

## What should we be afraid of?

### 1. Think of other ways to say that you're afraid.

FRIGHTENED BY

TERRIFIED

DREAD

SCARED OF

I'M AFRAID

WORRIED ABOUT

ALARMED BY

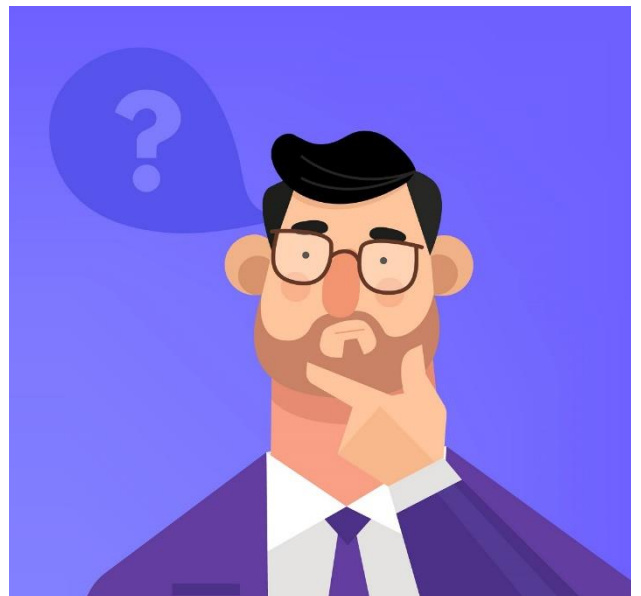
APPREHENSIVE ABOUT

NERVOUS ABOUT

### 2. Complete the sentences with the correct words in the box.

apprehensive    chance    dread    feel    petrifying  
scenario    seriously    slightly    terrifies

- a) I **dread** to think what would happen if we faced another world war.
- b) I rate the **chance** of an asteroid hitting Earth as fairly low.
- c) It **terrifies** me that the risk of a nuclear war is rising.
- d) The sudden outbreak of a widespread epidemic is a nightmare **scenario**.
- e) I don't take an alien invasion **seriously** as there is a very low probability of such an event.
- f) I'm terribly **apprehensive** about the future with scarce water resources.
- g) I'm just **slightly** worried that a huge volcanic explosion could happen soon.
- h) A gigantic earthquake that could affect millions of people is overwhelmingly **petrifying**.
- i) I would **feel** uneasy about the future if I lived in a tsunami-stricken area.



### 3. Discuss the sentences from the previous exercise. Do you agree or disagree with them? Why?

## What should we be afraid of?

4. In a moment, you'll watch an interview with Bill Gates titled "What Bill Gates is afraid of". What do you think he dreads most?

5. Now, watch a [short interview with Bill Gates](http://bit.ly/WhatWorriesBill) [http://bit.ly/WhatWorriesBill] and answer the questions below.

a) What are the chances of an epidemic worse than Ebola in his lifetime, according to Bill Gates?

Over 50% chance.

b) What are the two types of flus?

Flus that spread very fast and flus that are deadly.

c) Why is it called the Spanish flu?

It's called the Spanish flu because the Spanish press was the freest, they were the first to talk openly about it.

d) Why would any epidemic nowadays spread quicker than in the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

Because of modern transport.

e) How big of an investment in preparing for an epidemic can make a difference?

Less than \$1 billion a year.

6. What do the following phrases mean?

a) a widespread disease

b) an outbreak of flu

c) an infectious disease

d) the immune system

e) polio/malaria eradication

7. Discuss the questions below.

- Do you agree with Bill Gates that we should be afraid of an outbreak of an epidemic? Why/why not?
- Do you think that globally we're prepared for such infectious diseases?
- What can be done to stop the spread of a disease globally in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

## What should we be afraid of?

8. Rewrite the sentences using adjectives in the box below so that the second sentence has a similar meaning to the original one.

believable      debatable      feasible      improbable      inevitable  
justifiable      likely      unacceptable      unstoppable

**Example:**

*There might not be a solution to stop climate change.*

*Climate change might be **unstoppable**.*

- a) It's hard to believe in your story and I think you've made it up.  
*Your story is hardly believable.*
- b) Our manager thinks this goal can be achieved.  
*It is feasible to achieve this goal.*
- c) There are different opinions whether a university degree helps you to get a good job.  
*It is debatable whether a university degree helps you to get a good job.*
- d) It is certain that the company will stop trading next year.  
*It is inevitable that the company will stop trading next year.*
- e) A good lawyer would never give such advice.  
*It is improbable that a good lawyer would give such advice.*
- f) We will never tolerate such behaviour.  
*Such behaviour is unacceptable.*
- g) Doing that seems reasonable and you shouldn't worry about the consequences.  
*Doing that is justifiable and you shouldn't worry about the consequences.*
- h) I suppose there is a good chance that it will happen.  
*I suppose it is likely that it will happen.*

9. You will read a few statements. Using the adjectives above, express your opinion about them and explain your point of view.

**What should we be afraid of?**

<p>We will make contact with extra-terrestrial life.</p>	<p>There will be more and more man-made disasters that will have a huge impact on our world.</p>
<p>The technology of human cloning is no longer a question of “if” — but “when”.</p>	<p>Globally, we should invest millions of dollars in the search for a cure for cancer.</p>
<p>As global warming is causing sea levels to rise, there are a lot of cities that could soon be underwater.</p>	<p>One of the reasons for space exploration is to ensure the future survival of humanity.</p>
<p>By 2050 all non-electric cars will have been banned from sale.</p>	<p>Recycling should become mandatory for everyone in the world in the next 10 years.</p>
<p>All drugs should be legalized as this will help to fight crime.</p>	<p>Healthcare is a universal right and should be guaranteed by the government.</p>