1. **Read the text about Charlie Chaplin's early life.**

He was believed to have been born on April 16, 1889. There is some doubt whether April 16 is actually his birthday, and it is possible he was not born in 1889. There is also uncertainty about his birthplace: London or Fontainebleau, France. There is no doubt, however, as to his parentage: he was born to Charles Chaplin, Sr. and Hannah Harriette Hill (aka Lily Harley on stage), both Music Hall entertainers. His parents separated soon after his birth, leaving him in the care of his increasingly unstable mother.

In 1896, Chaplin's mother was unable to find work; Charlie and his older half-brother Sydney Chaplin had to be left in the workhouse at Lambeth, moving after several weeks to Hanwell School for Orphans and Destitute Children. His father died an alcoholic when Charlie was 12, and his mother suffered a mental breakdown, and was eventually admitted temporarily to the Cane Hill Asylum at Coulsdon (near Croydon). She died in 1928 in the United States, two years after coming to the States to live with Chaplin, by then a commercial success.

Charlie first took to the stage when, aged five, he performed in Music Hall in 1894, standing in for his mother. As a child, he was confined to a bed for weeks due to a serious illness, and, at night, his mother would sit at the window and act out what was going on outside. In 1900, aged 11, his brother helped get him the role of a comic cat in the pantomime Cinderella at the London Hippodrome. In 1903 he appeared in 'Jim, A Romance of Cockayne', followed by his first regular job, as the newspaper boy Billy in Sherlock Holmes, a part he played into 1906. This was followed by Casey's 'Court Circus' variety show, and, the following year, he became a clown in Fred Karno's 'Fun Factory' slapstick comedy company.

According to immigration records, he arrived in the United States with the Karno troupe on October 2, 1912. In the Karno Company was Arthur Stanley Jefferson, who would later become known as Stan Laurel. Chaplin and Laurel shared a room in a boarding house. Stan Laurel returned to England but Chaplin remained in the United States. Chaplin's act was seen by film producer Mack Sennett, who hired him for his studio, the Keystone Film Company.

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2. **Read the sentences and write true or false.**

1. Chaplin might have been born some years earlier than is currently believed.

2. Chaplin's mother died before her son was successful.

3. Chaplin first performed on the stage after he arrived in the United States.

4. His first serious job was delivering newspapers.

5. His first partner on the stage was the actor, Stan Laurel.

6. He was discovered while working for a British organisation in the United States.

3. **Read and write the verbs in brackets in the correct form.**

Many years ago I 1 (decide) _____ to spend New Year's Eve with my family. I 2 (not spend) _____ new year with my parents but I had nowhere to go, and being with my family seemed preferable to being on my own.

When my parents 3 (open)_____the door I could see they 4(smile) _____ and that they were genuinely happy to see me. I 5 (be) _____addicted to heroin for 10 years, and for them, seeing me was the confirmation that I wasn't dead in an alley. Unfortunately, I 6 (had) _____nothing new or exciting to tell them, just the same sad old stories. I 7 (go) _____from crappy job to crappy job, being invariably sacked, and I 8 (resort) _____to crime whenever I was out of money. Same old, same old.

During dinner, I 9 (drink) _____a few glassfuls of whisky. I 10 (need) _____something to make ease the pain, because for the whole evening my sisters 11 (look) _____ at me with such contempt that it was unbearable. My own sisters 12 (hate) _____me. Then I had a moment of realisation; I 13 (discovered) _____that they would never hate me as much as I hated myself.

When we finished dinner I 14 (raise) _____ my glass. "I'm going into rehab," I said. My parents 15 (look) _____at me with some kind of hope. Parents never lose hope. But my sisters just 16 (look) _____down with disdain. They 17 (know) _____perfectly well that I had been in rehab centres many times before, and that this time wouldn't be different.

But this time it was different. After that day, I 18 (remember) _____that look in my sisters' eyes every day, every time I 19 (want) _____to shoot some heroin. 10 years later, on a New Year's Eve, I thanked my sisters because they 20 (save) _____my life. They kissed me with their new look in their eyes, the look of love.

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