9 It's the Way You Tell 'em!

Reading

Look at the sentences about a comedian. Read the article below to decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A. If it is incorrect, write B.

1 Chaplin came from a poor family. .....
2 Chaplin became famous for telling jokes in theatres. .....
3 Chaplin was in the first comedy films that Keystone made. .....
4 Chaplin's success surprised Mack Sennett. .....
5 Mack Sennett suggested the character of 'the little tramp'. .....
6 The public liked Chaplin's new character immediately. .....
7 People liked the clever things that 'the little tramp' said. .....
8 Chaplin's films were different from other comedians' films. .....



CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Charlie Chaplin was one of the first international film stars. Between 1914 and 1967, he made dozens of comedy films that people around the world enjoyed and he became very rich. It was a big change from his childhood when he, his brother and his mother were living in London without much money.

Chaplin was born in England but moved to America at the age of 23. He was part of a comedy show that appeared in theatres around the country. He became very popular for his physical comedy. People loved the way he fell, rolled and jumped on stage, while the other actors tried to sing songs or do other acts. In 1913, he got a job with Mack Sennett, who ran a film company called Keystone. Sennett already had a number of successful film comedians at Keystone, and people laughed at their crazy films in cinemas around America. Sennett knew that the young Chaplin had a lot of talent and thought that people would like to see him in films.

Chaplin and Sennett decided that Charlie needed a new character. Chaplin went into the costume store at Keystone and started to try different costumes on. He put on trousers and shoes that were too big, a jacket that was too small and an old hat. Chaplin said that he had no idea of the character until he put the clothes on, but as soon as he did, he knew that he had found something special. This character was 'the little tramp', a poor man with nowhere to live.

When the first film starring this character appeared in cinemas in 1914, the audiences loved him from the start. He was a kind, clever character who had bad luck in a difficult world. Films at the time were silent but Chaplin managed to communicate a lot of emotion – both happy and sad – without words. While other comedians were making films with lots of fast, crazy action, Chaplin touched the hearts of people all over the world. Soon, 'the little tramp' was famous wherever there was a cinema.

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