

## UPPER INTERMEDIATE UNIT 9

1 **OVERVIEW:** Watch the video. Do you share any fears or phobias with the people in the video?  
2 Read about Pasha's fears and phobias below. Then watch the video from 0:12–0:25 and delete the incorrect words.

Hi. Like <sup>1</sup>a lot of/many people, I do have some <sup>2</sup>small/minor fears and phobias: some things <sup>3</sup>worry/scare me, but there's nothing <sup>4</sup>really/particularly that affects my life. <sup>5</sup>What/How about you? Do you have any fears or <sup>6</sup>worries/phobias?



**Glossary:** *phobia* = a strong, unreasonable fear of something

3 **Do you have any fears or phobias?** Look at the phobias 1–8 that the people in the video talk about. Then watch the video from 0:25–1:26 and match the people (A–I) to the phobias. Some people have more than one phobia and others share the same phobia.



Gemma



Claire



Chris



Hannah



Colin



Alexandra



Alex



Stuart

1 heights \_\_\_\_\_  
2 rats \_\_\_\_\_  
3 very crowded places \_\_\_\_\_  
4 pencils and the noise they make on paper \_\_\_\_\_  
5 spiders \_\_\_\_\_  
6 dogs \_\_\_\_\_  
7 committing to marriage and children \_\_\_\_\_  
8 flying \_\_\_\_\_

4 How do your fears or phobias interfere with your life? Look at the people in the pictures and read the sentences. Then watch the video from 1:27–2:08 and write true (T) or false (F) next to each sentence.



Marie



Gemma



Hannah

1 Marie always buys bargains in the sales. F

2 She loves to go shopping in the sales. \_\_\_\_\_

1 Gemma tries not to go to crowded places. \_\_\_\_\_

2 She guesses where the crowds will be. \_\_\_\_\_

1 Hannah would plan trips that didn't involve flying. \_\_\_\_\_

2 She tries to fly as often as she can. \_\_\_\_\_



Chloe



Chris

1 Chloe wrote with a pencil at school. \_\_\_\_\_

2 She used to cringe when other children used a pen. \_\_\_\_\_

1 Chris missed the opportunity to go on a balloon ride. \_\_\_\_\_

2 He tried to overcome his phobia by going on a balloon trip. \_\_\_\_\_

5 What fear or phobia would be the most troublesome in the modern world? Read the words and phrases in the box below and use them to complete what people say in the video. There are three extra answers. Then watch the video from 2:10–2:52 to check your answers.

claustrophobia    trapped in a small space    flying    agoraphobia  
liked or loved    fear of illness    technophobia

Chris: I suppose not being <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

Stuart: I would have thought it would be something like <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ because it would just keep people in their homes and not being able to, sort of, integrate with society in any way.

Hannah: Perhaps, <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ , perhaps, especially in London because you are so "closed in" a lot of the time, so things like lifts and also transport, so flying perhaps and using trains, Tubes. I think that would probably get in the way quite a lot.

Colin: People like to move and like their freedom, and, I think, to be <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ is quite scary for a lot of people.

**6 THE WAY WE SPEAK:** The people below talk about their fears and phobias. Read what they say and try to complete the sentences. Then watch the video from 0:25–1:26 and check your answers.

**Glossary:** *the Tube* = the system of trains that run underground in London  
*bins* = containers for storing waste  
*blunt pencil* = a pencil that is not sharp or pointed



Gemma

1 Yeah, I \_\_\_\_\_ very crowded places, like when the Tube is really busy.



Claire

2 I think for me the biggest one is \_\_\_\_\_ heights, which I find really illogical, and it's something that's developed as I've got older.



Chris

3 I \_\_\_\_\_ height and, or flying, even, as well.



Hannah

4 I don't know if it's strange, but I do \_\_\_\_\_ flying.



Colin

5 I \_\_\_\_\_ spiders ... from childhood.



Alexandra

6 I'm \_\_\_\_\_ rats. And, when I walked from college to my flat, there's lots of bins and lots of rats—that was \_\_\_\_\_.



Alex

7 I'd say that, probably, a \_\_\_\_\_ that a lot of people have today is, that I share, is committing—potentially looking at getting married at a young age, looking to have a family.



Stuart

8 One in particular is, dogs. I had \_\_\_\_\_ with a dog years and years ago.



Chloe

9 I have \_\_\_\_\_ pencils—blunt pencils and the noise it would make on paper.

**7 PERSONALIZATION:** Write a short paragraph about any fears or phobias you have. Use Pasha's questions to help you and also use some of the language from the video.

- Do you have any fears and phobias?
- How do your fears or phobias interfere with your life?
- What fear or phobia would be the most troublesome in the modern world?

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