

## Charlie Chaplin (B2)

### A – Before you start

*Answer the questions with a partner.*

1. What do you know about Charlie Chaplin?
2. Did he have a different name in your country? If so, what was it?
3. Have you seen any of his films?

### B – Listen and answer

*Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).*

1. Charlie Chaplin was British by birth.
2. His parents were successful music hall entertainers.
3. He began appearing on stage while still a child.
4. In Hollywood, he became famous but did not earn much money.
5. Chaplin stopped making silent films as soon as sound films arrived.
6. Some American conservatives didn't approve of his later films.
7. He was banned from returning to the USA and moved to London with his fourth wife.
8. He didn't make any more films after leaving the USA.

### C – Read and answer

*Read the article and answer the questions.*

1. At what age did Charlie Chaplin have to start looking after himself? Why?
2. What fortunate invention made him world-famous?
3. Why did the introduction of sound in films make things difficult for Chaplin?
4. What aspect of modern technology did he criticise in his film *Modern Times*?
5. What kind of film was *The Great Dictator*?
6. What aspects of Chaplin's private life were criticised in America?
7. What did he do besides acting in films?
8. Why is he still considered highly influential?

### D – Learn it! Use it!

*Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense or change from plural to singular.)*

1. Max's parents were diplomats, who lived abroad for many years before \_\_\_\_\_ in London.
2. There was a crowd outside the cinema for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the film *Dungeons and Dragons*.
3. Throw that old raincoat away! You look like a poor old \_\_\_\_\_ when you're wearing it.
4. Our neighbour's little boy is very \_\_\_\_\_. He sticks his tongue out at passers-by.
5. DDT was an insecticide that was \_\_\_\_\_ because of its effect on wildlife and the environment.
6. Peter discovered he had a \_\_\_\_\_ for languages and decided to become an interpreter.

**E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)**

*Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each space.*

Charlie Chaplin's fourth and <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*latest/last/later/lasting*) wife was actress Oona O'Neill. He <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*was/had/is/has*) been introduced to her by a film agent in 1942. When they <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*are/began/became/got*) married in 1943, Chaplin was 54 years of age and his bride had just <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*turned/completed/became/been*) 18.

Oona's father was a <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*whole/sole/mere/only*) six months older than Chaplin. He was Eugene O'Neill, the renowned American playwright. O'Neill was fiercely opposed to the marriage and, as a result, refused to have <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*no/nothing/something/anything*) more to do with his daughter. However, the couple had eight <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*sons/children/siblings/infants*) – five girls and three boys – and despite the 36-year age <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (*gap/space/break/interval*), the marriage lasted till Chaplin's death in 1977.

**F – Write about it**

*Write about a classic film made in your own language. Mention:*

- what genre it belongs to;
- when it was made;
- who it was directed by;
- who starred in it;
- where/when the story is set;
- what it's about;
- why it's considered a classic.

## Answers

### B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. F – They were music hall entertainers but they were desperately poor. 3. T 4. F – He became Hollywood's highest-paid actor. 5. F – He continued to make silent films until 1940.  
6. T 7. F – He moved to Switzerland. 8. F – He made a few more films.

### C – Read and answer

1. At the age of nine, because his father died and his mother became mentally ill. 2. The invention of his character The Tramp. 3. Because his tramp character depended on mime. There was no dialogue, so the films could be seen in other countries without the need for translation. All this changed with the arrival of sound. 4. He criticised its dehumanising effects. 5. It was a satirical film about Adolf Hitler. 6. He was criticised for his marriages and relationships with very young women. 7. He also wrote, directed and produced his own films. 8. He is considered by many to be the father of cinema. According to *Time Magazine*, he helped turn an industry into an art.

### D – Learn it! Use it!

1. settling 2. premiere 3. tramp 4. cheeky 5. banned 6. gift

### E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. last 2. had 3. got 4. turned 5. mere 6. anything 7. children 8. gap