

An alien invasion report

Introduction

- **Level:** B1 or B2
- **Skills:** Reading
- **Topics:** Grammar (Modals)

The enigma

- **Keywords**

Modals, Reading, The War Of The Worlds

- **Toolbox**

printed document

- **Description of the enigma**

The enigma can be related to space and science-fiction.

Enigma: Students find a typed journal or some of its pages. In these pages, the author took notes about Orson Wells' 1938 radio show that did a fake report of an alien invasion of the United States on Halloween.

Students are asked to recognise modals, which in practice can be integrated into enigmas in several ways:

Students count the number of modals about the highlighted verbs, which gives the number of a code,

Students count the number of letters used to write all the modals to find a full code, each number being the number of letters in each modal, or to add all the letters used in the modals in the text to find part of a bigger code, made with other enigmas.



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Text to provide:

In 1938, On October, 30th, a radio show reported about mysterious creatures and impressive war machines marching towards New York City, taking the format of a special news report. This show **was** orchestrated by Orson Wells, who adapted H.G. Wells' 'The War Of The Worlds' that tells about an alien invasion of the United Kingdom.

Even the day after this episode aired, reports of its impact on the population **might** have been exaggerated. There were reports of local panic movements and even suicides across the United States. The next days, Orson Wells expressed to the press he **had** no clue that this show **would** have such a big impact. According to him, listeners **should** have heard the disclaimer at the beginning and at the end of the show stating that it was a work of fiction. The show was so detailed and told in such a realistic way that some doubt Orson's surprise.

Even today, some believe that this show, which is sometimes described as the first piece of fake news, **did** cause a moment of crisis in the United States. However, these reports **seem** to be exaggerated, which **could** be confirmed with a quick research.

Answer:

Among the words in bold, the following are modals: might, would, should, could.

The answer can be 4 (the number of modals), or 5-5-6-5 (the number of letters in each modal), or 21 (the total number of letters in modals).

Hints

Provide the list of modals to support students if they get confused: can, could, may, might, must, ought to, shall, should, will, would, had better. You could share them as a list on a piece of paper, on a screen, or as a set of flashcards.



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More information

Possible restrictions

Working with text could be tricky for players with **SLDs**. Make sure that the layout of the text suits them! You have all our recommendations in our guide on the website.

