

Easy English NEWS



February 2022

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

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

The 2022 Winter Olympics
Reading Nutrition Facts
George Washington
Abraham Lincoln
Chinese New Year
Death Valley

Which Word Does Not Belong?

Short-Answer Tests

The 2022 Winter Olympics
Reading Nutrition Facts
Events in February (2 pages)
Death Valley
Selma, Alabama, and “Bloody Sunday” (2 pages)

Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking Questions

Answers

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 _____

The 2022 Winter Olympics

Every _____ years, the Olympic Games are in a different part of the world. This year, the Winter Olympics will be in _____, China. It's a time for the _____ athletes in the world to compete. There will be 17 days of _____ from February 4 to February 20.

Beijing

Beijing is the _____ of the People's Republic of China. It is in Northern China. _____ 21 million people live there. It is one of the oldest cities in the world. _____ go to Beijing to see the beautiful palaces, temples, parks, gardens, tombs, walls, and gates there.

Beijing also _____ the 2008 Summer Olympics. This is the _____ time that the winter Olympics will be hosted by a city that also hosted a summer Olympics. Some of the buildings, stadiums, and sports arenas from 2008 will be used _____ in this Olympics.

WORD BANK

capital	first	tourists	events	over
hosted	four	Beijing	again	best

Name _____ Date _____

Reading Nutrition Facts

You can make good food _____ when you know

- the nutrients your _____ needs,
- how much of each nutrient you _____ each day, and
- how much of each _____ is in the food you buy.

This article is about the nutrients that the _____ person needs. Each person is different. Pay _____ to your body to find out what works best for you.

An average adult of 150 pounds needs 2,000 calories from food _____ day. People who are very _____ need more calories. People who are less active need _____ calories. If you eat more calories than your body can _____, you will gain weight.

Our bodies need five kinds of nutrients: protein, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, and minerals. We also need water and fiber.

WORD BANK

need	average	active	burn	body
choices	attention	nutrient	each	fewer

Name _____ Date _____

George Washington

George Washington's _____ is February 22. He was born in 1732.

George Washington was the commander-in-chief in the American _____ of Independence against Britain. He helped _____ the Constitution of the United States. He became the first _____. People _____ him for his intelligence, courage, and honesty. He is often called "the Father of Our Country."

People told many _____ about George Washington. One story was in many schoolbooks: When George Washington was a _____ boy, his father gave him an ax for his birthday. George practiced chopping with the ax. He _____ down his father's favorite cherry tree. When George's father saw his tree on the _____, he was angry. He asked, "Who chopped down my _____ tree?"

WORD BANK

war	stories	chopped	write	young
ground	birthday	president	cherry	admired

Name _____ Date _____

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809. His family was very _____.

They lived in a log _____. Lincoln's _____ died when he was young.

Later, Lincoln became a lawyer. He wanted to help make fair _____. People called him "Honest Abe."

In 1846, voters in Illinois _____ Lincoln to Congress as a representative. In 1860, Americans elected him _____ of the United States.

After Lincoln's election, eleven southern _____ seceded from the Union. This started the Civil War _____ the North and the South.

One terrible _____ was in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in 1863. Many soldiers died in this battle. They were buried there. Later that year, President Lincoln made a short speech at _____.

WORD BANK

president

battle

cabin

elected

poor

between

laws

states

Gettysburg

mother

Name _____ Date _____

Chinese New Year

The _____ Lunar Year will begin on February 1. The *Year of the Ox* will end. The *Year of the* _____ begins.

Lunar New Year is a very _____ holiday for Chinese people and many other Asians. They pay all their _____ before the new year. They clean their house completely. They hope to _____ away bad luck. They make room for good _____ to come in. They decorate doors and _____. They buy new clothes.

All the members of the family get together on New Year's _____. They have a feast.

The most popular food is *jiaozi*. These are _____ or fried dumplings. The word *jiaozi* has another _____: *good wishes for a big family*.

WORD BANK

sweep	Chinese	important	debts	luck
boiled	windows	meaning	tiger	Eve

Name _____ Date _____

Death Valley

Death Valley, California is a _____ of extremes. It is one of the _____ places in the world. Summer temperatures can reach 120 _____ Fahrenheit. When the sun goes down, it gets very cold. It is the driest place in North _____. It has an average rainfall of less than two _____ per year. It is 282 feet _____ sea level. (At one time, it actually was under a sea.) It is the largest national park in the U.S. outside of Alaska. Death Valley _____ Park has more than three _____ acres of land.

Death Valley is also a very beautiful place. After a _____, it blooms with flowers. There are beautiful sand dunes, canyons, and rock formations. Snow-covered mountains _____ Death Valley.

WORD BANK

land	inches	border	hottest	rainfall
degrees	million	below	America	National

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.	skiing	figure skating	speedskating	marching
2.	Beijing	Death Valley	Tokyo	Sochi
3.	Lithuania	United States	Saudia Arabia	Belgium
4.	medal	bronze	silver	gold
5.	peaceful protest	segregation	boycott	sit-in
6.	civil rights activists	Ku Klux Klan	segregationists	state police
7.	Martin Luther King Jr.	Amelia Boyton	John Lewis	Lyndon Johnson
8.	warmhearted	coldhearted	loving	generous
9.	olive oil	avocados	cookies	nuts
10.	muscles	bones	blood	hair
11.	vegetables	fruit	whole grains	desserts
12.	milk	sodium	cheese	yogurt

Name _____ Date _____

I. The 2022 Winter Olympics

1. The 2022 Winter Olympic Games will be in Beijing. In what country is that?

2. How many days will the Olympics be? _____

3. When will it start? _____

4. How many different medal events will there be? _____

5. When did the International Olympic Committee choose Beijing for the Olympics? _____

6. What two countries will send athletes to the Olympics for the first time in 2022?

_____ and _____

7. How many different countries will send athletes to the Olympics? _____

8. How many athletes will go from the United States? _____

9. What two countries were banned from the 2022 Olympics? _____

and _____

10. On what television network can you watch the Winter Olympics? _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Reading Nutrition Facts

1. How many calories does the average adult of 150 pounds need per day? _____
2. Does a person need more calories or fewer calories if he or she is very active? _____
3. What happens if a person eats more calories than his or her body burns?

4. How much protein does a 150-pound adult need per day? At least _____ grams.
5. Olive oil, peanut oil, and flax seed oil are all _____ fats.
6. Chicken, meat, beans, nuts, yogurt, and peanut butter are all good sources of
_____.
7. What mineral helps build bones and teeth? _____
8. What helps move food through the digestive tract? _____
9. What nutrient helps build and repair muscles? _____
10. What nutrient is important for the brain and nervous system? _____
11. Do empty-calorie foods have many useful nutrients in them? YES NO

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in February

1. February is _____-American History Month.

2. According to an old superstition, what does a groundhog look for on February 2?

3. The Super Bowl is a championship game in what sport? _____

4. February 1 is very important for many Asian because it is the Lunar
_____.

5. What is the most popular food on this day? _____

6. What animal represents 2022 in the Chinese calendar? _____

7. What day in February is for sweethearts and people you love?

8. What holiday is the third Monday in February? _____

9. Who was the first president of the United States? _____

10. He is often called “the _____ of our country.”

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in February (continued)

11. Whose face is on the quarter and one dollar bill? _____

12. What year was Abraham Lincoln elected president of the United States? _____

13. What war started right after he became president? _____

14. Where did Lincoln give a speech that became famous?

15. On what money can you see Lincoln's face?

_____ and _____

16. What documents do employers give out at the end of January?

_____ and _____

17. When are the Paralympic Games? _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Death Valley

1. How hot can Death Valley get in the summer? _____

2. Does it stay hot after the sun goes down? YES NO

3. How many inches of rain does Death Valley receive each year, on average?

4. What happens in Death Valley after a rainfall? _____

5. How many kinds of plants live in Death Valley? _____

6. How many kinds of reptiles live in Death Valley? _____

7. What happened to many people who tried to walk or ride across this desert?

8. How can you cross Death Valley today?

9. What mountains are along the west side of Death Valley?

10. When is best time to visit Death Valley?

_____ through _____

Name _____ Date _____

V. Selma, Alabama and “Bloody Sunday”

1. When did the Civil War end? _____
2. Which amendment gave black men the right to vote? _____
3. Who protected the black men’s right to vote after the Civil War? _____
4. What terrorist organization kept black people from voting? _____
5. What tax did black people have to pay in order to vote? _____
6. What kind of test did they have to take? _____
7. Did white men have to pay the tax or take a test to vote? YES NO
8. What activist group started a plan to register black people in Selma, Alabama?

9. How far was the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama? _____
10. Who led the first march? _____ and

Name _____ Date _____

V. Selma, Alabama and “Bloody Sunday” (continued)

11. Who stopped the marchers at the bridge across the Alabama River?

12. What day became known as “Bloody Sunday?” _____

13. Where was James Reeb from? _____

14. Who killed him? _____

15. Who was president at the time of these marches? _____

16. Who protected the marchers on the third march? _____

17. How many people marched into Montgomery, Alabama in the third march?

18. When did Congress pass a national voting rights act? _____

19. In 2021, how many states passed laws that make it harder for Americans to vote? _____

20. Congress is working on laws to protect voting rights. Have they passed these laws yet?

YES

NO

Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking Questions

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

1. The 2022 Olympic motto is *Together for a Shared Future*. The motto shows that the Olympics overcomes world challenges together as a community. It also shows that the people who participate in the games believe in a future where we all work together. The Olympics are a series of competitions. How do these games where people are competing help bring the world together? How does the future of the world get better from these competitions?
2. COVID-19 has changed the world over the past two years. How have these changes affected the Olympic Games during this time (2020 Summer Olympics and 2022 Winter Olympics)? Do you think it is good to get so many people together from all different countries right now? Why or why not?
3. Bing Dwen Dwen, a panda wearing a suit made out of ice, is the mascot for the Beijing Olympics. The eagle is the national bird for the United States. What would be a good mascot for you? For your class? Explain why.
4. When people are unhappy with a place or service, they may boycott it. This means that they will not go to this place or use this service until they see that what they didn't like has changed. This technique has been used in history too. African Americans boycotted the buses in Montgomery, Alabama until the buses were not segregated anymore. Some governments are boycotting the 2022 Olympics by not sending officials to the games. This is to show the Chinese government that these countries do not like the way China treats their people. Do you think a boycott is a good way to make people or places change? Why or why not? What is something in your life that you boycott or would like to boycott? Why?
5. Take the nutrition labels from your favorite foods. Look at all of the nutrients listed. When you eat these foods, are you getting enough protein? Calcium? Fiber? etc. Create a menu of foods for you and your family to eat for a day. What foods would you include to make sure your family is getting enough nutrients?
6. In the U.S., there are some groups that don't have the right to vote: People under the age of 18, people in prison, people who have been convicted of a felony, immigrants who are not citizens, people who have been judged mentally incompetent. Do you think the people in these groups should be given the right to vote? Why or why not? Imagine you want to help people in one of these groups to get the right to vote. How would you do it?
7. Create a list of sayings with the word "Love" in them. Interview people to get more English sayings. Examples: *He's the love of my life. Love is blind.*

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

I. The 2022 Winter Olympics

1. People's Republic of China; China
2. 17 days,
3. February 4
4. 109
5. 2015
6. Haiti and Saudi Arabia
7. 87
8. around 200
9. Russia and North Korea
10. NBC

II. Reading Nutrition Facts

1. 2,000
2. more calories
3. they gain weight
4. 54 grams
5. unsaturated
6. protein
7. calcium
8. fiber
9. protein
10. fat
11. NO

III. Events in February

1. African
2. its shadow
3. football
4. New Year
5. jiaozi
6. tiger
7. 40 days
8. Presidents Day
9. George Washington
10. father
11. George Washington
12. 1860
13. the Civil War
14. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

15. five dollar bill and penny
16. W-2 forms and 1099 forms
17. March 4 to March 14

IV. Death Valley

1. 120 degrees Fahrenheit
2. NO
3. less than 2 inches per year
4. flowers bloom
5. more than 1,000
6. 36
7. they died from heat and thirst
8. in an air-conditioned car
9. Panamint Mountains
10. from November through April

V. Selma, Alabama and "Bloody Sunday"

1. 1865
2. 15th Amendment
3. the U.S. Army
4. the Ku Klux Klan
5. poll tax
6. reading test
7. NO
8. Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
9. 54 miles
10. Amelia Boynton and John Lewis
11. Alabama state police
12. March 7, 1965
13. Boston, Massachusetts
14. the KKK
15. Lyndon Johnson
16. the Alabama State Guard
17. 25,000
18. summer of 1965
19. 19
20. NO

