

Being Positive.

Two actors speak independently of each other. Although their speech sometimes mirrors what the other is saying they are not aware of each other.

Person A is from a poor country (preferably a woman)

Person B is from a rich country.

A. I was devastated

B. I was devastated

A. Felt numb

B. Felt numb

A. You never think its going to happen to you do you?

B. You never think its going to happen to you do you?

A. Positive.

B. Positive.

A. Sounds healthy

B. Sounds optimistic

A. I thought it was just some kind of infection; I had even saved up for pills to make it better.

B. I only tried to give blood. And then the letter came through asking me to go and see my doctor. They had screened my blood and found the virus.

A. I knew that some other people in the village were HIV positive. But I thought that as long as I was healthy...as long as I only slept with my husband I would be ok...

B. I have never known anyone with AIDS before. At least I didn't think I had. But then I suppose I must have done.

A. It feels like its happening to someone else.

B. It feels like its happening to someone else

A. I am so frightened that I may have infected my family; maybe they will

have caught it from me, or that my children could have been infected from birth. It doesn't bear thinking about.

B. I am frightened that I will never get married now. Who will want to take the risk of being with me? I always wanted to settle down and have a family.

A. I don't know how I will tell people in my village. They will set me apart. I will lose my friends. They will think I am unclean. I have seen it before (*quietly*) I can't believe this is happening to me.

B. How will I tell my mum and dad? What will they think of me? Will they even know anything about HIV or AIDS? If I don't know enough, why would they? (*quietly*) I can't believe this is happening to me.

A. I will never be able to afford medicine. I heard that someone in the next village tried to find the right pills. I know there is something that will give me some more years, even though it won't cure me- that would be something.If I could just stay well until my children are old enough to care for themselves – I am really frightened for their future..... But the person in the next village could not get the pills, they are not available. They say the sickness gets very bad and the pain is also very bad. I am frightened to die in pain.

B. At least there are medicines now. I know they don't cure you but you can get them on the NHS and they can keep me well, stop me getting really sick for a long time, maybe years, maybe 20 years. I know it's a small consolation for having a terminal illness, I know that eventually I will die because of it, but at least I don't have to die in pain.

A. I don't know when I caught it; I don't even know how you catch it. I can't find any information about it anywhere and I am too afraid to ask.

B. I am not sure when I caught it – I suppose I was stupid not to use a condom. The information was always there, I just never got around to reading it properly... it didn't seem important, I just wanted to have a good time.

A. I was sure I would be ok

B. I was sure I would be ok

A. Positive

B. Positive.