Reading

Read some information from *fearof.net*, a website about phobias. Complete each phobia with the correct heading from the list.

Fear of butterflies **Fear of crowds**
Fear of doctors **Fear of driving** **Fear of heights**

1

Some people with this phobia find it difficult to pass the test. Others are anxious on motorways or certain roads. In extreme cases, people are afraid of being a passenger in a vehicle. *Comment*

2

People say that actress Nicole Kidman suffers from this phobia. It is closely linked to a general fear of insects. People with this phobia are afraid of most insects with wings, and they feel nauseous or they panic if they see them. *Comment*

3

This phobia is quite common in young children, but adults suffer from it, too. Many are especially afraid of having vaccinations or blood tests. *Comment*

4

This fear affects nearly one in every 20 adults. People with this phobia usually avoid tall buildings, skiing, or standing on balconies. *Comment*

5

This phobia affects many people, but women more than men. These people feel very anxious or scared if they are in a noisy place where there are a lot of people, for example a shopping mall or a sports stadium. They often avoid these kinds of places. *Comment*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Now read some comments posted on the website. Match comments A–E to fears 1–5.

A I am so scared that I haven't been to see one for more than 15 years. I hate thinking about them! I feel the same way about dentists, too. ***Carl***

B I have a fear of going over bridges, and on motorways at over 60 mph. I'm OK at 45 mph. I once went over a bridge and I had to stop in the middle – I was really frightened. I haven't driven that way since then, and that was seven years ago. ***Becky***

C I thought I was the only person that had this fear! I'm OK with the small ones, but I'm terrified of the big ones. I'm OK if they aren't close to me, but as soon as they start flying near me I run away. I like looking at pictures of them because they can be beautiful, but if they fly towards me, especially towards my face, I panic. ***Mina***

D I suffer from this phobia, and what works best for me, if I know that I'm going to be in a situation where there'll be a lot of people, is to arrive early. Then other people arrive little by little, and that helps me. The worst thing is walking into a place that is already full of people. ***Simon***

E I've had this phobia for about 20 years. It started when I was a child, about six I think. I had a bad dream where I was in a block of flats high up on a hill and I nearly fell out of the window. I woke up and started crying. I haven't been to any really high places since then. Even if I imagine I'm in a high place, I feel dizzy. ***Keith***

1. Fear of butterflies

2. Fear of crowds

3. Fear of doctors

4. Fear of driving

5. Fear of height

suffer from, fear, panic, scared, frightened, terrified, dizzy

Look at the highlighted words in the phobias and comments and match them to the definitions.

1 the noun made from the adjective *afraid* _____
2 one adjective which means *very afraid* _____
3 two synonyms for *afraid* _____, _____
4 an adjective for the feeling that everything is going round in circles _____
5 to suddenly feel afraid and not be able to think _____
6 to be badly affected by something _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS