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Level 2

Britons most afraid of heights and snakes

28th March, 2014

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140328-phobias-2.html>



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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140328-phobias-2.html>

A survey from a British market research company shows what British people are most afraid of. Top of the list is heights. Over half of people said they had acrophobia – the medical name for the fear of heights. In second place was a fear of snakes, with 21 per cent of people saying they were "very afraid" of them. The third biggest fear was public speaking. Twenty per cent were "very afraid" and 36 per cent "a little afraid" of speaking in public. Other things include spiders, mice, needles and injections, blood, flying, and being in small spaces. Number 10 on the list was the fear of clowns.

The company asked over 2,000 people what they were afraid of. They had to give a score to 13 common phobias. The researchers said there were big differences between men's and women's fears. Old and young people were also afraid of different things. The researchers said not everyone was "created equal when it comes to fears". More women were afraid of things, especially spiders. These scare a third of men and about half of women. Young people were more afraid of public speaking. Older people were more likely to be afraid of heights.

Sources: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/musophobia-coulrophobia-pteromerhanophobia-what-are-britons-most-afraid-1441650>
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/mar/25/what-top-five-fears-phobias-yougov>
<http://yougov.co.uk/news/2014/03/20/afraid-heights-not-alone/>

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140328-phobias-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. A survey from a British market | a. in public |
| 2. what British people are most | b. afraid of them |
| 3. the medical name for the | c. afraid of |
| 4. they were very | d. the list |
| 5. public | e. and injections |
| 6. speaking | f. research company |
| 7. needles | g. fear of heights |
| 8. Number 10 on | h. speaking |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The company asked | a. phobias |
| 2. They had to | b. third of men |
| 3. 13 common | c. give a score |
| 4. there were big | d. equal |
| 5. afraid of different | e. differences |
| 6. not everyone was created | f. over 2,000 people |
| 7. These scare a | g. to be afraid of heights |
| 8. Older people were more likely | h. things |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140328-phobias-2.html>

A survey from a British (1) _____ shows what British people are most afraid of. (2) _____ heights. Over half of people said they had acrophobia – the medical name for the fear of heights. (3) _____ a fear of snakes, with 21 per cent of people saying they were "very afraid" of them. The (4) _____ public speaking. Twenty per cent were "very afraid" and 36 per cent "a little afraid" of speaking in public. Other (5) _____, mice, needles and injections, blood, flying, and being in small spaces. Number 10 on the list was (6) _____.

The company (7) _____ people what they were afraid of. They had (8) _____ 13 common phobias. The researchers said there (9) _____ between men's and women's fears. Old and young people were also afraid of different things. The researchers (10) _____ was "created equal when it comes to fears". More women were afraid of things, especially spiders. These (11) _____ men and about half of women. Young people were more afraid of public speaking. Older people (12) _____ be afraid of heights.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1403/140328-phobias-2.html>

A survey from a British market research company shows what British people are most afraid of. Top of the list is heights. Over half of people said they had acrophobia – the medical name for the fear of heights. In second place was a fear of snakes, with 21 percent of people saying they were "very afraid" of them. The third biggest fear was public speaking. Twenty percent were "very afraid" and 36 percent "a little afraid" of speaking in public. Other things include spiders, mice, needles and injections, blood, flying, and being in small spaces. Number 10 on the list was the fear of clowns. The company asked over 2,000 people what they were afraid of. They had to give a score to 13 common phobias. The researcher said there were big differences between men's and women's fears. Old and young people were also afraid of different things. The researcher said not everyone was "created equal when it comes to fears". More women were afraid of things, especially spiders. These scares affect a third of men and about half of women. Young people were more afraid of public speaking. Older people were more likely to be afraid of heights.

WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)
