



*First paragraph—You are the “teacher”. Read this part to your partner:*

### **The End of the World is Near (Part 2)**

Because of the incredible realism of the reporting by nine o'clock on October 30<sup>th</sup> (*thirtieth*) people actually thought the United States was under attack. In major cities such as New York and San Francisco families fled from their houses and apartments and ran to look for safety in the parks. Everywhere citizens searched the sky for the invaders and even wrapped wet handkerchiefs round their heads to keep themselves from being gazed to death. One man called his local radio station to ask, “What time will it be the end of the world?” Women fainted in the streets and the emergency rooms of nearby hospitals were filled with screaming people. There were traffic jams in all the big cities of the nation.

Suddenly Orson Welles was startled to see the police force their way into the studio of the radio station where the play was being performed. They had been alerted about the growing panic. They ordered that Orson Welles make a series of announcements pointing out that this was not an actual news broadcast, but only the evening's fictional entertainment. The announcements had to be given four times before the play ended. But that was still not enough to calm the population now caught up in a nationwide fear of invasion. Further announcements had to be made as late as midnight.

*Now read this same part to your partner leaving pauses for him/her to repeat:*

Because of / the incredible realism / of the reporting / by nine o'clock / on October 30<sup>th</sup> (*thirtieth*) / people actually thought / the United States / was under attack. / In major cities / such as New York / and San Francisco / families fled from their houses / and apartments / and ran to look for safety / in the parks. / Everywhere / citizens searched the sky / for the invaders / and even wrapped / wet handkerchiefs / round their heads / to keep themselves / from being gazed / to death. / One man called / his local radio station / to ask, / “What time / will it be / the end of the world”? / Women fainted / in the streets / and the emergency rooms / of nearby hospitals / were filled / with screaming people. / There were traffic jams / in all the big cities / of the nation.

Suddenly / Orson Welles was startled / to see the police / force their way / into the studio / of the radio station / where the play / was being performed. / They had been alerted / about the growing panic. / They ordered / that Orson Welles / make a series of announcements / pointing out / that this was not / an actual news broadcast / but only / the evening's / fictional entertainment. / The announcements had to be given / four times / before the play ended. / But that was still not enough / to calm the population / now caught up / in a nationwide fear / of invasion. / Further announcements / had to be made / as late as midnight. /

***Questions (Answers should be in complete sentences with words in parentheses)***

1. Why did people think the U.S. was under attack? (*because of the incredible realism of the reporting*)
2. How did people react in major cities? (*fled from their homes, ran for safety in the parks, searched the sky*)
3. Why did they wrap wet handkerchiefs round their heads? (*to keep themselves from being gazed to death*)
4. What did one man ask his local radio station? (*he asked, “What time will it be the end of the world”?*)
5. What did the police do and what did they order? (*forced their way into the studio, ordered that Orson Welles make a series of announcements, not an actual news broadcast*)
6. How many announcements had to be made? (*4 before the play ended, further announcements as late as midnight*)

*Exchange roles. Second paragraph—You are the “teacher”. Read this part to your partner:*

The following day Orson Welles, who was only 23 (*twenty-three*) at the time, apologized for what had happened. He said he had never thought he could make the American people believe that Martians had invaded the Earth. He had not expected two million people to believe the news that was broadcast that night. Many years later he admitted, however, he had intended it to be a hoax. Orson Welles had in fact wanted the listeners that memorable evening, to fall for a Halloween trick on the radio. He had simply broadcast “his” hoax the evening before Halloween, the 30<sup>th</sup> (*thirtieth*) and not on the 31<sup>st</sup> (*thirty-first*) of October!

Could this happen again today? Could someone play such a trick on an entire country in our age of advanced technology? Some experts argue that people are even more gullible today than in the 30s (*thirties*). These experts speak of a headlong rush into irrationality with a capital ‘I’. Recent broadcasts have tried to make people believe in a Soviet missile attack in a film made for television entitled “The Day After”. Another example was a news program in which anchormen and journalists tried to make television viewers believe that terrorists had used nuclear bombs in South Carolina. But no one has ever come close to fooling the American people as much as Orson Welles did in 1938 (*nineteen thirty-eight*). Towards the end of his life he admitted, “It was fun to prove the radio could lie along with everything else!” Don’t we all wonder whether it could ever happen again?

*Now read this same part to your partner leaving pauses for him/her to repeat:*

The following day / Orson Welles / who was only 23 (*twenty-three*) / at the time / apologized for what had happened. / He said / he had never thought / he could make the American people / believe that Martians / had invaded the Earth. / He had not expected / two million people / to believe the news / that was broadcast that night. / Many years later he admitted / however / he had intended it / to be a hoax. / Orson Welles had / in fact / wanted the listeners / that memorable evening / to fall for / a Halloween trick / on the radio. / He had simply broadcast / “his” hoax / the evening before Halloween / the 30<sup>th</sup> (*thirtieth*) / and not on the 31<sup>st</sup> (*thirty-first*) / of October! /

Could this happen again today? / Could someone play / such a trick / on an entire country / in our age of advanced technology? / Some experts argue / that people are even more gullible / today / than in the 30s (*thirties*). / These experts speak / of a headlong rush / into irrationality / with a capital ‘I’. / Recent broadcasts / have tried / to make people believe in / a Soviet missile attack / in a film made for television / entitled “The Day After”. / Another example / was a news program / in which anchormen / and journalists / tried to make television viewers believe / that terrorists had used / nuclear bombs / in South Carolina. / But no one has ever / come close / to fooling the American people / as much as Orson Welles did / in 1938 (*nineteen thirty-eight*). / Towards / the end of his life / he admitted / “It was fun to prove / the radio could lie / along with everything else!” / Don’t we all wonder / whether it could ever / happen again? /

*Questions (Answers should be in complete sentences with words in parentheses)*

1. What did Orson Welles do and say the following day? (*He apologized for what had happened, never thought he could make the American people believe that Martians had invaded the Earth*)
2. What had he not expected? (*had not expected two million people to believe the news that was broadcast that night*)
3. What did he admit many years later? (*he had intended it to be a hoax, wanted people to fall for a Halloween trick*)
4. When did Orson Welles broadcast “his” hoax? (*the evening before Halloween, the 30<sup>th</sup> - thirtieth, not the 31<sup>st</sup> - thirty-first of October*)
5. Could this happen again in our age of advanced technology? (*Some experts argue that people are even more gullible today than in the 30s - thirties*)
6. What have recent broadcasts tried to make people believe in? (*a Soviet missile attack, nuclear bombs in S. C.*)
7. What did Orson Welles say the end of his life? (*was fun to prove the radio could lie along with everything else!*)