

U4S2 American Industrial Revolution

Charlie Chaplin *Modern Times*, 1936

Doc B <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-fnL5vQXoo>

A. Presentation

a) What type of document is it ? Tick the right box.

- ☐ an extract from a documentary
- ☐ an extract from the news
- ☐ an extract from a movie

b) What about Charlie Chaplin ? Choose the right word.

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlie_Chaplin

Charlie Chaplin was a (British / American) _____ actor who lived for long in (Switzerland / the United States) _____ before being forced to leave it. He became famous thanks to his famous character (the Tramp / the Burglar) _____. He made (colour/ silent) _____ films.

3. This film what is it about ? The industrial historical background. Use the **wordbank**.

c) Explain what manufactures looked like in the 1930s ?

d) Describe the technological advances referred to?
(machines, devices, techniques & tools used)

C. Thanks to *Modern Times*, what can you guess about the working conditions after the industrial revolution. Correct these statements as in the examples. Be careful to use the right auxiliary.

People went to work on foot. Workers could park their cars in the factory car park.
→ Yes, they did. No, they couldn't. Cars were too expensive.

1. There were very few workers working in manufactures.

2. Workers had to report to the boss before they started working.

3. The CEO greeted his workers in the morning.

4. The boss watched his workers through windows.

5. The boss often ordered the foreman to slow down the machines.

6. The assembly lines moved not quickly enough.

7. Workers could take a break whenever they wanted

8. Most assembly line workers built cars.

Wordbank:

industry / plant = une usine / site industriel
factory / manufacture = une usine
worker = un ouvrier / the labour = la main d'oeuvre
operation manager = chef opérateur / boss = patron
a ceo (chief executive officer) = pdg
assembly line + chaine de montage
(toothed) wheels = roue crantée / drive belts = courroie
greet = accueillir / rush out = se précipiter
a hand on a clock = une aiguille sur une horloge
the pace = le rythme / slow down = diminuer
go smoothly = aller doucement
Punch in and out = pointer à l'entrée et la sortie de l'usine

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D. Working conditions during the Industrial Revolution Put these words in the right order and make sentences with them:

1. were / There /in the same factory / many workers / working .

2. Terrible / Their working conditions / were / really.

3. They / wake up / had to / in the morning / early.

4. a day / had to / They / for 10 hours / work .

5. was / hard / It / to work on / an assembly line / extremely.

6. Was / the assembly line pace / intense.



E. Read this text and write down the main noun phrases (groupes nominaux) to remember about the factory system developed during the Industrial Revolution.

'It was a new way of producing goods by employing machine power, division of labor, and unskilled workers. Before the factory system, goods used to be produced largely by hand and one at a time by individuals. The factory system allowed mass production that is it allowed goods to be mass produced, made faster, and produced more cheaply. A chief characteristic of the factory system was the centralized workplace. In factories, large, expensive, powered equipment could be used for production. Bringing workers together in one place to produce goods introduced the system of division of labor. This means that rather than one worker producing an item in its entirety, different workers would complete different steps in producing the product, implying repetitive single task work. With division of labor came the ability for factory owners to employ unskilled workers. Since workers no longer needed a craftsman's knowledge, individual workers could quickly be trained to complete just one single task in the production process. These changes expanded the workforce to include women and children, who often worked in poor or dangerous conditions.

Factory production also brought about standardization. This means that different parts of a product were exactly the same in every product. The standardization of parts meant that broken parts (for example, of a machine) could be easily repaired or replaced.'

F. Answer these questions with all the vocabulary learnt on this worksheet.

1. Describe Charlie Chaplin's role in this film.

2. What is the effect produced by playing 'the Tramp'?

3. Comment upon the working conditions of workers in manufactures after the Industrial revolution in the US.

4. Explain the message conveyed by this film?

5. Explain why Charlie Chaplin made a comedy on this theme.