

CultureTalk Zimbabwe Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**Harare to New York**

**English translation:**

I: Hi!

T: Hi.

I: What's your name?

T: My name is Tafadzwa.

I: Where do you live?

T: Canton, New York.

I: Canton, New York? Do you go to school?

T: Yes, St. Lawrence University.

I: Ok, I see. How was your last semester?

T: Oh, it was okay, it was easy enough.

I: It was good, right? Where were you born?

T: Harare, Zimbabwe.

I: Harare, Zimbabwe. You grew up in Harare?

T: Yes.

I: What school did you go to?

T: St. John's Emerald Hill.

I: St. John's Emerald Hill: that's where you went for high school?

T: Yes.

I: How about primary school?

T: Hallingbury Primary School.

I: Oh, Hallingbury. So in Zimbabwe are you forced to go to school, or your parents force you, or the government forces you?

T: All children should go to school. But not all are able to do so.

I: Why do some fail to go to school?

T: Some don't have money, some live too far away from school so they can't get to school.

I: Oh, so in Zimbabwe children pay school fees to go to school? Because here [in the US] children go to school for free.

T: In Zimbabwe you pay fees.

I: How much did you pay in school fees when you were in high school?

T: In US dollars I'd say I paid about \$100.

I: \$100 per year?

T: No per year it would be \$300. I paid \$100 per term<sup>1</sup>.

I: Oh, that's a lot of money, right?

T: Yes, that is a lot of money for a lot of people.

I: Okay, so some don't go to school because they can't pay the school fees. How about learning English, when did you start learning English?

T: I started learning English when I was in Grade 1, when I was six years old.

I: Oh, when you were six? How about other Zimbabwean children, how old are they when they start learning English?

T: Around the same age.

I: When they are in school?

T: Yes.

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<sup>1</sup> In Zimbabwe there are three different types of schools for both primary school and high school. There is a community school, a government school, and then a private school. Community schools are the cheapest, costing on average \$10- \$80 per term for both primary and high school. Government schools cost between \$50 and \$400 per term for both primary and high school. Private schools cost between \$500 and \$5000 per term. Of course there are variations to these figures.

I: Ok, in Zimbabwe is it important for one to go on to university or if one is done with high school, that's it?

T: Yes, it's important for everyone to go to university, but in Zimbabwe there are fewer universities so it is not everyone who finishes high school who can go on to university.

I: Okay. When a child begins to go to school, where do they start from?

T: Some start by sending them to *crèche*, also known as [pre]school. But most start by going to Grade one.

I: How old are you when you go to Grade one?

T: You go to Grade one when you are six years old.

I: Six? Then when you finish?

T: You finish Grade seven when you are twelve.

I: Then what?

T: Then you go to high school when you are about twelve or thirteen. Then you finish high school when you are eighteen or nineteen. Then after high school you go to University.

I: Then it's over? And the whole time you will be paying school fees, right?

T: Yes.

I: Okay.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

