

reading

Read the texts and write C for Carrie, J for John, D for Daniel, or N for none.

*We asked and you responded: tell us your strangest phobias!
We know a lot of people are afraid of heights or closed spaces,
but what are some really weird things to be afraid of?*

Carrie – Selachophobia

Ever since I was little I have been afraid of sharks. I know that a lot of people are afraid of sharks, and that's not a strange phobia, but I am actually just afraid of pictures of sharks. I can't open a National Geographic or any other wildlife magazine without getting nervous. It's even worse when the shark has its mouth open in the picture. I feel like the shark can still bite me. One time, while I was reading a magazine in the library, I turned the page and there was a big picture of a shark! The worst part is that when my hand turned the page, my fingers were actually touching the picture. I screamed and threw the magazine across the room. Everybody laughed and I was really embarrassed. Oddly enough, sharks in aquariums or zoos don't bother me at all.

John - Koumpounophobia

I am absolutely terrified of buttons. I don't mind wooden buttons or something like that, it's the plastic ones I can't stand. Unfortunately, most of the buttons out there are made of plastic. I can't look at them, I hate touching them, I don't even like talking about them! Most people think it's really hard to live without buttons, but it's actually not. I dress quite casually anyway, so I just wear T-shirts and stuff. It used to really upset me as a child, watching my grandma sew a button on a shirt. She would always hold it in her mouth, as she was getting ready to sew it on. That used to drive me crazy! I thought it was the most disgusting thing in the world! The worst is when I see a button that has a little bit of the thread that's loose and hanging down. That makes me want to run out of the room!

Daniel - Oneirophobia

Have you ever known anyone who was afraid to go to sleep? Well, now you have! That's a little misleading though, as I'm not actually afraid of sleeping, I'm afraid of dreaming. It's not like I'm afraid of nightmares or something, I just don't like the idea of dreaming at all. It feels like you completely lose control of your own mind when you're dreaming, and I don't like that, even if it's a good dream.

Usually, when I go to bed and I feel myself starting to fall asleep, I get a panic attack, and my heart starts racing. Sometimes I even feel like I will be sick! It is a serious problem, because it's very unhealthy to go without sleep. I've tried everything to make myself really tired when I try to sleep, drinking warm milk, herbal sleeping aids, even therapy! A friend suggested hypnotherapy, so I think I will try that. I really do want to sleep, it's just impossible.

1. My phobia is food-related.
2. I've visited a therapist to help me deal with my phobia.
3. My phobia influences what I wear.
4. My phobia made me feel very uncomfortable once.
5. I have tried to cure my phobia.
6. I've had a couple of accidents because of my phobia.

C. Look at the texts 1-5. What does each text say? Choose a, b or c.

1

FOR SALE

Bike, new condition, bought three years ago, rarely used. New tires and seat. Missing bell. Asking £75, or best offer. Please call if interested.

- a. the bike is brand new
- b. the bike is very old
- c. the bike is used

2

Mike the meeting is going to be on Monday at 1pm instead of Tuesday at 10am. Lunch will be provided.

- a. Mike should have something to eat before the meeting.
- b. The meeting will take place on Monday afternoon.
- c. The meeting has been cancelled.



- a. The jar must be kept in the fridge at all times.
- b. The contents of the jar must be used by the end of the second week after it's opened.
- c. The jar can be stored near a heater.

4

CANTERBURY TRIP

There are only five tickets left for the trip this Sunday. If you want to go, I suggest you come to the office as soon as possible before all the tickets are sold out.

- a. You should go to the office immediately if you want to get tickets for the trip.
- b. All the tickets for the Canterbury trip are sold out.
- c. There will be 5 tickets available for the Canterbury trip from Sunday.

5

From: Ray

To: John

Did I leave my notes at your house? I can't find them anywhere and I need to revise for the test on Friday. Could you give me a call and let me know?

What does Ray want John to do?

- a. look for his notes
- b. lend him his notes
- c. return the notes that he borrowed