

1. Phobias

This week's lesson is on the subject of phobias. There are a huge number of recognised phobias, ranging from the well known, such as claustrophobia (fear of confined spaces), to the very rare, such as leukophobia (fear of the colour white).

Level

Upper intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B2 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. What do your students understand by the term 'phobia'? How many different kinds of phobia can they name? What do they imagine are the most common phobias? Have they heard of any phobias that strike them as very strange? What do they imagine is the origin of most phobias? Do they have any idea how phobias can be treated?
2. Divide your students into pairs, then hand out Worksheet A and give them five to ten minutes to read through it. Encourage them to look up new vocabulary.
3. Keeping your students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet B and ask them to complete the crossword.
4. Check answers in open class.
5. Ask the students to turn over their copies of Worksheets A and B, and their glossaries. Keeping the students in their pairs, hand out Worksheet C, which contains the text from Worksheet A but with one mistake on each line, which they have to identify and correct. Point out that the mistakes are all grammatical or lexical, and that no correction requires them to write more than one additional word.
6. Check answers in open class. If you wish you could also hand out Worksheet D, which contains the text with all the necessary corrections highlighted in bold.

Answers:

Exercise 1

1. few 2. theory 3. ancestors 4. traumatic 5. aerophobia 6. confined
7. inventing 8. arachnophobia 9. intense 10. surveys 11. effective 12. steps
13. arise

If the sentences have been completed correctly, *fear of insects* will read from top to bottom.

Exercise 2

See Worksheet D.

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_phobias

A comprehensive list of phobias from Wikipedia, with links to further information on many of them. Accessible to Upper intermediate level.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/health/emotional_health/mental_health/mind_phobias.shtml

A page on phobias from the Health section of the BBC website. Accessible to Upper intermediate level.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2004/nov/06/weekend.justinehankins>

An article from the *Guardian* (2004) on ailurophobia, the fear of cats. Challenging for Upper intermediate level.