

Xhosa Transcript:

M: *So uyazifayila kengoku?*

S: Mmm ndiyazifayila ngokuba ndizawulinganisela *itips*. *iTips ziyidifferent kinds*. Kukhona ezi *white* sithi *yifrench*, ezinye sithi *ynatural*, ezinye sithi *ngupale*, ezinye ibe zikalazi *pink* okanye uyelo. Mna ndisasebenzisa *uwhite*, ndibanaye *upale sometimes but* ngoku ziyashota.

M: *uPale unjani yena?*

S: *uPale* ngulo. Nguclear lo. *uPale is this one* ingathi *isilver then* lona ngunatural, *like xa* ufakelweyo ingathi *zinziph*o zakho *then ngufrench lowhite* lena bathi *nguclear*.

M: Ndiqhele *ufrench* mna. Ilantuka, *imassage course* yakho yathatha ixesha elingakanani yona.

S: *iSix weeks*.

M: Ubuyenza kwalapha eMonti?

S: E-e¹.

M: Ndawoni apha eMonti?

S: Pha eBomack House *but yayiyi project* eyenzwa ngabantu abamnyama. Seyayekwa ngoku. Ibesenzwa ngo2008.

M: Usebenza wedwa apha?

S: Mmm, ndisebenza ndodwa. Ngoku s'awulinganisela² *itips* sichekishe uba ziyalingana na sifake iglu kengoku.

M: Usebenzisa iglu yamazipho okanye ungasebenzisa noba yeyiphi?

S: Hayi, yileyamazipho lena. Enye nanye iglu ayinawulunga. Lena yenzelwe *for* amazipho.

M: *So zonke ezizinto zamaziph*o uzithenga evenkileni enye?

¹ *E-e* is a shorter way of saying *ewe*, which means "yes."

² This apostrophe in Xhosa words usually indicates the shortening of a word when speaking. In this case the word is *sizakulinganisela*.

S: Mmm zithengiswa endaweni eyiwhani, apho kutreyinwa notreyinwa abantu *because* banaso nesikolo pha.

M: Ziyophuka *itips*?

S: Ziyophuka *itips* xa ufakele mhlwawumbhi *let's say* usebenza kanzima ngoku ufakele *itips then* zophuke ke *but* awufuneki uyayenza *iwashingi* za *unetips but* xa zishort.

M: *iWashing* uhlambha impahla ngezandla?

S: Uhlambha impahla ngezandla ewe *not* ngomashini *but* xa zimfutshane *not* xa zinde.

M: Xa zinde zingaphuma?

S: Xa zinde zingaphuka nokophuka *and* xa isophuka izawufuna usuka nezipho lakho *because* ise iselentuka, *isefresh*. Ibeb'hlungu xa inokophuka. Njengangoku njoba ndikufaka andinokwazi uba ndiphinde ndilincothule elizipho *because* iyancamathela kakhulu msinyane. Incamathela msinyane.

M: Kodwa ke iqinile kunezipho ne, ayophuki nje ngezipho.

S: Ha-a³ ayiphuki nje ngezipho.

M: Yenzwe ngantoni ngeplastiki?

S: Ngeplastiki ewe. Yenzwe ngeplastiki.

M: Ndiyakwazi kengoku usebenza? Ikhona itshomi yam yayisithi ayikwazi unyusa uzip ngalamazipho.

S: Xa emade? Ungawunyusa uzip xa emafutshane akufuneki abemade kakhulu xas ba awunokwazi novula ibegi novula ipesi ispaji sakho. Funeka ube *comfortable if* awukho *comfortable* ungophuka, akunoba lula ikwenza izinto. Uvasa izitya ke *it's easy*, ungazivasa izitya noba lide noba alilidanga. Okubalulekileyo kuba liya khatwa qha.

M: Awabuhlungwanga? Abantu bathi awabuhlungwanga?

S: Hmm awabuhlungwanga.

M: Ingathi ngamazipho akho?

S: Ingathi ngamazipho akho iyaqheleka.

M: Azange khe wenza umntu owaye funa amazipho amangaka? Amade kangaka?

³ *Ha-a* is a slang way of saying “no” in Xhosa.

S: Ha-a ndiye ndiwakhathe kancinci mhlawumbhi athi mandiwakhathe kancinci ndinga wakhathi kakhulu.

M: Yhu hayi ndiya woyika amazipho amade.

S: Ndiye ndiyenze qha athi mandiwakhathe kancinci ndingakhathi kakhulu abe madana abengaphantsi kancinci kula.

English Translation:

M: So are you filing the fingernails now?

S: Yes, I am filing them now so I can apply the tips. There are different kinds of tips. There are the white ones, which we call French tips; there are natural tips, pale tips and colored tips such as pink and yellow.

M: What are the pale tips like?

S: [pointing] These are the pale tips. This is clear. Pale is the silver-looking one, and this one is natural; they look like your real nails when this has been applied.

M: Oh, I thought French tips were the only ones. How long did your massage course take you?

S: Six weeks.

M: Did you do it here in East London?

S: Yes.

M: Where?

S: I did it at Bomack House. It was originally a project started by black people. It does not exist anymore. That was in 2008.

M: Do you work alone?

S: Yes, I work alone. Now I need to measure the tips and see if they are the same size.

M: Do you use nail glue, or can you use whatever glue you want to use?

S: I have to use nail glue. Any other glue would never work.

M: Do you buy all your nail products from one shop?

S: I buy them at the same place. They also train people there because they have a school.

M: Do nail tips break?

S: They can break if you are working very hard, but you can wash clothes if the tips are short.

M: By washing clothes, you mean by hand?

S: Yes, hand-washing clothes, not machine-washing, but only when they [the tips] are short, not long.

M: Would they break off if they were long?

S: They can break off when they are longer, but the tip can also break off with part of your nail. That would really hurt. Even now, now that I have glued the tips to your nails, I cannot take them off again because they stick easily and fast.

M: The tips are stronger than nails, though, right? They do not break as easily as a nail would.

S: No, it does not break as easily as a nail.

M: What is it made out of? Plastic?

S: Yes, it is made out of plastic.

M: Can I work? I have a friend who said she could not zip her zipper when she had these nails.

S: When they are too long? You can zip a zipper, but your nails shouldn't be so long that you can't even open your purse or your wallet. You must be comfortable. Washing dishes is pretty easy; you can wash them with short or long nails.

M: Does it hurt? Do people say the nails hurt?

S: It doesn't hurt.

M: Do they feel like your own nails?

S: You get used to them, and they feel like your own nails.

M: Have you ever had a client who wanted really long nails?

S: No, they usually ask me to trim the tips a little bit.

M: Long nails can be scary.

S: I always cut them a little bit.

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