces a hormone called adrenaline, a stress hormone, and that's what makes you feel ill when you get worked up, like when you see a girl. Or you get a warm head. It's all totally normal, he said. It sounds like an illness but it's all fine. Well, that's what the doc said and I believe him. Then at some point, I didn't feel ill anymore -- I felt normal and I knew that all the others around me felt the same. So, that's the story. Jack? Are you listening to me at all?"

**Jack:** *(very shyly)*

"Yes big bro -- I was listening and I know exactly what you mean. Thanks for explaining it all to me. I think I've got something similar but it's got nothing to do with the girls at football but with someone else. I have to think but I should go outside. Shall we do something?"

**Tom:** *(happy)*

"That's my Jack -- my little brother is back! Come on then lazybones..."

**Jack:** *(pausing)*

"Wait! I just thought of something -- I'll catch you up..."

**Tom:**

"OK but hurry I'll wait for you outside."

**Atmo Steps from Tom walking away, door slams**

**Jack:**

"I think I have to see someone urgently"

**Atmo typing a text message**

*(Typing a text message)* "'Hey Jenny, what are you up to? Can you come to the football ground? Jack'" Let's see if she comes..."



**Atmo: Door slams**

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**4. Szene:**

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**4. Atmo: Football game**

**Tom:** *(shouting excitedly)*

"Jack what are you doing? You're playing so badly today! Can't you watch the ball a *bit*? JACK! Earth to Jack, hello? My god! Why do you keep looking at the street? Are you waiting for someone?"

**Jack:** *(feels caught-out)*

"No, I'm I'm I'm playing... . JENNY!!!!!"

**Jenny:** *(shouting shyly from a distance, then excited)*

"Hey, Jack! Jack? Careful, turn round!! The ball!!!!!"

**Atmo: Ball hits Jack's head**

**Jack:**

"Ow ouch!"

**Atmo: Jenny comes running**

**Jenny:** *(worried)*

"Hey Jack is everything OK?"

**Jack:**

"Yes, I'm OK. I'm so happy to see you."

**Jenny:**

"Me too! It's so good to see you. And I've found out so much about all this "being in love" business and it's got nothing to do with liking a singer or a band..."

**Jack:**

"...and nothing to do with female football fans! But it is like an illness, that's for sure..."

**Jenny:**

"Yeah, a bit like our little argument and also..."

**Jack:**

"Something totally normal -- like being grown up!"

**Jenny:**

"And sometimes something like a fairy-tale -- the common symptoms are the feeling of missing someone and wanting to be with them all the time..."

**Jack:**

"Yeah, that's right. It's missing someone and wanting to be with them always,"

**Jenny:**

"Oh, come on Jack now you're being tacky..."

**Jack:**

"You're right but it's true. Come on let's spend lots of time together now..."

**Jenny:**

"Yep, let's! I'm so happy!"

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**Music**

**OUTRO (Announcer):**

## **DW-Radio Learning By Ear      General Knowledge: Falling in Love**

And what now? Are Jenny and Jack going to stay together for ever after? What do you think? Maybe you can come up with a conclusion to the story or daydream about it in your heads.... That was the last episode of the Learning by Ear "General Knowledge" series and this special one about love was written by Christine Watty. You can hear all the programs again and read up about all the science we've learnt during the series by going to [www.dw-world.de/lbe](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe). Thanks for listening and have fun on your own amorous adventures!