5. 'Charlie' Is Born

After signing his contract with the Keystone Company, Charlie moved to Los Angeles where the Keystone Studio was located.

His first encounter with the studio did not go well. When he arrived in front of the big building for the first time, it was lunchtime and many people were around. Charlie suddenly felt very shy. He wanted to go in but could not. For half an hour he stood on the opposite side of the road, and then went back to his hotel. This happened two days in a row. After that the people at the studio telephoned him and told him to come.

Charlie had never been inside a studio before. Everything interested him very much. He thought the lighting was very beautiful. But for several days there was no work for him, so he just wandered around. Little by little he began to get worried. Sennett told him to be patient, but after nine days he was at a loss. Then, quite suddenly, his luck changed.

He was standing in the studio, dressed in his street clothes. Sennett was directing a comedy. He needed some gags. Then he saw Charlie and said, "Put on a comedy make-up. Anything will do."

Charlie had no idea what make-up to put on. However, on his way to the wardrobe he quickly decided on his clothes. He wanted the sizes not to match, so he chose baggy pants, a tight coat, a small hat and large shoes. He also put on a derby hat, picked up a small cane, and stuck on a small moustache because Sennett wanted him to look older.

At that moment Charlie had no idea of the character of this person. But as soon as he was dressed and had make-up on, something inside him came to life. He began to know clearly what to do. It all happened very quickly, and by the time he walked on to the stage, 'Charlie' was fully born. Sennett was waiting there, and Charlie began to act the part in front of him, strutting around and swinging his cane. It was an instant success, and Sennett could not stop laughing.

Then Charlie told Sennett about the part. "This fellow has many sides. He is a tramp, a gentleman, a poet, a dreamer, a lonely fellow, always hoping for romance and adventure. He wants people to think he is a scientist, a musician, a duke, a polo-player. But sometimes he also picks up cigarette-ends or robs babies of their candy. If he is angry, he may even kick a lady in the rear!"

The filming began. The scene was in a hotel lobby. Charlie was a guest in the hotel, but really he was a tramp. He pretended to make many mistakes. He was so funny that the men behind the camera began to laugh. Soon more people came to watch. Some were stage hands, others were big actors. Charlie made them all laugh. There had never been so many laughs on the set before. By the time it was ended, Charlie knew he had made good. He also knew that his costume had helped him a lot, so he decided to keep to it for the rest of his life.

EXERCISES (5)

Ａ　（　）に適切な日本語を入れ、本文のあらすじを完成させなさい．

チャーリーは（ア　 ）へ移り、映画界へ第一歩を踏み出した．しかし最初は気後れし、撮影所に（イ　　　　　　　）．また、しばらくは仕事がなく不安になったが、セネットの映画に出演できることになった．

　彼が決めた衣装は、上着、ズボン、帽子、くつの大きさが（ウ　　　 　）で、ちょびひげをはやし、（エ　　　　　）を持つというものであった．チャーリーの演技は大受けし、裏方ばかりでなく（オ　 　　 ）も見物にやってきて、撮影所中を笑いのうずに巻き込んだ．彼は確かな手ごたえを感じ、この扮装を（カ　　　　　　　）と心に決めた．

Ｂ　本文の内容に合うものにはＴ、合わないものにはＦを書きなさい．

(1) The first time Charlie came to the studio, he found many people busy working on the set. ( )

(2) Sennett told Charlie to put on whatever comedy make-up he liked. ( )

(3) Charlie had to look older, so he wore a moustache. ( )

(4) The character of 'Charlie' was not decided on until the make-up was put on. ( )

Ｃ　日本文の意味に合うように、（ ）に適語を入れなさい．

(1) 君にそのことをしゃべらないでもらいたい．

I want you ( )( ) talk about it.

(2) この靴でけっこうです．

These shoes ( )( ).

(3) 私は彼に後で電話するように言った．

I ( ) him ( ) call me later.

(4) 歩く人もいれば走る人もいた．

( ) walked, ( ) ran.