

Objective: To learn some useful words and expressions to talk about fear in English.

Think about it!

What's the scariest situation you've been in? How did you react? Do you have any phobias? What are your tips for overcoming phobias?

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PRACTICAL ENGLISH

EXPRESSING FEAR

This month, we're looking at ways to express fear.

Expressing fear

- I'm scared of heights.
- I'm terrified of being stuck in a lift.
- I'm frightened of flying.
- I've got a fear of flying.
- I'm petrified of spiders.
- I'm terrified of the dark.
- I'm scared of him.
- I've got this irrational fear of clowns.
- I can't bear to be in a room with spiders.
- I can't stand being in high places.
- He's got a phobia about flying.
- It was really scary!
- It was frightening!

Trying to reassure someone

- Come on, there's nothing to worry about.
- Don't worry!
- What's the worst that could happen?
- They can only say no.
- Calm down!
- Take it easy!

Desperate measures

- Help!
- Run!
- Run for your life!



HE'S SO SCARY!

THIS ISN'T FUNNY!

ARE YOU SCARED TOO?



Dialogue: The Flight

Trevour is on a plane that's about to take off. He's feeling a bit nervous so he starts talking with Jim, the passenger next to him. [Listen and complete with the correct prepositions.]
T=Trevour J= Jim

- T: All right?
J: Morning.
T: Off to Thailand, are you?
J: Certainly am. And you?
T: Yep... erm... *[laughs nervously]* I just hope the plane doesn't crash (1) _____ we get there!
J: *[laughing]* That wouldn't be a great start (2) _____ the holiday, would it?
T: No. I hope it's a smooth flight. I can't stand the turbulence.
J: Oh, I love it! It's like being (3) _____ a rollercoaster!
T: It's just that I get really scared during the take-off and landing.
J: Sounds like you've got a fear (4) _____ flying.
T: I'm terrified of it!
J: Take it easy! You've got nothing to worry about! You've got more chance of dying (5) _____ a car than a plane.
T: I know. I wish I could be as calm as you.
J: Well, if it makes you feel any better, I've got a few fears (6) _____ my own.
T: Really?
J: Yeah, well, I'm scared of spiders, elevators, open spaces, fish, crowds, plus a few other things. Oh, and I also suffer (7) _____ coulrophobia.
- T: What's that?
J: An irrational fear of clowns.
T: Clowns? So, what happens when you see one?
J: I tense (8) _____. And if the clown comes too close, I start screaming. But I love flying!
T: Lucky you. I think I'll order a drink to calm my nerves.
J: I'd prefer you didn't.
T: Why?
J: I also suffer (9) _____ methyphobia, an irrational fear of alcohol. Vodka, gin, brandy, beer, wine... Just saying the names **gives me the creeps**.
T: Oh, OK. Then, I'll just read my book.
J: Best if you didn't. Bibliophobia. Fear of books. If you open a book, I'll break (10) _____ in a cold sweat.
T: Oh. Erm, you aren't afraid of germs, are you?
J: Germs? **Are you kidding?** Not at all!
T: Great, then you won't mind holding my hand during take-off.

GLOSSARY

to give you the creeps *exp*
if something "gives you the creeps", it makes you feel frightened
are you kidding? *exp*
are you joking?