

inter-act online advanced

Term 4 – Module 4

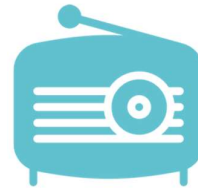
skill

Radio Plays - To be able to create a realistic interview which would be suitable for a radio broadcast.

warm up

With a partner, create your own promo (radio ad) for a brand-new radio play set on Mars. You need to include:

- The title of the play.
- A brief synopsis of the play.
- Reveal a cliff hanger to engage listeners to tune in.
- Day\Date\Time that it is to be broadcast.



speech

1. Breathing

Let's shake off the day and clear our minds. Stand up tall, shoulders back, legs shoulder-width apart. Take a deep breath in, on the exhale let out a loud "AH" sound. REPEAT X 3.

2. Projection

To overcome the common problem of FADING TONE, deliver the line below. Pay special attention to the pitch, quality and strength of your voice, ensuring it's the same throughout.

It's large, large as a bear and it glistens like wet leather.

3. Expression

It's important that our speech has expression, especially when we're performing. Say the lines using the expressions listed:

The eyes are black and gleam like a serpent. (Incredulous, terrified)

radio play

The Radio Play that Spooked the World? Or, the first Fake News?

The War of the Worlds.

Interesting facts:

- 1) This infamous radio play, based on the novel by H.G. Wells, had many terrified listeners convinced that an actual alien invasion of Earth was taking place.
 - 2) It was broadcast on Halloween eve, 1938, when people were unsettled due to the unfolding events in Europe which led to WW2.
 - 3) Due to the realistic presentation, many people believed that it was “breaking news” as the broadcast seemingly shifted from a New York hotel to the “scene” where the aliens had supposedly landed.
 - 4) For many years, it was widely believed that thousands of people were led to think that the events were real. However, recently, it has been revealed that the numbers were greatly exaggerated.
 - 5) Several films and TV series have been made over the years depicting this storyline.
- The facts about who was fooled:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USpPphVGFSU>
 - Various versions of the War of the Worlds: <https://theconversation.com/guide-to-the-classics-the-war-of-the-worlds-128453>
 - The original broadcast will give you an idea of how realistic it was and why some people were fooled into believing that an invasion was happening. Especially, if they missed the introduction which explained that it was entertainment.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzC3Fg_rJfM



Vox populi is a Latin phrase which literally means “voice of the people.”

In journalism, vox pop, or man on the street, refers to short interviews with members of the public.

- Using the following excerpt from **The War of the Worlds**, create your own vox pop style interview at the scene of the “landing” at a farm in Grover’s Mill, a rural area outside of New York City.
- Characters need to be based on people who could have been there at the site. E.g. farmers, wives, farm workers, children, travellers, police officers.
- You can use as much of this material as you like, and of course, sound effects to make it more realistic.

War of the Worlds Exert:

PHILLIPS: Just a minute! Something's happening! Ladies and gentlemen, this is terrific! This end of the thing is beginning to flake off! The top is beginning to rotate like a screw! The thing must be hollow!

VOICES: She's movin'! Look, the darn thing's unscrewing! Keep back, there! Keep back, I tell you! Maybe there's men in it trying to escape! It's red hot, they'll burn to a cinder! Keep back there. Keep those idiots back!

(SUDDENLY THE CLANKING SOUND OF A HUGE PIECE OF FALLING METAL)

VOICES: She's off! The top's loose! Look out there! Stand back!

PHILLIPS: Ladies and gentlemen, this is the most terrifying thing I have ever witnessed . . . Wait a minute! Someone's crawling out of the hollow top. Someone or . . . something. I can see peering out of that black hole two luminous discs . . . are they eyes? It might be a face. It might be . . .

(SHOUT OF AWE FROM THE CROWD)

PHILLIPS: Good heavens, something's wriggling out of the shadow like a gray snake. Now it's another one, and another. They look like tentacles to me. There, I can see the thing's body. It's large, large as a bear and it glistens like wet leather. But that face, it . . . Ladies and gentlemen, it's indescribable. I can hardly force myself to keep looking at it. The eyes are black and gleam like a serpent. The mouth is V-shaped with saliva dripping from its rimless lips that seem to quiver and pulsate. The monster or whatever it is can hardly move. It seems weighed down by . . . possibly gravity or something. The thing's rising up. The crowd falls back now. They've seen plenty. This is the most extraordinary experience. I can't find words . . . I'll pull this microphone with me as I talk. I'll have to stop the description until I can take a new position. Hold on, will you please, I'll be right back in a minute.

theatre game

Line Attack

Go around the class asking and answering the question "Where were you when War of the Worlds was broadcast?". Answers should be fast and short, the quicker you can pass the question on the better. *Example:*

Teacher: Where were you when War of the Worlds was broadcast, Rhys?

Rhys: Hanging out the washing. Where were you when War of the Worlds was broadcast, George?

George: Polishing my rock collection. Where were you when War of the Worlds was broadcast XXXX?

extension activity (optional):

Create a final announcement for Phillips to broadcast from Grover's Mill just before communication is lost.