

## B2.2. Why do we take risks? (BBC 6-minute English)

### Fill in the gaps

Note: This is not a partial transcript. Words appear in the right order.

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#### Alice

Do you? I didn't know you had a **phobia** – and that means a strong and \_\_\_\_\_ fear of something.

#### Finn

Well, I don't think this is a phobia because it isn't unreasonable. Flying thousands of feet up in the sky in a \_\_\_\_\_, you know, that's not safe!

#### Alice

Flying is safer than you think, Finn. It's much riskier to drive or cycle to work. And, actually, risk taking is the subject of today's show! **Risk** means the chances of something bad happening. For example, did you know that your chance of being \_\_\_\_\_ your bicycle and killed during a one-mile journey is the same as your chances of winning the lottery?

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**Alice** OK. So we'll find out later if you're right or wrong later on. Now let's listen to Andreas Wilkey, a psychologist at Clarkson University in New York, talking about why we're bad at risk.

#### INSERT Andreas Wilkey, Psychologist, Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York

People typically fear anything which is small probability but it's \_\_\_\_\_ if it were to happen... Think about dying in a plane crash, think about a nuclear meltdown from the nearby \_\_\_\_\_. Recently we have another increase in these birds' virus \_\_\_\_\_ in South Korea. People read about that. And they may pay a lot of attention to that in the news but they may forget to get their flu shot.

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#### Alice

And it's often because of **media coverage** – for example, watching the news and reading the newspapers – that it can be difficult for us to understand how likely certain things are to happen. Catastrophic events feel like very real \_\_\_\_\_, while we tend to forget about the small but \_\_\_\_\_ risks that become more likely over time.

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#### Finn

People who enjoy extreme sports actually seek out danger – it gives them extreme \_\_\_\_\_. So let's listen to Karina Hollekim from Norway. She's a **base jumper** – that's a person with a \_\_\_\_\_ who leaps from tall buildings or cliffs – and she's talking about what she feels about risk.

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#### Alice

Yes. It must be a magical feeling to step off a \_\_\_\_\_, mustn't it, Finn?

#### Alice

Yes. The odds are actually 1 in 14 million. You are as \_\_\_\_\_ to win the national lottery from a single ticket as you are to be knocked off your bicycle and killed during a \_\_\_\_\_.