Fear of Flying

**Language level:** Intermediate (B1) – Upper Intermediate (B2)

**Learner type:** Teens and adults

**Time:** 90 minutes

**Activity:** Dictation, speaking, writing and watching a short film

**Topic:** Fears

**Language:** Adjective + prepositions

**Materials:** Short film
Overview

This lesson is designed around a beautiful short film by Conor Finnegan and the theme of fears. Students write sentences, dictate sentences, speak, and watch a short film.

Step 1

Prepare eight sentences about yourself using adjective plus preposition combinations. Four of the sentences should be true and four false. These are the sentences I wrote:

1. I’m terrified of flying.
2. I’m fond of ironing.
3. I’m frightened of being alone at night.
4. I’m worried about not having enough money.
5. I’m accustomed to living abroad.
7. I’m famous for being a great cook.
8. I’m addicted to watching films.

Step 2

Tell your students that you are going to dictate 8 sentences about yourself to them. Repeat each sentence. Pair students and ask them to compare their sentences. When they are ready elicit the correct sentences and write them on the board.

Step 3

Ask students what the sentences have in common. They should be able to tell you that the sentences all share the same construction:

to be + adjective + preposition + gerund
Step 4

Tell students that four of the sentences are true and four false. Ask them to discuss which sentences they think are true and give reasons why.

Step 5

Go through each sentence and ask students why they think it is true or false, tell them the truth and explain something about each sentence.

Step 6

Tell students you would like them to write eight sentences about themselves four of which should be true and four false. They should use the same construction you used in your sentences:

to be + adjective + preposition + gerund

Ask them if they know any other adjective + preposition combinations. Elicit combinations and write them on the board. If they can’t come up with many combinations you might like to give them some examples such as:

anxious about; bored of; capable of; committed to;
concerned about; content with; dedicated to;
disappointed with; excited about; frightened of;
guilty of; happy about; interested in; known for;
responsible for; scared of and tired of.
Give them ten minutes to write their sentences.

Step 7
When students are ready ask Student A to dictate his/her sentences to Student B who then has to say whether they think they are true or false. Student A must explain something about each sentence. When they have finished they should change roles.

Step 8
Ask students to explain two things they didn’t know about their partner to the rest of the class.

Step 9
Write afraid on the board and ask students which preposition goes with it. Ask them what they are afraid of.

Step 10
Ask students if they are frightened. If you have a student who is afraid of flying ask them what they do to overcome their fear. Ask students what advice they would give to a person who is afraid of flying to overcome this fear.

Step 11
Ask students to imagine they are a bird called Dougal who is afraid of flying. Put them in small groups and ask them to discuss the following questions:
How do you think Dougal feels?

What do you think Dougal’s life is like?

How could Dougal overcome his fear?

When students are ready get feedback from the whole class.

**Step 12**

Tell students that they are going to watch a short film in which they see Dougal. As they watch the film they should compare their answers in the previous step to what they see and hear in the film. Show the film and pause at 05:24.

Link: [https://vimeo.com/46141955](https://vimeo.com/46141955)

**Step 13**

Ask students how Dougal feels and what his life is like. Ask them how they think Dougal is going to migrate south.

**Step 14**

Now show the rest of the film. Ask students the following questions:

How did the film make you feel?

Does the film have a message?

**Step 15**
Put students into pairs and ask them to discuss the following questions:

What are the most common fears?
What were you afraid of when you were a child?
What’s the best way to overcome a fear?

I hope you enjoy the lesson.