

Easy English NEWS



October 2021

Cloze Exercises, Short-answer Tests, and Critical-thinking Questions

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

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To the Teacher

Thank you for downloading the free supplementary tests for *Easy English NEWS*. I hope these will save you many hours of work each month and will help expand your students' reading skills, vocabulary, and retention of important information.

The *Cloze Exercises and Short-Answer Tests* will be posted at the website by the first of the month, if not earlier. Many of the tests are useful with or without *Easy English NEWS*.

There are dozens of ways to use the tests. Experiment to see the methods that work best for your classes. Some techniques will be better for students with less command of English and others appropriate for those with greater fluency. You can alternate the ways you use them to provide more variety in lessons.

CLOZE EXERCISES

The purpose of the cloze exercises is to present a small amount of important material in another format to enhance comprehension and retention, and reinforce vocabulary.

- The cloze exercises may be used before or after reading the article. The exercises are taken directly from articles in the paper so students can check their own or others' work by referring back to the text.
- If you assign a cloze exercise before reading the article, it serves as an introduction to reading the full article. Use this with students with better reading ability.
- To increase the challenge, cut off the word bank at the bottom of the page before duplicating the cloze exercises. Students can work individually, in pairs, or in small groups. They can use their newspapers, or not.
- As a spelling test (and listening exercise): Dictate the sentences including the missing word for the students to write in.
- As copy practice: Students can copy the entire selection, filling in the missing words.

WHICH WORD DOES NOT BELONG?

Vocabulary, logic, and discussion practice. Students read the four words in each row, and decide how three of the words go together and one does not. There is not necessarily one firm answer to this activity.

- Have students circle their choices, and then discuss them. Students should be able to give their reasons for choosing a word that doesn't belong. *Any good reason makes their answer correct.*
- Students can work in small groups to discuss the reasons for their answers. They can write out their reasons for the decision.
- Teach the patterns:
A, B, and D are all _____s.
C is not a _____.
Or: B, C, and D are all kinds of _____. A is not.
Or: You can find A, B, and C in a _____. And so forth.

SHORT-ANSWER TESTS

These tests focus on fact-gathering.

- You may give these tests as pre-tests to learn what students already know about the topic and again as post-tests to see what they have learned.
- After reading the article, students can read the questions aloud in class and give the answers orally.
- You can let the students do the tests as "open book (newspaper) tests."
- Students can work in pairs or groups to come up with the answers after having read the article.
- Students can use the Answer Page to correct their own or others' answers.
- You can give the same test a week or more later to evaluate students' retention of the information.

Name _____ Date _____

Wildfire and Hurricane Season

Wildfires are a danger every year in the _____ states. Hurricanes are a _____ every year in the eastern and Gulf Coast states. The seasons for both of these natural disasters run from June 1 to _____ 30. But in recent years, these seasons have started _____ longer. _____ say that climate change is causing these longer seasons with worse fires and hurricanes.

Wildfires

During the hot, dry months of summer and fall, forests _____ in California, Washington, Oregon, Texas, Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, and other states.

Wildfires burn _____ of acres of grassland and forest. Some wildfires destroy the homes of people who live _____ by.

Eighty-four percent of fires start _____ of human carelessness. A fire can start when a person doesn't _____ put out a campfire.

WORD BANK

burn	because	thousands	lasting	western
close	scientists	completely	danger	November

Name _____ Date _____

Buying Groceries

Produce

Buying produce can be _____. Some fruits and vegetables are _____ by the pound.

We can buy one or more pounds of _____, apples, pears, grapes, bananas, potatoes, tomatoes, peas, green beans, or onions.

Prices for _____ kinds of produce may be for just one. For _____, pineapples may be \$3.99 *each*.

When we _____ a watermelon, squash, or cabbage, we might buy just one. _____, we may pay for it by the pound.

You can buy a three or _____ pound *sack* of potatoes. Or you _____ buy only a few potatoes. There will be a _____

so you can weigh them.

WORD BANK

priced

buy

however

cherries

might

scale

five

confusing

example

some

Name _____ Date _____

Halloween

_____ 31 is Halloween. It is a day of fun and _____
for children. Many adults _____ Halloween, too. People decorate their doors
and windows with Halloween _____: skeletons, witches, owls, black cats,
jack-o'-lanterns, bats, and ghosts.

_____ people wear costumes to school or work. There may be
Halloween parties and parades in school or in the _____. Some
_____ buy their costumes and masks. Others make costumes at home and
_____ their faces.

A _____ tradition for children is “trick-or-treating.”
_____ go to their neighbors’ houses.

WORD BANK

enjoy	symbols	excitement	decorate	many
street	popular	October	children	people

Name _____ Date _____

A COVID Vaccine Update

COVID-19 progress?

In early _____ 2021, the number of COVID-19 cases in the United States was decreasing. Hospitals had _____ COVID patients. Businesses were _____ . People were traveling _____ . President Biden gave a _____ on July 4th, Independence Day, saying Americans were closer than ever to ending the pandemic.

By the end of July, things looked very _____. The COVID-19 virus had _____. The new _____ of the virus was called the Delta variant. It was more _____. It spread more quickly and made people sicker. The number of COVID-19 cases in the United States began to _____ again.

WORD BANK

speech	mutated	dangerous	strain	again
fewer	different	reopening	increase	summer

Name _____ Date _____

Salem, Massachusetts

Salem is one of the oldest cities in _____. It started as a Native American village and _____ center. In 1626, people from England _____ to live there. It was a good place for fishermen and farmers to _____ a home.

Salem is an _____ port city. The water is _____ important to its history. Ships from Salem _____ beat the British in the Revolutionary War. After the war, those ships were used to make trips _____ the ocean. The sailors traded with the rest of the _____. They sailed to Europe, the West Indies, China, Africa, Russia, Japan, and Australia. Salem became the _____ largest city in the United States.

WORD BANK

came

helped

Massachusetts

build

sixth

very

across

important

world

trading

Name _____ Date _____

The Salem Witch Trials

Between _____ 1692 and May 1693, townspeople in Salem, Massachusetts accused more than 200 people of being witches. _____ arrested the accused people and tried them for witchcraft. The town is still _____ for the “Salem Witch Trials” today.

The Puritans come to Salem

A _____ of English Christians called Puritans began leaving England in the 1630s. They were not happy with the Church of _____. They wanted to find a place where they could _____ their religion the way they wanted.

A group of them _____ to Salem, Massachusetts, in 1630.

They _____ the First Church of Salem. This was the first _____ church in America.

The Puritans thought education was very _____.

WORD BANK

group	practice	important	famous	officials
came	started	February	Puritan	England

Which Word Does Not Belong?

Three words in each row go together. One word does not belong with them. Draw a circle around the word that does not belong. Be able to explain your reasons.

	A	B	C	D
1.	campfire	fireworks	arsonists	wind
2.	western states	Gulf Coast states	eastern states	Atlantic Ocean
3.	wildfire	hurricane	Dixie	Calder
4.	drought	uprooted trees	flooding	tornadoes
5.	supervisor	manager	employee	employer
6.	German	French	English	Arabic
7.	skeleton	scarecrow	witch	ghost
8.	Spanish	indigenous people	Dutch	English
9.	Moderna	Johnson and Johnson	Pfizer	CDC
10.	Sarah Good	Nathaniel Hawthorne	Sarah Osborne	Tituba
11.	lettuce	cabbage	cauliflower	eggs
12.	paper towels	plastic wrap	toothpaste	wax paper

Name _____ Date _____

I. Wildfire and Hurricane Season

1. When is wildfire season? _____
2. When is hurricane season? _____
3. What part of the United States is most in danger of wildfires? _____
4. What parts of the United States are most in danger of hurricanes? _____

5. What is causing longer hurricane and wildfire seasons? _____
6. What ways do humans cause wildfires? Check all correct answers.
 - a. lightning
 - b. campfires
 - c. lit cigarettes
 - d. fireworks
 - e. power lines
 - f. arson
7. How many states have had wildfires this year? _____
8. How many acres of land have burned in these fires? _____
9. How many buildings have been destroyed by wildfires in California this year?

10. What caused wildfire season to start early in California this year? _____

Name _____ Date _____

I. Wildfire and Hurricane Season (continued)

11. What two large fires are still burning in California? _____ and

12. Where in the Atlantic Ocean do hurricanes usually start? _____
13. What are storms in the Atlantic Ocean called when they reach the following windspeeds?
- a. less than 38 miles per hour - _____
 - b. 39 to 73 miles per hour - _____
 - c. greater than 74 miles per hour - _____
14. When did the first named storm form this year? _____
15. How many named storms were there as of September 13? _____
16. What was the worst of these storms? _____
17. Where did this hurricane hit first in the U.S.? _____
18. How strong was it? _____
19. How much damage did it cause? _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Buying Groceries

1. Is this a fruit or a vegetable? Write FRUIT or VEGETABLE on the line after the word.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| a. carrot _____ | b. grapes _____ |
| c. pear _____ | d. broccoli _____ |
| e. cabbage _____ | f. apple _____ |
| g. banana _____ | h. onion _____ |
| i. potato _____ | j. pineapple _____ |

2. Write the best words from this list in the blanks in the following sentences. Use each word only once: **eggs, bananas, milk, peanut butter, beer, butter, frozen peas, tissues, toothpaste, paper towels, corn, potatoes, tuna fish, bread.**

When you are at the store, please pick up these things:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. a loaf of _____, | b. a gallon of _____, |
| c. a roll of _____, | d. a tube of _____, |
| e. two sticks of _____, | f. a six-pack of _____, |
| g. three ears of _____, | h. a package of _____, |
| i. a box of _____, | j. a bunch of _____, |
| k. 3 pounds of _____, | l. a can of _____, |
| m. a jar of _____, | n. and a dozen _____. |

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in October

1. What two national groups celebrate their heritage in October?

2. Tell two reasons German immigrants came to Pennsylvania.

3. What was the name of their first settlement? _____

4. Name two holiday characters that Germans brought with them to America.

_____ and _____

5. What day is National Boss's Day? _____

6. When is Fire Prevention Week? _____

7. When is Columbus Day? _____

8. When did Columbus arrive in America? _____

9. What country did he sail from? _____

10. What ocean did he sail across? _____

11. What countries was he looking for? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in October (continued)

12. What heritage group celebrates Columbus Day? _____

13. Some states do not celebrate Columbus Day. Instead they celebrate
_____.

14. Where does the United Nations meet? _____

15. What day is United Nations Day? _____

16. How many nations are members of the United Nations? _____

17. What are the six official languages of the United Nations? _____

18. The Secretary General of the United Nations is Antonio Guterres.

What country is he from? _____

19. What day is Halloween? _____

20. What do children say when they knock on peoples' doors on Halloween?

IV. A COVID Vaccine Update

1. What was the name of the new strain of COVID-19? _____
2. What vaccinations have emergency use approval from the Food and Drug Administration?
_____, _____, _____
3. What are some problems with the vaccines? Check your answers.
 - a. there are not enough vaccines for everyone who wants them now
 - b. some people are worried about side effects
 - c. children under 12 years old cannot get the vaccinations yet
 - d. vaccinated people are more likely to get very sick
 - e. some people do not want the vaccine
4. Who does the CDC say is in the most danger from the Delta Variant?

5. What company's vaccine got full FDA approval on August 23? _____
6. What is the vaccine's new name? _____
7. When schools reopened this fall, the number of children getting COVID was increasing.

YES NO
8. Do all parents want mask and vaccination mandates in schools? YES NO

V. Salem, Massachusetts

1. What Massachusetts city started as a Native American Village? _____

2. What is very important to this city's history? _____

3. Where in the world did the sailors from this city go to trade after the Revolutionary War?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

g. _____

4. What picture is on the police cars in this city? _____

5. Why do people go to this city in the fall? a. _____

b. _____ c. _____

Name _____ Date _____

VI. The Salem Witch Trials

1. When did the Salem Witch Trials happen? _____ to _____

2. What group of English Christians came to Salem in 1630? _____

3. What church did they start? _____

4. What college did they start? _____

5. What did the Puritans believe? Check your answers.

a. demons could possess people

b. witches worked for the devil

c. when bad things happened it was God's will

d. witchcraft was a sin

e. witchcraft was a fun game

f. witches should be killed

6. Who were the first three women accused of witchcraft in Salem? _____,

_____, and _____

7. How many Salem residents were accused of being witches? _____

VI. The Salem Witch Trials (continued)

8. What evidence was used to show a person was a witch? Check your answers.

a. the touch test

b. pricking with pins

c. naming other witches

d. herbs

e. ointment

f. making strange noises

g. having books about witchcraft

9. What man was crushed to death by rocks because he would not plead guilty or not guilty?

10. How many people were killed as witches? _____

11. How many accused people died in jail? _____

12. When was the memorial wall built in Salem? _____

13. When did Massachusetts pass a law saying all accused witches were innocent?

14. What two places in Salem do people visit today to learn more about the witch trials?

Critical-Thinking and Creative-Thinking Questions

Choose questions to discuss in a small group or with the class.

1. Meteorologists create a list of 21 names each year for tropical storms and hurricanes. They use the letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, R, S, T, V, and W. They switch between male and female names. If you could name tropical storms and hurricanes, what names would you choose? Why would you choose those names?
2. You, your family, and any pets have to leave your home to evacuate from a wildfire or hurricane. What should you take with you? What clothing? What food and water? What other things? How will you carry them? How will you get to a safe place? Where? What will you do around your home before you leave to keep it as safe as possible?
3. Why aren't all fruits and vegetables sold simply "by the pound?"
4. Does the U.S. have a month to celebrate your culture and history? Tell about it. If not, create activities for such a month. What month would you choose? Why? Who are the heroes of your culture? What events would you create?
5. Fire prevention week is in October. It is important to make sure your family is prepared. Does your home have smoke detectors and fire extinguishers? Make a plan to check them every month and change their batteries every six months. Who will check them? Who will remind that person to check them? Who will change the batteries? Make a plan for your family to leave the house in case of a fire. Is there more than one way out of the home for each person? How will they leave? Where will everyone meet outside the home? What other plans will you need to make?
6. Most of the people accused as witches in Salem were convicted on very little evidence. In most cases, it was just a person saying they were witches. Why do you think people accused others of being witches? What other reasons could there be to explain the strange things happening in Salem at that time? Why would judges and juries convict people of being witches with so little evidence?

October 2021
Answers to Easy English NEWS
Short-Answer Tests

I. Wildfire and Hurricane Season

1. June 1 to November 30
2. June 1 to November 30
3. western
4. eastern and Gulf Coast
5. climate change
6. b, c, d, f
7. 11
8. 4,469,847
9. 3,285
10. drought / no rain
11. Dixie Fire and Caldor Fire
12. the coast of Africa
13. a. tropical depression
b. tropical storm
c. hurricane
14. middle of May
15. 14
16. Hurricane Ida
17. Louisiana
18. category 4
19. over \$50 billion

I. Buying Groceries

1. a. VEGETABLE b. FRUIT c. FRUIT
d. VEGETABLE e. VEGETABLE f. FRUIT
g. FRUIT h. VEGETABLE i. VEGETABLE
j. FRUIT
2. a. bread b. milk c. paper towels d. toothpaste
e. butter f. beer g. corn h. frozen peas i. tissues
j. bananas k. potatoes l. tuna fish m. peanut butter
n. eggs

III. Events in October

1. German Americans and Italian Americans
2. farmland and religious freedom
3. Germantown
4. Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny
5. October 16
6. October 3-9
7. the second Monday in October (October 11)
8. October 12, 1492
9. Spain
10. Atlantic Ocean
11. Japan, China, India

12. Italian Americans
13. Native American Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day
14. New York City
15. October 24
16. 193
17. English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic
18. Portugal
19. October 31
20. Trick or treat!

IV. A COVID Vaccine Update

1. Delta variant
2. Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson
3. b, c, e
4. unvaccinated people
5. Pfizer
6. Comirnaty
7. YES
8. NO

V. Salem, Massachusetts

1. Salem
2. the water
3. a. Europe b. West Indies c. China d. Africa
e. Russia f. Japan g. Australia
4. witches
5. a. see fall leaves b. dress up
c. celebrate Halloween

VI. The Salem Witch Trials

1. February 1692 to May 1693
2. the Puritans
3. First Church of Salem
4. Harvard University
5. a, b, d, f
6. Sarah Good, Sarah Osborne, Tituba
7. over 200
8. a, c, d, e, g
9. Giles Corey
10. 20 (Giles Corey + 19 others)
11. 5
12. 1992
13. November 2001
14. Salem Witch Museum and
Cry Innocent reenactment

