

THE SUFFIXES -PHILE AND -PHOBIA

11

The two suffixes *-phile* and *-phobia* are very nearly opposite in meaning. The suffix *-phile* is from the Greek word *philia*, meaning "friendship." A word ending in *-phile* indicates someone having great fondness or preference for something. For example, a *hippopophile* (from the Greek *hippos*, meaning "horse," and *-phile*) is someone who is interested in or fond of horses.

In contrast to *-phile*, *-phobia* indicates a strong, unreasonable, or abnormal fear or dislike of something. *Hippophobia* is an intense fear of horses. *Phobia* is also a word in itself, meaning "any strong or irrational fear." In the following lesson, you will learn words ending in *-phile* and *-phobia*.

WORD LIST

acrophobia
agoraphobia
ailurophobia
Anglophile
audiophile
bibliophile
claustrophobia
hydrophobia
xenophobia
zoophobia

DEFINITIONS

After you have studied the definitions and example for each word, write the vocabulary word in the blank to the right.

1. **acrophobia** (āk' rə-fō'bē-ə) *noun* Intense fear of high places. (From the Greek word *akros*, meaning "high," and *-phobia*, meaning "fear")

Related Word *acrophobic adjective*

Example Kyle's *acrophobia* prevented him from going up to the observation deck of the skyscraper.

1. _____
MEMORY CUE: Acrobats would not have *acrophobia*.

2. **agoraphobia** (äg' ə-rə-fō'bē-ə) *noun* Strong fear of open places. (From the Greek word *agora*, meaning "open space," and *-phobia*)

Related Word *agoraphobic adjective*

Example People with severe *agoraphobia* may be afraid to leave their houses.

2. _____
See *claustrophobia*.

3. **ailurophobia** (ī'lōr-ə-fō'bē-ə) *noun* A great fear or hatred of cats. (From the Greek word *ailuros*, meaning "cat," and *-phobia*)

Related Word *ailurophobic adjective*

Example Even a fluffy little kitten can be cause for alarm to someone who suffers from *ailurophobia*.

3. _____
See *zoophobia*.

4. **Anglophile** (äng' glə-fil') *noun* One who has strong admiration or affection for England, the English, or English goods. (From the Medieval Latin word *Angli*, meaning "the English people," and *-phile*, meaning "enthusiast")

Related Word *Anglophilia noun*

Example Connor is such an *Anglophile* that he speaks with an English accent even though he is an American.

4. _____

5. **audiophile** (ô'dē-ə-fīl') *noun* One keenly interested in recorded sound. (From the Latin word *audire*, meaning "to hear," and *-phile*)

5. _____

Example Elizabeth was such an *audiophile* that she spent more on her CD player than on the rest of her furniture.

6. **bibliophile** (bīb'lē-ə-fīl') *noun* One devoted to the collection and preservation of books, particularly old and rare books. (From the Greek word *biblion*, meaning "book," and *-phile*)

6. _____

Example Tatiana is a *bibliophile* with a beautiful collection of books, but she does not like to read.

7. **claustrophobia** (klô'strə-fō'bē-ə) *noun* Strong fear of small or enclosed places. (From the Latin word *claustrum*, meaning "enclosure," and *-phobia*)

7. _____

Related Word *claustrophobic adjective*

Example A person with *claustrophobia* would probably fear going into a closet or elevator.

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8. **hydrophobia** (hī'drə-fō'bē-ə) *noun* a. Intense fear of water. b. The disease rabies. (From the Greek *hydro-*, meaning "water," and *-phobia*)

8. _____

Related Word *hydrophobic adjective*

Example Both Pierre and Lupe refused to travel by boat because they suffered from *hydrophobia*.

9. **xenophobia** (zēn'ə-fō'bē-ə) *noun* Intense fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners. (From the Greek word *xenos*, meaning "stranger," and *-phobia*)

9. _____

Related Words *xenophobe noun; xenophobic adjective*

Example People with *xenophobia* might not enjoy traveling abroad or meeting new people.

10. **zoophobia** (zō'ə-fō'bē-ə) *noun* A strong fear of animals. (From the Greek word *zōion*, meaning "living being," and *-phobia*)

10. _____

Related Word *zoophobic adjective*

Example Someone with *zoophobia* would not enjoy having pets.

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NAME _____

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EXERCISE 1 COMPLETING DEFINITIONS

On the answer line, write the word from the vocabulary list that best completes each definition.

1. Fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners is _____.
2. Fear of high places is _____.
3. One who loves fine old books is a(n) _____.
4. Fear of open places is _____.
5. A person who strongly admires the English is a(n) _____.
6. Fear or hatred of cats is _____.
7. Fear of small or enclosed places is _____.
8. Fear of water is _____.
9. Fear of animals is _____.
10. A lover of fine recordings is a(n) _____.

EXERCISE 2 USING WORDS CORRECTLY

Each of the following questions contains an italicized vocabulary word. Decide the answer to the question, and write *Yes* or *No* on the answer line.

1. Would someone with *acrophobia* be likely to work as a window washer on a skyscraper?
2. Would someone with *hydrophobia* be interested in being a lifeguard?
3. Is an *Anglophile* likely to admire Shakespeare, Churchill, and Queen Victoria?
4. If you had *agoraphobia*, would you enjoy going camping and sleeping out at night under the stars?
5. Would someone with *xenophobia* be likely to welcome new neighbors from a foreign country?
6. Would you expect an animal trainer to suffer from *zoophobia*?
7. If you had *ailurophobia*, would you avoid leopards and panthers?
8. If you were a *bibliophile*, would you collect fine books?
9. Would someone with *claustrophobia* enjoy spending three weeks on a submarine?
10. Do *audiophiles* like sound systems?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

EXERCISE 3 CHOOSING THE BEST DEFINITION

For each italicized vocabulary word in the following sentences, write the letter of the best definition on the answer line.

1. Because Neal has *hydrophobia*, he has not learned to swim.
a. fear of darkness c. fear of water
b. fear of crowds d. fear of drowning
2. Juliana has to avoid some exhibits at the zoo because of her *ailurophobia*.
a. fear of all animals c. fear of crowds
b. fear of open spaces d. fear of cats
3. Michael's collection of rare books shows that he is a *bibliophile*.
a. librarian c. lover of records
b. lover of fine books d. lover of the theater
4. Loretta turned down a good job offer in the desert town because of the anxiety caused by her *agoraphobia*.
a. fear of crowds c. fear of air
b. fear of open places d. fear of disease
5. Douglas did not go to the top of the Empire State Building because of his *acrophobia*.
a. fear of darkness c. fear of high places
b. fear of storms d. fear of light
6. Gregory is working hard to overcome his *xenophobia*.
a. fear of strangers c. fear of animals
b. fear of conversation d. fear of storms
7. An *Anglophile* would enjoy eating a steak-and-kidney pie.
a. lover of French cooking c. admirer of the English
b. one afraid of foreigners d. admirer of the Slavs
8. Tamara's *claustrophobia* kept her from visiting the pharaohs' tombs in Egypt.
a. fear of the dead c. fear of fields
b. fear of enclosed spaces d. fear of disease
9. Steven and Sheila wanted a pet, but their father suffered from *zoophobia*.
a. fear of cats c. fear of happy children
b. fear of zoos d. fear of animals
10. An *audiophile* might spend more than five thousand dollars for a CD player and speakers.
a. one interested in CDs c. one interested in spending
b. one interested in music d. one interested in recorded sound

EXERCISE 4 CHOOSING THE BEST WORD

Decide which vocabulary word or related form best expresses the meaning of each italicized word or phrase. On the answer line, write the letter of that word.

1. Dictators sometimes encourage *hatred of foreigners* among their people.
a. xenophobia b. Anglophilia c. ailurophobia d. claustrophobia

NAME _____

DATE _____

2. Louis Pasteur developed a successful treatment for *rabies*.
a. zoophobia b. allurophobia c. hydrophobia d. xenophobia
3. The Morgan Library in New York is a mecca for *lovers of fine books*.
a. Angliphiles b. xenophobes c. audiophiles d. bibliophiles
4. The Lorenzini's have ocelots for pets; they have no *fear of animals*.
a. allurophobia b. acrophobia c. agoraphobia d. zoophobia
5. I think we shall get *fear of enclosed spaces* in this tiny classroom.
a. claustrophobia b. agoraphobia c. hydrophobia d. xenophobia
6. If an Anglophobe dislikes the English and a Slavophile admires the Slavs, what do you suppose we call an *admirer of the English*?
a. xenophobe b. Angliphile c. audiophile d. bibliophile
7. Gina never goes shopping because of her *fear of public places*.
a. acrophobia c. claustrophobia
b. allurophobia d. agoraphobia
8. Melanie knows a lot about electronics and acoustics because she is a *person interested in recorded sound*.
a. agoraphobe b. audiophile c. bibliophile d. Angliphile
9. Winston overcame a *fear of heights* and then climbed Mount Whitney.
a. agoraphobia b. allurophobia c. acrophobia d. hydrophobia
10. Rita gets nervous whenever she sees Boots because she has a *fear of cats*.
a. claustrophobia b. hydrophobia c. allurophobia d. acrophobia

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