

Easy English NEWS



April 2022

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

To the Teacher

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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.

Each month's *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 articles.
- 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, or in pairs or 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 might be more than one possible answer in each group of words.

- 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 _____

Save the Manatees

Manatees in _____ are in trouble. In 2021, over 1,100
_____ died. This is two times as _____ as
usual. So far this year, over 400 more manatees have _____. This
_____ mean that more manatees will die in 2022 than last year. But why is it
_____, and, what can people do to help?

What is a manatee?

Manatees are big gray _____ animals. They have
_____ flippers and a flat, round tail. They are about 10 feet long and weigh
_____ 800 and 1,200 pounds. They can _____ up to
60 years.

WORD BANK

marine	could	happening	between	live
many	died	manatees	Florida	two

Name _____ Date _____

Cleaning Products

There are _____ of different kinds of cleaning products. It's _____ to know which products to buy. It's hard to read the directions. It's hard to _____ the warnings.

Many cleaning products _____ strong chemicals. Small children are hurt or _____ by cleaning products each year. Adults who cannot read English are also hurt.

Washing clothes

We use many kinds of laundry detergents to _____ our clothes. Detergents may be in powder or _____ form. Some detergents are concentrated, so we need only a small _____. Some washing _____ need high-efficiency (HE) laundry detergent.

Bleach helps make white cotton clothing, sheets, and towels _____ white.

WORD BANK

contain	liquid	hundreds	poisoned	hard
amount	bright	understand	machines	wash

Name _____ Date _____

International Day of Sport

April 6 is the International Day of Sport for _____ and Peace. This day celebrates the power of sports to create friendships _____ groups of people.

People do not need to _____ the same language to make friends through sports.

Many communities have _____ events on this day. Athletes play sports with _____ to encourage them to love sports. It's a good day to go outside and throw a _____, kick a soccer ball, run, play tennis, and more.

The United Nations (UN) and the International _____ Committee (IOC) created this _____ in 2013. They chose April 6 for a _____ reason. The first modern Olympic Games _____ in Athens, Greece on April 6, 1896.

WORD BANK

baseball	started	development	sports	speak
between	special	holiday	Olympic	children

Name _____ Date _____

Arbor Day

National Arbor Day is the last _____ in April each year. This year it is on _____ 29. It is the 150th _____ of Arbor Day. It's a day for _____ trees, learning about trees, and enjoying trees.

Each state celebrates _____ Day at the best time for planting trees.

For example, in Florida, Arbor Day is the _____ Friday in January. In _____, it is the third week in May.

Why are trees important to us? A few answers:

- Trees make oxygen that people and other animals _____.
- Trees take carbon dioxide out of the _____.
- Trees are homes for birds, monkeys, _____, toads, insects, and many other animals.

WORD BANK

third	squirrels	anniversary	Maine	air
Arbor	breathe	planting	Friday	April

Name _____ Date _____

Calling the Poison Help Line

If you have a poison emergency or _____, call the American Association of Poison Control Centers at 1-800-222-1222 (toll free).

The American Association of _____ Control Centers gives free medical advice 24 _____ a day, seven days a week through the Poison Help Line. This service can save a person's life in a poisoning _____.

The Poison Help Line has _____ for 161 different languages. When you call, an operator will _____ the phone in English. Tell them the language you speak. They will quickly get a person on another _____ to interpret for you.

Bring the _____ of the product with you to the phone or the doctor.

Stay calm. _____ instructions. If a person is _____ or is not breathing, call 911.

WORD BANK

question	container	emergency	interpreters	hours
answer	Poison	unconscious	follow	line

Name _____ Date _____

Conflict in Ukraine

On _____ 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that he would begin a military operation in eastern Ukraine. After his announcement, the Russian army began _____ large cities in Ukraine.

They _____ houses, hospitals, and government buildings. Soldiers came into Ukraine from Belarus, Russia, and _____. The Russian army captured the largest _____ power plant in Europe. They were trying to take over Ukraine's capital _____, Kyiv [kEEv]. _____ Ukraine's army fought back. They were _____ than Putin thought.

Why did Russia invade?

In 2014, the local government in Crimea voted to _____ Ukraine and join Russia. People in two other areas in _____ Ukraine, Donetsk and Luhansk, said they wanted independence from Ukraine.

WORD BANK

nuclear	Crimea	attacking	leave	but
bombed	February	stronger	eastern	city

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.	fish	manatees	people	sea grass
2.	starvation	cold stress syndrome	boats	swimming
3.	algae	underwater plants	sea grass	lettuce
4.	tennis	income taxes	baseball	soccer
5.	climate change	drought	oxygen	heat wave
6.	seeds	soil	leaves	roots
7.	April Fool's Day	baby chicks	bunny	eggs
8.	palm branch	lamb bone	bitter herbs	roasted egg
9.	read the Koran	go to the mosque	dye eggs	fast
10.	grease	detergent	fabric softener	bleach
11.	soap suds	fumes	irritant	ammonia
12.	Donetsk	Russia	Luhansk	Crimea

Name _____ Date _____

I. Save the Manatees

1. How many manatees died in 2021? _____
2. How many manatees have died so far in 2022? _____
3. How long are manatees? _____
4. How much do they weigh? _____
5. How long do they live? _____
6. What kills around 100 manatees every year? _____
7. Why is it illegal for people to touch, feed, or hurt manatees in Florida?

8. Why do manatees migrate? _____
9. What do manatees eat? _____
10. What is killing the sea grass? _____
11. Who is feeding the manatees lettuce? _____
12. What is the long-term solution to save the manatees? _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Cleaning Products

1. How much of a concentrated cleaning product do you need? _____
2. What chemical used in laundry can make holes in your clothes, take the color out of clothes, and cause burns on the skin? _____
3. What laundry product takes the static cling out of clothes that are dried in the dryer?

4. What strong chemical is used in many window-washing sprays? _____
5. When you clean with a caustic chemical, what should you wear? _____
6. What is the telephone number of the Poison Control Center? _____
7. When is the Poison Help Line able to take your call? _____
8. How many languages does the Poison Help Line have to help people? _____
9. What does it cost to call the Poison Control Center? _____
10. What number should you call if the person who is affected by a bad chemical is unconscious? _____
11. Should you put food or drinks in empty cleaning product containers? YES NO

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in April

1. When is April Fools' Day? _____
2. What Muslim holy month begins on April 2 this year? _____
3. When is the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace? _____
4. When was the first modern Olympic Games? _____
5. Where were the Games first played? _____
6. On which day do Christians believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead? _____
7. Who brings children a basket of eggs and candies on Easter? _____
8. What Jewish holiday begins at sundown on April 15 this year? _____
9. When was the beginning of the American War for Independence? _____
10. What country did Americans want to be free from? _____
11. When did the 13 colonies declare their independence? _____

III. Events in April (continued)

12. In what states is Patriots' Day a state holiday? _____
and _____
13. What famous race happens on this day in Boston? _____
14. Who won the Battle of Concord in 1775? _____
15. What special day is April 22? _____
16. What is a day for planting trees? _____
17. What important gas do trees give off that animals need to breathe? _____
18. What gas do trees take out of the air? _____
19. What day is Administrative Professionals' Day? _____
20. For how many people is English a first language? _____
21. For how many people is it a "second" language? _____
22. What are the six languages of the United Nations? _____,
_____, _____,
_____, _____, and _____

IV. Celebrating Poetry Month

1. When is National Poetry Month? _____

2. When two words have the same ending sound, they rhyme. From the poem, *Who Has Seen the*

Wind?, write the words that rhyme with each of the following words:

(Choose from this list: *seen, wind, nor, leaves, hang, bow, down, heads*)

a. how _____ b. beds _____

c. green _____ d. clown _____

3. *Personification* is when a poet chooses words that make objects seem more human. Which of the following lines from *Who Has Seen the Wind?* use personification? Mark your answers.

- a. Who has seen the wind?
- b. But when the leaves hang trembling,
- c. Neither you nor I:
- d. But when the trees bow down their heads,

3. Who wrote the poems *Who Has Seen the Wind?* and *Clouds?*

4. What are tools that a poet uses in a poem called? _____

V. Conflict in Ukraine

1. When did Vladimir Putin start a military operation in eastern Ukraine? _____

2. What is the capital of Ukraine? _____

3. What two areas in eastern Ukraine wanted independence from Ukraine?
_____ and _____

4. What does NATO Stand for? _____

5. How many countries are a part of NATO? _____

6. What doesn't Putin want Ukraine to have from NATO? _____

7. What did the United States and other countries do to Russia to hurt the economy there?

8. How many people are internally displaced in Ukraine because of the war? _____

9. How many people have left Ukraine as refugees because of the war? _____

10. Where did most of them go? _____,
_____, and _____

11. What did President Biden send to Poland? _____ and _____

Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking Questions

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

1. Groups have been talking about saving the manatees for years. In 2017, it looked like the conservation efforts were working. The numbers of manatees in the water around the United States were growing. But now, they are dying in large numbers again. If you live in areas near the water, come up with ways to tell your community about the problem. Make flyers, information sheets, etc. to give information about the problem and how they can help. If you don't live in an area near the water, research animals in your area that may be threatened or endangered. Come up with ways to tell your community about this animal and how they can help save it. What information will you put on your flyers? Will you have pictures or drawings? Think about creative ways that they can help the problem.
2. Write a letter to your representative and senators. Tell your opinion about adding the manatees to the endangered species list to help protect them. Give your reasons.
3. Stories from sailors many years ago tell of creatures they called mermaids. These half human half fish creatures lived in the ocean and swam up to the sailors' boats. Today, we believe that these sailors may have seen manatees in the water coming up to their boats. Look at pictures of manatees and mermaids. List the similarities and differences between the two creatures. Why do you think the sailors thought the manatees were mermaids?
4. In April we celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day. Communities have clean-up days, tree planting activities, and other special programs to celebrate. Research what events are happening in your area this year. Plan an event for your class or school. What will you do at your event? Where will you have it? When will it be? Who will you invite to participate? What supplies will you need? What will you supply and what will you have participants bring with them? Share your plans with the class.
5. Vladimir Putin says he is attacking Ukraine to protect Russia. But the people of Ukraine say they are a peaceful democracy that is not a threat to Russia or the people. The Ukrainian army is fighting for their country and their lives. What do you think the Russian army is fighting for? How long do you think this conflict will continue? Why do you think that? What do you think could end the war?

April 2022
Answers to *Easy English NEWS*
Short-Answer Tests

I. Save the Manatees

1. 1,100
2. 400
3. 10 feet long
4. 800 to 1,200 pounds
5. over 60 years
6. boats
7. They are protected.
8. to find food; to stay in warmer water
9. sea grass and other underwater plants
10. algae blooms
11. Florida and U.S. wildlife officials
12. Clean up the water

II. Cleaning Products

1. a small amount
2. bleach
3. fabric softener
4. ammonia
5. gloves
6. 1-800-222-1222
7. any time (24 hours a day)
8. 161
9. nothing/it's toll free
10. 911
11. NO

III. Events in April

1. April 1
2. Ramadan
3. April 6
4. April 6, 1896
5. Athens, Greece
6. Easter Sunday
7. the Easter Bunny
8. Passover
9. April 19, 1775

10. Britain
11. July 4, 1776
12. Massachusetts and Maine
13. Boston Marathon
14. the Americans
15. Earth Day
16. Arbor Day
17. oxygen
18. carbon dioxide
19. April 27
20. 360 million
21. over a billion
22. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish

IV. Celebrating Poetry Month

1. April
2. a. bow, b. heads, c. seen, d. down
3. b, d
3. Christina Rossetti
4. poetic devices

V. Conflict in Ukraine

1. February 24
2. Kyiv
3. Donetsk and Luhansk
4. North Atlantic Treaty Organization
5. 30
6. protection
7. gave them sanctions
8. 1.85 million
9. over 3 million
10. Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Moldova
11. troops and supplies

