

Easy English NEWS



September 2021

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

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

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Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking Questions

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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 _____

Are You Careful with Your Devices?

Cell phones, smartphones, laptop computers, tablets, and iPads let us connect with

_____ people. They help us get information from all _____

the world. These electronic devices let us work _____. They can help us in

_____. Smartphones can _____ photos and videos. They can do a

_____ different things.

_____ of COVID-19, people are working from home. Students are

_____ to school online. Families are using more devices to _____.

These devices have been _____ to keep the world working. But they can also cause

serious problems.

WORD BANK

take

because

communicate

over

faster

other

hundred

emergencies

going

important

Name _____ Date _____

American Supermarkets

An American supermarket is a _____ adventure for newcomers. It
_____ time to learn where things are in the store. It takes time to understand
_____ food labels.

Before you _____, make a list of what you need. Get a shopping cart, and
_____ with me!

Do you have a small _____ with you? _____ the child in the safety
seat in the shopping cart.

The supermarket has many _____. Signs tell what is in _____ aisle.
The labels on canned foods and frozen foods have pictures that tell what is _____.

WORD BANK

put

shop

American

child

aisles

big

come

inside

each

takes

Name _____ Date _____

Back to School

Students go back to school in late _____ or early September.

_____ schools give their students a school handbook. The handbook gives students and parents information _____ school rules.

In some schools, students wear a _____. Other schools _____ a dress code. For _____, students may not wear clothes that show they belong to a gang. They _____ not wear clothing that has bad language or bad pictures on it.

Some schools may have security _____ in the halls. There may be metal detectors at the _____ door. Students are not _____ to bring dangerous things to school such as guns, toy guns, knives, Mace, cigarette lighters, or drugs.

Students who need to take medicine during the day must leave their medicine with the school nurse. Only the nurse can give it to them.

WORD BANK

have	August	example	about	allowed
some	guards	uniform	may	front

Name _____ Date _____

Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 to October 15 is National Hispanic-American Heritage Month. The dates for Hispanic-American Heritage Month were _____ to honor the declarations of independence of five Latin American countries.

There are more than 60,480,000 _____ in the U.S. They are 18.5% of the U.S. population and the _____ minority group in the country. Many Hispanic people were born _____ in the United States. Others are from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean _____. People _____ refer to Hispanics as Latinos.

California has the largest Hispanic population (15.87 _____) of any state. _____ is second (11.5 million), and Florida is third (5.6 million).

Hispanics celebrate their history and culture this _____. Parents _____ to their children about their family history. Schools teach about Latino heroes.

Latino groups put on dances, plays, and festivals. In many cities, there are Latino parades.

WORD BANK

Texas	million	Hispanics	here	often
month	Islands	largest	talk	chosen

Name _____ Date _____

Tokyo 2020 Olympics in 2021

The Olympic games is one of the _____ sporting events in the world. People from _____ 200 countries compete in sports. The _____ are the best in the world. There are summer and winter games _____ two years in rotating cities. It is an _____ to host the Olympics. The 2020 Olympics were _____ for July 24 to August 9, 2020 in Tokyo, Japan, but the pandemic caused problems.

COVID-19 danger

In the spring of 2020, _____ was making people sick all over the world. Countries were locked _____. People were not allowed to _____ in big groups. There was not a _____ or a cure for the virus. World leaders were worried that a big event like the Olympics would make the pandemic worse. They were afraid more people would get sick and die.

WORD BANK

every	gather	scheduled	biggest	down
over	honor	COVID-19	winners	vaccine

Name _____ Date _____

The 20th Anniversary of September 11

When most Americans woke up on September 11, 2001, it was a _____ Tuesday.

They got up, _____ showers, ate breakfast, and went to work and school. They did

not know what was going to _____. They did not know the world would change

_____.

8:46 am

At 8:46 am an _____ crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in

New York City. There was fire and smoke _____ from the tower. At first, people

_____ it was an accident. They thought the pilot got _____ or had an

emergency.

9:03 am

At 9:03 am an airplane _____ into the South Tower of the World Trade Center. There

was _____ smoke and fire. Now people knew this was not an accident.

WORD BANK

took

coming

airplane

happen

more

lost

normal

crashed

forever

thought

Name _____ Date _____

Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area

Vermilion Cliffs is a very _____ wilderness area near the Utah and Arizona border.

It is _____ of beauty and surprises. You can see some of the most amazing rock _____ in the world. There are pillars of sandstone, mushroom-shaped towers, and many unusual things to _____. The sandstone is as colorful as a _____ with yellows, pinks, and reds.

It's _____ easy to get to this remote wilderness area. You _____ a car or truck with four-wheel drive.

There are no roads to some of the beautiful places _____. You have to _____ on foot. A favorite spot is “the Wave.” It’s a huge rock formation that _____ like ocean waves. You will be surprised when you see it. It will be hard to keep your mouth closed!

WORD BANK

need	looks	formations	special	full
here	hike	rainbow	not	see

Name _____ Date _____

September 2021: 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. electronic device	digital technology	landline phone	cell phone
2. injure	cause harm	low frequency	accident
3. battery	laptop	charger	plug in
4. dairy	meat	produce	technology
5. help desk	courtesy desk	customer service desk	self check-out
6. challah	apples	pumpkins	honey
7. Central America	Afghanistan	Mexico	Caribbean Islands
8. Sonia Sotomayor	Marco Rubio	Jorge Ramos	Adriano Espaillat
9. al-Qaeda	Osama bin Laden	passengers	hijackers
10. sandstone	gold	silver	bronze
11. Tokyo	New York City	Paris	Beijing
12. Pentagon	World Trade Center	Pennsylvania field	White House

Name _____ Date _____

I. Are You Careful With Your Devices?

1. What kind of radiation energy do cell phones give off? _____

2. How much time do children spend, on the average, on smart phones and other digital devices?

3. How much time do teenagers spend on smart phones and other digital devices each day?

4. Has research definitely proven that cell phone use causes cancer? YES NO

5. Which use of a cell phone gives off less radiation? TEXTING CALLING

6. What percentage of car crashes in the U.S. are caused by drivers on cell phones? _____

7. How many states have laws against talking on a cell phone while driving? _____

8. How many states have laws against texting while driving? _____

9. Should you call your friends on your cell phone when you are in the bathtub? YES NO

10. When is it safer to use your laptop computer?

WHEN IT IS PLUGGED IN	ON BATTERY POWER
-----------------------	------------------

11. Can a person become addicted to cell phones and other technology? YES NO

II. American Supermarkets

1 - 6. Where in the supermarket can you find these things? Write each item on the line next to the place you can find it.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. milk | b. bacon | c. cold cuts | d. fresh vegetables |
| e. tissues | f. fresh bread | g. macaroni salad | h. apples |
| i. birthday cake | j. butter | k. toilet paper | l. ground beef |

1. Meat department _____

2. Delicatessen _____

3. Dairy department _____

4. Produce department _____

5. Bakery _____

6. Paper goods _____

7. What are the small black lines on a product label called? _____

8. What can you bring to a supermarket to get a discount or a lower price on some items?

9. Which checkout lane is for customers with only a few items to buy? _____

10. Where in the store can a customer bring things to return? _____

11. What date is on perishable food such as milk or meat? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in September

1. Which religion celebrates the holiday of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur? _____
2. What is another name for Yom Kippur? _____
3. What holiday is on the first Monday of September? _____
4. When is Patriot Day? _____
5. When is Grandparents Day? _____
6. September 17 is Constitution Day. What year was the U.S. Constitution signed? _____
7. When is the first day of Autumn? _____
8. What do people like to do in the fall? Check all the answers that apply.

a. plan trips to see colorful leaves	b. have harvest festivals
c. go to the beach	d. pick apples and pumpkins
e. eat ice cream	f. drink apple cider
g. have bonfires	h. shovel snow
i. go on hayrides	j. pick wildflowers
9. How many Hispanic people live in the United States? _____
10. What percent of the U.S. population is Hispanic? _____
11. What is another name for Hispanic? _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Tokyo 2020 Olympics in 2021

1. When were the Tokyo olympics originally scheduled?

_____ to _____

2. Why were the games postponed? _____

3. Could the athletes bring family and friends to the games? YES NO

4. What does the first place winner of each event get? _____

5. What country won the most medals? _____

6. How many athletes traveled to Tokyo? _____

7. How many events did these athletes compete in? _____

8. Who will host the next summer Olympics? _____

9. When will that happen? _____

10. Who will host the winter Olympics in 2022? _____

11. Who competes in the Paralympic Games? _____

Name _____ Date _____

V. Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area

1. In what two states is the Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area?

_____ and _____

2. What are the rock formations made out of? _____

3. What colors can people see in the rocks? _____

_____ and _____

4. What kind of car or truck do you need to get to Vermilion Cliffs?

5. How long is the hike to the Wave? _____

6. How much water should each person carry with them? _____

7. When are the best seasons to go to Vermilion Cliffs? _____ and _____

8. How many people per day can get permits to hike to the Wave? _____

9. What large birds live in the Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area? _____

and _____

8. How fast can a peregrine falcon fly? _____

Name _____ Date _____

VI. The 20th Anniversary of September 11

1. On September 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked by terrorists. Where did the four planes crash?

_____, _____,
_____, and _____

2. What times did the planes crash?

plane #1 _____

plane #2 _____

plane #3 _____

plane #4 _____

3. What caused a ripple effect in New York City around the World Trade Center?

4. How many people died in these attacks? _____

5. How many other people were injured? _____

6. What group planned the attacks? _____

7. Who was their leader? _____

8. Where were they training more terrorists? _____

9. What building was built in New York City where the Twin Towers used to be?

Creative-thinking and Critical-thinking Questions

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

1. Talk to ten people who have been using a cell phone for more than ten years: *Do you have any health problems that might be caused by your cell phone? Insomnia? Burns? Tumors? Loss of memory? Something else? Has your cell phone caught on fire or exploded?* Report to the class.
2. After reading the article “Are you careful with your devices?”, have you changed the way you use your cell phone, laptop, or iPad? Ask others in the class and give a report to the class.
3. Create a shopping list to take to the supermarket. Pick out coupons from your store ads or the internet for items you buy. Figure out which aisle each item should be in. Take your list to the grocery store. Was it easy to find all of your items? Were the items where you thought they would be? If not, where were they? Did you save money with your coupons? How much?
4. How would you improve the supermarket to make it easier to shop and a more pleasant experience?
5. A supermarket may have a full aisle for different kinds of cat food and dog food. What does that tell you about Americans and their pets? What does it tell you about business? What conclusions can you draw from this?
6. Talk to your grandparents or other family elders about the family’s history. *Where were they born? Who were their parents? What occupations did family members have? What stories can they tell?* Record their stories. Ask for photos. Write down stories that you want your own children to know and remember. Create a family tree for as far back as you have information. Explain your family tree in a small group.
7. Where were you on September 11, 2001? What do you remember about that day? Were you in the United States or another country?
8. Plan a memorial for September 11 for your class, school, or community. Where will you have it? What will people do? Create a plan and present it to the class.

September 2021
Answers to Easy English NEWS
Short-Answer Tests

I. Are You Careful with Your Devices?

1. radio frequency (RF)
2. 4 hours 44 minutes
3. 7 hours 22 minutes
4. NO
5. TEXTING
6. 1/4, 25%
7. 24
8. 48
9. NO
10. On battery
11. YES

II. American Supermarkets

1. b. bacon; l. ground beef
2. c. cold cuts; g. macaroni salad
3. a. milk; j. butter
4. d. fresh vegetables; h. apples
5. f. fresh bread; i. birthday cake
6. e. tissues; k. toilet paper
7. bar code
8. coupon
9. express lane
10. customer service desk/help desk/courtesy desk
11. expiration date/best by date

III. Events in September

1. Jewish
2. Day of Atonement
3. Labor Day
4. September 11
5. September 12 (second Sunday in September)
6. 1787
7. September 22
8. a, b, d, f, g, i
9. 60,480,000
10. 18.5%
11. Latino

IV. Tokyo 2020 Olympics in 2021

1. July 24, 2020 to August 9, 2020
2. COVID-19

3. NO
4. a gold medal
5. USA
6. 11,000
7. 339
8. Paris, France
9. 2024
10. Beijing, China
11. athletes with disabilities

V. Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness Area

1. Utah and Arizona
2. sandstone
3. yellow, pink, and red
4. 4-wheel drive
5. 3 hours
6. one gallon
7. spring and fall
8. 20
9. California condor, peregrine falcon
10. 200 miles per hour

VI. The 20th Anniversary of September 11

1. North Tower of the World Trade Center,
South Tower of the World Trade Center,
Pentagon,
field in Pennsylvania
2. Plane #1 - 8:46 am;
Plane #2 - 9:03 am;
Plane #3 - 9:37 am;
Plane #4 - 10:03 am
3. the towers collapsing
4. almost 3,000
5. 6,000
6. Al-Qaeda
7. Osama bin Laden
8. Afghanistan
9. One World Trade Center

