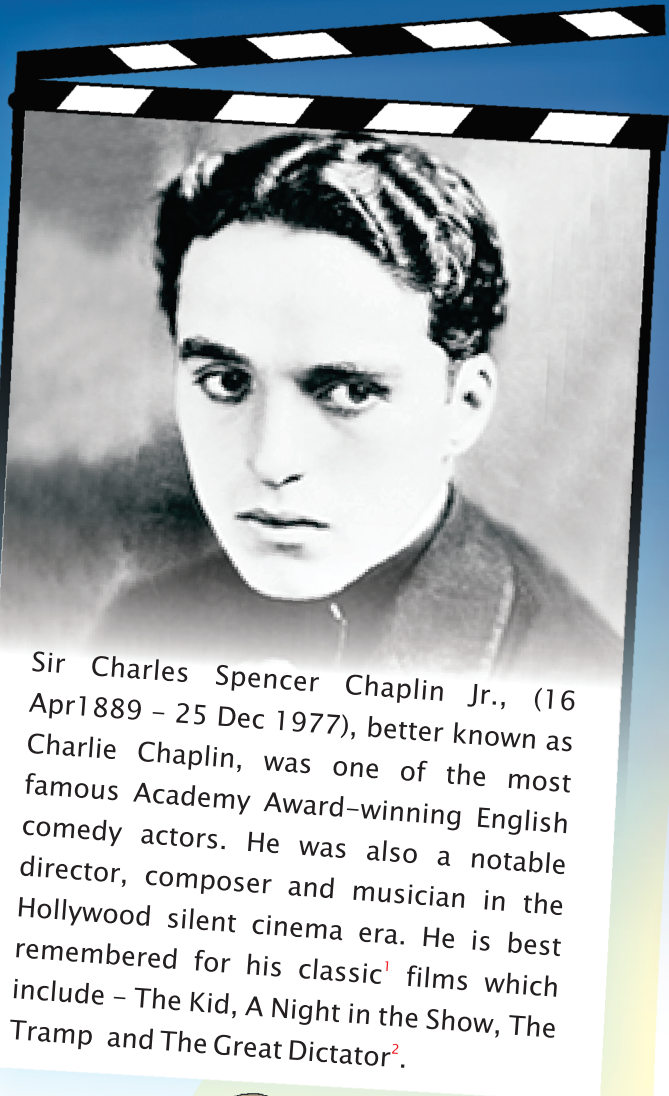


1

CHAPTER

DETERMINER MAGIC

With Charlie Chaplin



Sir Charles Spencer Chaplin Jr., (16 Apr 1889 – 25 Dec 1977), better known as Charlie Chaplin, was one of the most famous Academy Award-winning English comedy actors. He was also a notable director, composer and musician in the Hollywood silent cinema era. He is best remembered for his classic¹ films which include – The Kid, A Night in the Show, The Tramp and The Great Dictator².

Welcome, one and all
to the first day and first show
of Determiner Magic.
I am your host Charlie Chaplin - actor, comedian, mimic and clown.
Don't be misled by the way I look and the outfit I wear.
It is my signature outfit for the character 'The Little Tramp'.
I started as a child performer and since then...
I have entertained a huge audience of all ages
all over the world for almost 65 years.
I'm sure, many of you
aspire to be actors and entertainers like me.
Am I right...?



1. classic: an author/artist's work of the highest excellence and lasting significance
2. dictator: a ruler who has complete power and is unconstrained by law



I can't wait to share with you my cinema experiences.
But, before that let me introduce you to the 'Determiners'
who will assist me in telling you more about my profession.
Hey, before the Determiners join us, why don't you fill in the
missing words in the description to know me better?
Don't go away, I'll be right back...!!!

What you already know.....



Know me better...!!!

Read the information given below and fill in the missing words to complete the description.

Charlie Chaplin was one of _____greatest and widely loved silent movie stars. From 'Easy Street' (1917) to 'Modern Times' (1936), he made *many* popular films of *his* time. He was best known for *his* lovable character, _____ 'The Little Tramp' dressed in ___ ragged suit, ___derby¹ hat and with ___ signature toothbrush moustache. He always found himself wobbling² into awkward and funny situations. *This* character made Charlie Chaplin _____ living legend and was _____incredible success for him, both financially and artistically. He continued entertaining people for more than 65 years until *his* death at the age of eighty-eight. *Each* film that he made became _____ masterpiece.

Well done. That was magic...!!!

Do you know what you have done?

You have filled in the blank spaces with 'Determiners'.

You already know these words very well as 'articles', don't you?



Remember...

The indefinite articles 'a' and 'an' and the definite article 'the' are the most common determiners, but there are many more. The underlined italicised words in the description given above are some more examples of determiners.

1. **derby**: a stiff felt hat with a round crown and a narrow, curved brim
2. **wobble**: move in an uneven/rocking motion unsteadily from side to side

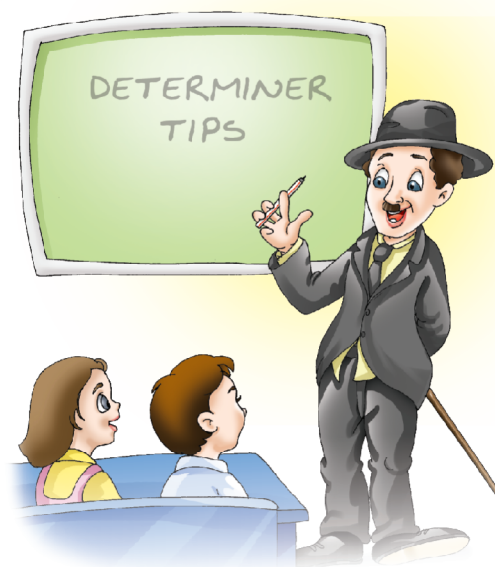
I began my acting career during
the silent cinema era, when there were no dialogues.

We could reach out¹ to the audience only through
powerful actions, body language² and gestures³.

but today, things are different...

Determiners can support your dialogues in a big way.

Come and take some quick tips on determiners
to sharpen your communication skills.



What you need to know.....



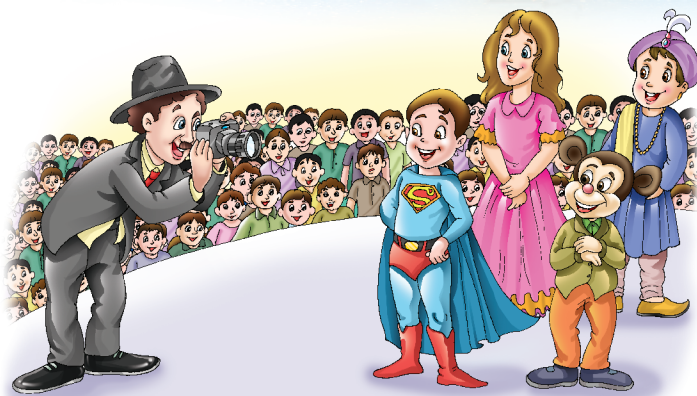
- ❖ Determiners are words placed in front of a noun to make it clear what the noun refers to. In case there is an adjective before the noun, the determiner is placed before the adjective.
- ❖ For example, the word '**birthday**' by itself is a general reference to a birthday, but if we say '**his** birthday', we know exactly whose birthday are we talking about, and if we say '**eighteenth birthday**', we know which specific birthday it is.
- ❖ Look at the highlighted words in the examples given below. They are all determiners.

the Little Tramp	an incredible success	a derby hat	this character
65 years	many popular films	his character	each film
- ❖ You can use 'Determiners' to:
 - i. Define someone/something; (A mimic is a person who imitates others.)
 - ii. Specify someone/ something; (Hitler was popularly called '**the** great dictator'.)
 - iii. State someone/ something is not specific; (He wears **a** tight coat and carries **a** cane.)
 - iv. Indicate the amount of nouns; (He made **many** popular films.)
 - v. Mention the distribution of nouns; (Each film is a masterpiece.)
 - vi. State number/order of nouns; ('The Kid' was his **first** full length movie.)
 - vii. Show that something belongs to someone; (I also composed music for some of **my** films.)

1. **reach out**: attempt to communicate, move forward/upward in order to touch

2. **body language**: non-verbal usually unconscious communication through body postures, gestures and facial expressions

3. **gestures**: a movement of hands, head or body to express or emphasize an idea



While you were busy
taking the determiner tips,
I got a brilliant brainwave¹ about remaking
my own films with you all as actors in them.
Believe me, its going to be fun.
So, are you ready for the audition²...?

What you need to do.....



Lights...Camera...Action...!!!

- Choose an interesting character for the audition from among your favourites.

The characters could be from cartoon films, historic events or even famous people. For example, you could choose to be Mickey Mouse, Superman, Birbal, Cinderella and so on...

- Now, get into groups of fours and plan out a short skit, joke or mimicry, involving all the four characters. It would be amazing to see the characters from different eras and genres interacting with each other on the stage in a single item.



Give your best...

Let your imagination loose and think of an interesting idea for the item. You will never get a second chance to make your first good impression.

- Document your experiences as instructed.

1. What roles were played by the members of your group?
2. Write the names of the members of your group along with a brief introduction of the characters they played.
3. Record your dialogues highlighting the determiners used .

1. **brainwave:** a sudden idea or inspiration

2. **audition:** trial performance by an actor, dancer or musician to prove his suitability or skill



**My experience tells me that ...
you must learn a few more tricks of the trade
to do well in this profession¹.**

**Look... in addition to planning, scripting and directing,
I have also composed music and designed costumes²
for my own films.**

**Won't you try your hands at directing a scene for me?
I assure you the role of the boatmen in my next film.
Come on, the shot is ready...!!!**

What you need to do.....



Scene 1....Shot 1.....Take 1....!!!

Planning a scene is just like fitting the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle together but this time it is a riddle that you need to solve.

- First, read the riddle given below and highlight the determiners.
- Next, discuss with your partner and work out a solution for it.

One day, a family consisting of father, mother and two children was walking through woods. They came to a river and wanted to cross it. They looked for a way to cross the river. At last, they found a small boat. The boat was too small to carry the whole family together. It could carry only one adult or two children. How can the family reach the far bank of the river?

- Document the solution of the riddle in your follow-up journal .
- You can form groups of fours and take turns to enact the scene as planned.

Did you notice?

Some of the definite and indefinite articles have interchanged their places in the solution, you just wrote.

Can you guess, why?



1. **profession**: an occupation that requires considerable training and specialized study
2. **costume**: the clothes worn by an actor or performer

Excellent... You are the rock stars of tomorrow.
 Get ready to sign your first contract. But, don't forget...
**Multitasking is what you need all the time in
 today's competitive world...!!!**



What you have learnt....



- Determiners are placed in front of nouns to clarify their meaning.
- They indicate the number, order, quantity, possession or distribution of nouns with the help of words such as two, tenth, some, few, much, more, most, any, my, each, every, all, etc.
- Articles are the most common determiners.

What you need to remember....



1 DETERMINER... Sounds like a film title...!!!

2 Help...Charlie...!!! You said... place it before the noun, but, there is an adjective there already!

Simple! Place it before the adjective.

3 No...Champ... These are magic words. Place them right before the nouns & see the difference.

It seems like a new name for articles.

That's not so... Determiners form a bigger group. All articles are determiners but all determiners are not articles.

4 By adding accuracy and precision to your speech and expression...!!!

But, how will they help me become an actor?

Time to work out.....



1. There is one error in every line. Strike it out and write the correct word, if any in the blank space given at the end of each sentence.

Chaplin was known as one of a most demanding men in Hollywood. (_____)

He demanded that an entire cast work together in every performance. (_____)

Regardless of the size of the part, he walked all actor through every scene. (_____)

He shot hundreds of takes, each one with the little experimental variation. (_____)

More actors found it uncomfortable, but always went along. (_____)

They knew they were working for a master, who believed in the perfection. (_____)

Perhaps this was the quality that made him a greatest showman of the silent era. (_____)

2. Underline the determiners in the sentences given below. In addition, identify and encircle the 'determiner + adjective + noun' combinations.

a. Charlie Chaplin, who brought laughter to millions worldwide as the silent little tramp, had a deprived childhood.

b. Charlie's mother Hannah was the brightest spot in his early childhood. He credited her with much of his success.

c. When Charlie was nine years old, he toured with a kindhearted couple who led a troupe and gave him his first taste of stage life.

d. 'City Lights' was Charlie Chaplin's first non-silent film. This movie was one of his finest films, if not the best.

e. Chaplin began his most audacious¹ comedy, 'The Great Dictator', making fun of Adolph Hitler, who in many ways was a natural subject for satire².

f. Charlie's second honorary award came forty four years later in 1972, for making motion pictures the art form of the century. He received the longest standing ovation³ in the history of Academy Awards, lasting for five minutes.

3. Write about yourself and the reasons why you want to become an actor, in not more than fifty words. Underline all the determiners you have used in your description.

4. Select suitable determiners from the box below to complete the passage given on the next page. You are free to repeat the determiners wherever needed.

his some eleventh two an a the seven that one

1. **audacious:** fearless, often recklessly daring and bold

2. **satire:** a literary work in which human vice or folly is attacked through irony or wit

3. **ovation:** approval expressed by clapping

When Harry was ___ little over ___ year old, ___ parents were killed by ___ powerful Dark Wizard, Lord Voldemort; but for ___ reason, Harry survived Voldemort's Killing Curse, which rebounded Voldemort's soul from ___ body. As ___ result, Harry carries ___ lightning-bolt shaped scar on ___ forehead. ___ curse rebounded upon ___ evil soul of Voldemort, who has been in hiding since ___ very day. On his ___ birthday, Harry learnt that he was ___ wizard. He spent ___ years at Hogwarts School, ___ academy of witchcraft and wizardry, to learn more under ___ guidance of ___ kindly headmaster Albus Dumbledore. Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger were his ___ best friends at Hogwarts.

For the apprentice.....



Characterisation¹ and Portrayal

There is an actor, a director, a scriptwriter and a costume designer in each one of you. Give vent to your creativity and take your first step towards creating an imaginary character for your film. You could begin by giving a clear form and definition to the character by drawing a picture of it followed by its portrayal. You need to shed your inhibitions for a natural performance.

Believe me, you can....!!!

Time to part.....



Aren't you lucky to be born in this wonderful era of better and more sophisticated² film making? To me, it is a dream world. Well, don't forget to take your 'Determiner' kit along on your first assignment. You will need them all along to chase your dreams...!!!



Happy Surfing.....Click.....Click...

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/database/chaplin_c.html
<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000122/bio>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Actor>
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/determiners/determiners.htm>
http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/adjectives-determiners_quiz.htm
http://www.english-the-easy-way.com/Determiners/Determiners_Page.htm
<http://www.learnenglish.de/Books/grammar.htm>

Reference Books ... High School English Grammar & Composition by Wren & Martin

Smart class Module... 7_Articles

Tool Kit ... Dictionary, highlighter, recorder, microphone and camera

1. **characterisation:** graphic/ vivid description of a character verbally or in writing
 2. **sophisticated:** having or appealing to fashionable and refined tastes and habits