**Text: Becoming an actor**

Starting an acting career takes plenty of talent, determination, luck and courage, if you do not go to drama school, you need even more. When Connor Byrne was sixteen, his father gave him some time-honoured advice: stay on at school, do a degree and then do what you want. But it was already too late. Connor only wanted to be in the theatre.

It is very difficult for a young actor to obtain regular work and an income. So to widen the possibilities and in the hope of finding work in productions that included music and dancing, Connor trained as a dancer, receiving a grant of some money to do this. But he still had financial problems and had to work as a waiter, too, putting in up to 18 hours work a day. ‘As an actor, you have to be ready for anything. You have to ignore the fear of unemployment that grips you after the last performance. Acting is not a job, it’s a way of life. You sacrifice any chance of stability and security.’

‘Never believe any actor who tells you he doesn’t want to be known.’

1. Comprehension questions
2. What does starting an acting career take?
3. What did his father give him?
4. Did Connor Byrne follow his father advice?
5. Is it easy for him to obtain regular work and income?
6. How many hours did Connor work a day as a waiter?
7. Is acting a job?
8. Translate the paragraph 1 into into French