

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

Fear

'Swine Flu declared a pandemic'. The biggest topic in our newspapers at the moment is about the Swine flu. Schools have closed, sports games have been cancelled... Today's topic is about Fear and Swine Flu...

Fear: (noun). To be worried or frightened that something bad might happen.

Hot Topics

1. What are some of the symptoms of Swine Flu? How have you been feeling lately? *In threes.*

Sore throat	aches and pains	runny nose
Headache	dizzy	cough

2. The Newspapers have had headlines such as 'Swine Flu strikes again'. Discuss in threes how people feel after reading these newspaper articles. People (I) feelworried/ cautious/ panicky/ apprehensive/ a little bit scared/ scared/ petrified/ anxious/ afraid/ vulnerable....

Many people are fearful of getting this type of influenza. Normally people with influenza symptoms just take a headache tablet and don't see a doctor. But this time Gold Coast hospitals have been inundated (very busy) with people with normal flu symptoms and some pharmacies (drug stores) have run out of medicine.

3. In the last few years there have been many terrible illnesses spread across the world such as SARS and the Bird flu. What precautions has your country taken against or did take against Swine Flu, SARS and the Bird flu?

4. When you get the flu or a cold – what do you do to get better?

5. Some people are afraid of spiders, flying, or fear of doing exams. What thing or action are you most afraid of?
I am most afraid of
I fear....

6. If you are afraid of something, how do you overcome your fear?

- Drink lots of beer and forget about it?
- Share your fear with others.
- Wear a special amulet (lucky charm), or carry something to protect you from bad things.
- Work and try harder to overcome your fear (just do it).
- Find out more information and learn more about your fear.
- Cry out to God
- Other

In the Bible, a King called David said:

"I sought God and he answered me, he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. The poor man called, and the Lord heard him, he saved him out of all his troubles."

7. Is it possible for God to hear us and to do something for us? Have you ever experienced God's help?

8. We usually feel ashamed if we have done something wrong. What did David mean by those who look to God are radiant and not covered with shame?

Vocabulary

Pandemic: a virus that is spread around the world.

Radiant: shine

Shame: feeling bad about something we have done.