



Fear of needles: reading and vocabulary

A. You are going to read an abstract from an article. Before you read, match the words and definitions.

1. (to) alleviate	a) voluntary giving of blood
2. avoidance	b) show a particular type of behaviour
3. blood donation	c) being frightened of having an injection
4. (to) exhibit	d) strong, irrational fear of having an injection
5. needle fear	e) taking of a blood sample from a vein
6. needle phobia	f) taking action to prevent something from happening
7. prevalent	g) make something less intense or severe
8. venepuncture (venipuncture US)	h) common in a particular group or place

B. Click the link to read the abstract. Then decide if the statements are true or false.

[The fear of needles: A systematic review and meta-analysis](#)

1. Some people fail to get medical treatment if it involves having an injection. True / False
2. Most of the children in the studies were afraid of needles. True / False
3. The percentage of teenagers and young adults who have a needle phobia is the same.
True / False
4. Women were more likely than men to have an irrational fear of needles. True / False
5. Many healthcare workers refused to have a flu vaccination because of a fear of needles.
True / False
6. It is important to consider methods of reducing the fear of needles in groups of people who need treatment, especially of chronic conditions. True / False



C. Complete the sentences with words from A. You may need to change the verb form.

1. Any _____ of treatment will increase recovery time.
2. The patient _____ symptoms of anxiety.
3. Most people have a degree of _____ but overcome it.
4. I was prescribed some drugs to _____ the pain.
5. In severe cases of _____, just thinking about an injection causes intense anxiety.
6. Two samples were taken by _____.
7. The condition is more _____ in men than women.
8. _____ can help to save lives.