



**June 2022**

**Cloze Exercises, Short-answer Tests, and  
Critical-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.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Learning Loss

Most schools and some \_\_\_\_\_ classes close for the summer. Students get a \_\_\_\_\_ from teachers, lessons, and homework. This break can \_\_\_\_\_ stress and give families time together. But studies have shown that time away from classes can \_\_\_\_\_ reading and math skills. It can make \_\_\_\_\_ English much slower. This is \_\_\_\_\_ the *summer learning loss*.

Over the past two years, COVID-19 \_\_\_\_\_ closed schools. Students had more time \_\_\_\_\_ from classes. They spent more time learning \_\_\_\_\_.

These closures also put students \_\_\_\_\_. Even though most schools have opened again, students have not all caught up.

### WORD BANK

called	learning	infections	online	away
break	lower	community	behind	hurt

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Places to Buy Clothes

There are a lot of places to \_\_\_\_\_ clothes. Shopping malls and \_\_\_\_\_ malls have stores for women's clothing, men's clothing, and children's clothing. There are shops for people who need \_\_\_\_\_ sizes, such as Big and Tall shops for men or Lane Bryant and Torrid for women. There are shops for expectant \_\_\_\_\_ and for high-fashion clothing. Some stores sell \_\_\_\_\_ shoes or only sports clothing.

A department store sells clothing and shoes for the \_\_\_\_\_ family. It also sells \_\_\_\_\_ other things.

Do you want a bargain? A factory \_\_\_\_\_ sells new clothing at low prices. A consignment shop sells used clothing in good \_\_\_\_\_. A thrift shop sells donated clothing at very low prices. You can find great \_\_\_\_\_ at these shops or at a garage sale.

### WORD BANK

mothers	only	condition	larger	buy
whole	strip	bargains	outlet	many

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## July 4, 1776

Before 1776, there were 13 \_\_\_\_\_ on the east coast of North America. These colonies \_\_\_\_\_ to Great Britain (England).

In the 1760s and '70s, Britain put \_\_\_\_\_ taxes on things that the colonists used every day. Britain made laws that took \_\_\_\_\_ some of the colonists' freedoms.

However, colonists could not send representatives to the British Parliament. They had no way to \_\_\_\_\_ things.

In 1775, leaders from each colony met in Philadelphia, \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about these problems. This group was called the Continental Congress. They said, "Taxation \_\_\_\_\_ representation is wrong." They began to fight for their "rights as Englishmen."

In 1776, the members of the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia a \_\_\_\_\_ time. This time they voted to fight for complete \_\_\_\_\_. One of the leaders was Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson wrote a document called the \_\_\_\_\_ of Independence.

### WORD BANK

belonged	change	Pennsylvania	without	new
Declaration	second	independence	colonies	away

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Safety

Summer is a time for \_\_\_\_\_. The weather is \_\_\_\_\_ and sunny.  
\_\_\_\_\_ have a break from school. Families take \_\_\_\_\_. People  
\_\_\_\_\_ more time outside. Follow these \_\_\_\_\_ tips to help make  
summer fun safe:

- Drink \_\_\_\_\_ of water. When people are outside in the heat,  
they \_\_\_\_\_. They need to drink lots of water so they don't get  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- Don't leave children and pets in a hot car. The \_\_\_\_\_ in a car gets very high very  
fast. Children and pets can get sick or die if they are stuck in this heat.

### WORD BANK

students	easy	temperature	sweat	warm
relaxing	sick	vacations	spend	lots

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## The Grand Canyon

The Grand Canyon is in \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ is 277 miles long and up to 18 miles wide. It is 4,000 to 6,093 feet deep. The Colorado River made the canyon over \_\_\_\_\_ of years. The water from the river \_\_\_\_\_ the rocks little by little. Over many \_\_\_\_\_, this erosion turned the riverbed into a canyon. The layers of rock on the canyon walls are very \_\_\_\_\_.

Native \_\_\_\_\_ have lived in the Grand Canyon for thousands of years. They built their \_\_\_\_\_ in the canyon caves. The \_\_\_\_\_ people believe the Grand Canyon is a holy place.

President Theodore \_\_\_\_\_ visited the Grand Canyon a lot. In 1908, he made the Grand Canyon a national monument.

### WORD BANK

eroded	Pueblo	Americans	canyon	homes
Arizona	Roosevelt	thousands	beautiful	years

## 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.

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
1.	reading	math	comprehension	cooking
2.	homework	games	story time	travel
3.	movies	audiobooks	books	video games
4.	factory outlet	thrift shop	garage sale	catalog
5.	price tag	refund	cashier	receipt
6.	Independence Day	Flag Day	Father's Day	Juneteenth
7.	diploma	valedictorian	awards	gifts
8.	drink water	wear sunscreen	wear bug spray	use fireworks
9.	ride a mule	hike	go to the library	camp
10.	price tag	cap	receipt	return label
11.	library	strip mall	online	catalog
12.	king	finger	ring	sing



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## I. Summer Learning Loss

1. What can lower stress and give families time together in the summer? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does time away from classes hurt? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What closed schools over the past two years? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Have students caught up from these school closures? YES NO

5. What can someone do to make summer learning fun? Mark all your answers.

a. worksheets

b. cook together

c. play games

d. multiplication problems

e. read books

f. go to the library

g. travel

h. talk to park rangers

i. take tests

6. What does someone need to check out books and other materials from the library?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What three things do museum exhibits have to help with summer learning?

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

and \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Places to Buy Clothes

1. What kind of store sells clothing for men, women, and children, plus many other things?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What four places have clothing at very low prices? \_\_\_\_\_,

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

and \_\_\_\_\_

3. What are two ways to shop for clothing at home? \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_

4. What do most stores ask for when you return clothing that doesn't fit?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Where in the store can you take items to return? \_\_\_\_\_

6. If a store gives you a store credit, where can you spend it? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What kind of receipt does not tell the price of the item? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What does "All sales are final" mean? \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Events in June and July

1. What document shows that a person has graduated from a high school or college?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the person with the highest grades of a graduating class called?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the person with the second highest grades who makes a welcoming speech at graduation called? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What holiday is on June 14? \_\_\_\_\_

5. When a person says the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, where do they put their right hand?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Should citizens of other countries say the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance?      YES      NO

7. Should you stand up or sit down when people say the Pledge? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What words come after:

“And to the Republic \_\_\_\_\_, ”

9. What day is Father’s Day? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What day does summer begin? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Events in June and July (continued)

11. What color do brides traditionally wear in the U.S.? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What type of wedding does everyone travel to? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What U.S. President issued the Emancipation Proclamation? \_\_\_\_\_

14. When did Juneteenth become a federal holiday? \_\_\_\_\_

15. What is another name for the Fourth of July? \_\_\_\_\_

16. In what year did American leaders sign the Declaration of Independence? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Who did the 13 colonies belong to before 1776? \_\_\_\_\_

18. In what city was the Declaration of Independence signed?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. Colonists said that “\_\_\_\_\_ without representation” was wrong.

20. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? \_\_\_\_\_

21. When is hurricane season in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## IV. Summer Safety

1. What should people drink when it is hot outside in the summer? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What happens to the temperature inside a car on a hot day in the summer?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. When is the sun hottest during the day? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the red, painful, skin rash that comes from too much time in the sun? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How often should you put on sunscreen? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Should you put sunscreen on more often if you are swimming? YES NO

7. Should you swim alone? YES NO

8. What is a person trained in water safety who helps people in a water emergency called?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What should you wear when riding in a boat or on a jet ski? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Who should use fireworks? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## V. The Grand Canyon

1. Where is the Grand Canyon? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How long is it? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How wide is it? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How deep is it? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What river made the canyon? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who has lived in the Grand Canyon for thousands of years? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who believes that the Grand Canyon is a holy place? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What president visited the Grand Canyon a lot? \_\_\_\_\_
9. When did the Grand Canyon become a national monument? \_\_\_\_\_
10. When did the Grand Canyon become a national park? \_\_\_\_\_
11. How many tourists visit the Grand Canyon each year? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Which rim of the canyon closes for the winter? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What animal can people ride down to the bottom of the canyon? \_\_\_\_\_

## Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking Questions

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

1. There is a saying in English, “If you don’t use it, you lose it.” This saying tells what happens with summer learning loss. If people do not keep reading and learning over the summer, they will be behind when they go back to classes in the fall. What are some other things that you can think of that if you don’t use them, you lose them? Create a list of these things and share them with the class.
2. Make a summer learning schedule for yourself or for your family. Use a blank calendar print out or just write it down on a piece of paper. What skills do you want to practice? What activities will help you practice these skills? Where will you have to go to do these activities? Can you do them at home or do you need to go into the community or travel farther?
3. Visit a thrift store or garage sale and look for prices for: a man’s suit, a woman’s party dress, a pair of pretty shoes, a necklace, a pair of jeans. What is the condition of these garments? Are they: Like new? Good? OK? Bad? Why do you think someone gave them away or is selling them?
4. Interview six people of different ages who were born in the United States. Ask them to explain the meaning of the Fourth of July. Ask: *Who did Americans fight to get their independence? Why did they want to be free from that country? When did that happen?* What conclusion can you make about Americans’ knowledge of their country’s history?
5. Plan a trip to the Grand Canyon. How far away is it from your home? How will you get there? What do you want to see there? What activities will you do while you are there?

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



**I. Summer Learning Loss**

1. break
2. math and reading skills
3. COVID-19 infections
4. NO
5. b, c, e, f, g, h,
6. library card
7. words to read, questions to answer,  
and educational games

14. 2021
15. Independence Day
16. 1776
17. Great Britain (England)
18. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
19. taxation
20. Thomas Jefferson
21. June 1 to November 30

**II. Places to Buy Clothes**

1. department store
2. factory outlet, consignment shop,  
thrift shop, garage sale
3. on the Internet and with a mail catalog
4. the sales receipt (and with the price tag still on  
the item)
5. customer service desk
6. in that store
7. gift receipt
8. the item cannot be returned

**IV. Summer Safety**

1. water
2. it gets very high very fast
3. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
4. sunburn
5. every 2 to 3 hours
6. YES
7. NO
8. lifeguard
9. life jackets
10. professionals

**III. Events in June and July**

1. diploma
2. valedictorian
3. salutatorian
4. Flag Day
5. over his or her heart
6. NO
7. stand up
8. for which it stands
9. third Sunday in June (June 19)
10. June 21
11. white
12. destination wedding
13. Abraham Lincoln

**V. The Grand Canyon**

1. Arizona
2. 277 miles
3. 18 miles
4. 4,000 to 6,093 feet
5. the Colorado River
6. Native Americans
7. the Pueblo people
8. Theodore Roosevelt
9. 1908
10. 1919
11. 5 million
12. the North Rim
13. mules