



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

The End of the World is Near (Part 1)

The evening of October 30th (*thirtieth*), 1938 (*nineteen thirty-eight*) was not very different from any other typical Sunday evening in the homes of Americans across the United States. At 8pm most people were at home quietly reading books or playing cards. Numerous individuals, who were fortunate enough to have access to the radio, were listening to one of the two programs that were broadcast. Television had not yet been introduced, and moreover the audience could still only choose between two radio channels. One program that evening was a light comedy series and the other a serious play, which was the dramatization of a classic science-fiction novel, entitled “The War of the Worlds”. The novel had been written by H.G. Wells in the 19th (*nineteenth*) century. The radio play, on the other hand, was produced by a young, unknown actor-writer called Orson Welles.

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

The evening of October 30th (*thirtieth*) / 1938 (*nineteen thirty-eight*) / was not very different from / any other typical Sunday evening / in the homes of Americans / across the United States. / At 8pm / most people were at home / quietly reading books or playing cards. / Numerous individuals / who were fortunate enough / to have access to the radio / were listening to one of the two programs / that were broadcast. / Television had not yet been introduced / and moreover / the audience could still only choose / between two radio channels. / One program that evening / was a light comedy series / and the other a serious play / which was the dramatization / of a classic science-fiction novel / entitled “The War of the Worlds”. / The novel had been written / by H.G. Wells / in the 19th (*nineteenth*) century. / The radio play / on the other hand / was produced by a young / unknown actor-writer / called Orson Welles. /

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

1. When was this radio play broadcast? (*October 30th, 1938, 8pm*)
2. What were most of the people doing? (*home, reading books, playing cards, listening to radio*)
3. How many radio programs did people have access to. Could they watch television? (*2, no*)
4. What were the two programs that were broadcast? (*a light comedy series, a serious play*)
5. Who produced the radio play and who had written the classic science-fiction novel? (*The novel had been written by H.G. Wells, the radio play was produced by a young, unknown actor-writer Orson Welles.*)

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

The U.S. listeners looked forward to spending a peaceful evening listening to the entertainment offered by the radio. The play was announced, but the program did not begin on time. Instead of the opening lines of the play, the listeners heard dance music. When this dance music had been played for several minutes, people began wondering if something had gone wrong. Then suddenly, an announcement was made in the form of a “news-flash”. A man speaking in an excited voice said some kind of strange gas explosions had been observed on the planet of Mars and that an alien spaceship had landed near Princeton, New Jersey, an hour's drive from New York City. For the next half hour non-stop broadcasts gave live coverage of the events. The news was alarming. It informed the now much worried listeners that Martians with monster-like bodies and equipped with death rays had disembarked from the spaceship and had already killed about 1,500 (*one thousand five hundred*) persons. It was obvious according to the on-the-spot observers that the Martians had come to make war on the world.

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

The U.S. listeners / looked forward to spending / a peaceful evening / listening to the entertainment / offered by the radio. / The play was announced / but the program did not begin on time. / Instead of the opening lines of the play / the listeners heard dance music. / When this dance music had been played / for several minutes / people began wondering / if something had gone wrong. / Then suddenly / an announcement was made / in the form of a “news-flash”. / A man speaking / in an excited voice / said some kind of strange gas explosions / had been observed / on the planet of Mars / and that an alien spaceship / had landed near Princeton / New Jersey / an hour's drive from New York City. / For the next half hour / non-stop broadcasts / gave live coverage of the events. / The news was alarming. / It informed / the now much worried listeners / that Martians with monster-like bodies / and equipped with death rays / had disembarked from the spaceship / and had already killed / about 1,500 (*one thousand five hundred*) persons. / It was obvious / according to / the on-the-spot observers / that the Martians had come / to make war on the world. /

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

1. What were the listeners looking forward to? (*a peaceful evening listening to the radio*)
2. What did the people do when they heard the dance music? (*wondered if something was wrong*)
3. What was announced in the news flash? (*strange gas explosions had been observed on Mars and an alien spaceship had landed near Princeton, New Jersey, an hour from New York City.*)
4. What happened for the next half hour? (*non-stop broadcasts / gave live coverage of the events*)
5. Why was the news alarming? (*monster-like Martians with death rays had killed 1,500 persons and had come to make war on the world*)