Meta hints and solution

Hint 1

The 8 hints in parentheses are short words, and the 8 definitions below are longer.

Hint 2

The solution to the top words are embedded in the solution to the bottom words

Hint 3

Canine = DOG Site = PLACE Rod = BAR Corn Holder = COB

A person may do this on eBay = BID Not a he or she = IT Portrayer = ACTOR Not you = ME

Religious principles = DOGMA Type of snake = COBRA Extreme support = RABID Carrier of cargo = BARGE

Leave out = OMIT
Disease caused by insects = LYME
Home of nuclear energy = REACTOR
Harmless substance = PLACEBO

Hint 4

Insert the 4 meta answers into the slots so the parenthetical words + the adjacent two letters from the answer spell out one of the defined words from below. The letters that remain (from the middle of the 4 answer words) will spell **SCARED STUPID**.