

## Are you afraid of anything?

# Reading

Read the text and choose the correct answer.

A phobia is a strong fear of something, even if that thing is not likely to cause **harm**. As the definition suggests, people with specific phobias fear a particular thing. For example, a person with claustrophobia is scared of being in small spaces. In contrast, those with social phobias worry about the **reaction** of other people in certain situations. Glossophobia, the fear of speaking in public, is a common example.

The cause of social phobias is not clear, but scientists think there are several reasons for specific phobias. In some cases, they develop because of a real danger. For instance, if a child has an **allergy** to bee stings, she might develop a phobia of bees. This happens because she knows they are a **risk** to her **safety**. In other cases, bad past experiences can cause phobias. A man who has an **illness** after eating mushrooms might develop fungophobia, for example. Finally, a child who hates injections might develop a phobia of **sharp** objects that can cause **injury**.

Specific phobias are rarely a serious problem. A person with a snake phobia may have a small **accident** running away from a cobra, but may never be actually bitten by one. In contrast, social phobias can be more serious. In the worst cases, people **avoid** most social situations and hardly ever go out.

### Specific phobias \_\_\_\_\_

- a) are always common.
- b) sometimes are difficult to overcome
- c) are related to particular objects or situations.

### Glossophobia \_\_\_\_\_

- a) is the fear to standing up in the middle of public.
- b) is a common type of phobia.
- c) can be overcome with special training.

### Fungophobia is NOT \_\_\_\_\_

- a) a phobia of eating mushrooms.
- b) common in the USA.
- c) a phobia of sharp objects.

### Specific phobias \_\_\_\_\_

- a) are the most serious ones.
- b) tend to kill people
- c) A and B are wrong

### What type of phobias are more risky?

- a) Social Phobias
- b) Specific phobias
- c) Glossophobia

### Which is FALSE ?

- a) A glossophobia is to be scared to talk in public.
- b) There are many phobias.
- c) All phobias are fear to something that cause harm.

### Which is TRUE ?

- a) Risks and real danger may cause a phobia.
- b) Risks and real danger always causes a phobia.
- c) Risks and real danger never cause a phobia.