

Easy English NEWS



March 2022

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

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

**Protecting Your Identity?
Ordering Groceries
Women's History Month
Saint Patrick's Day
"Mother" Jones
Income Tax Time**

Which Word Does Not Belong?

Short-answer Tests

**Protecting Your Identity? (2 pages)
Ordering Groceries
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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.

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 _____

Protecting Your Identity?

People _____ in the United States have personal information that shows who they are. This personal information may be a social _____ number, birth certificate, U.S. citizenship certificate, driver's license, passport, state ID card, permanent resident card, or A-number. People use these _____ to prove who they are. They need to _____ their identity at doctor's appointments and to open bank accounts, buy houses, start school, get jobs, file tax returns, or travel.

It is important to keep this personal information _____. Criminals _____ to steal personal information. They can use a person's identity to get money or products _____.

It was easier to keep this information safe _____ people did most official business in person. People _____ show their documents when they needed to prove their identity. _____ they finished, they would put those documents in a safe place at home.

WORD BANK

after	living	documents	would	try
prove	illegally	security	when	safe

Name _____ Date _____

Ordering Groceries

During the pandemic, people stayed home as much as _____. Grocery stores added _____ ordering to their websites and apps. Stores added special parking spots for _____ to pick up their orders. _____ of people started ordering their groceries for pick-up or delivery. Now there are more options if you want to order _____ groceries, too.

Meals in a box

Some companies _____ meal subscriptions. You can sign up on their websites or _____. You choose the specific meals you want from the company's list for _____ week. Next, you choose how many servings of each meal you _____. You also _____ how many meals a week you want.

The company gives you a total price based on your choices. Then you pay online.

WORD BANK

online	lots	shoppers	your	apps
choose	sell	possible	each	need

Name _____ Date _____

Women's History Month

_____ is Women's History Month. In this month, schools and TV programs teach stories about women in history and women who are _____ today.

Until 1970, there were not _____ stories about women in history books. Before 1920, women did not have the _____ to vote in the U.S. _____ than that, women could not own property. They _____ not speak at public meetings.

Women had to _____ to get the right to vote and the right to own property.

They didn't even have the right to their own _____ after a divorce.

Women could _____ teachers, nurses, or secretaries. They could work in _____. But they could not enter most other professions.

WORD BANK

children

could

factories

famous

many

become

right

struggle

March

earlier

Name _____ Date _____

Saint Patrick's Day

March 17 is Saint Patrick's Day. _____ immigrants brought this joyful holiday with them when they came to America. There are _____ Irish people in the U.S. than in Ireland! Almost 10% of Americans are of Irish _____. Half of United States presidents had Irish ancestry.

The Irish and many other Americans have a lot of fun on Saint Patrick's Day. They _____ Irish songs. They tell stories about _____ and pots of gold. They wear _____ clothes. They eat green cakes and _____. They drink green beer. A _____ food on this day is corned beef and cabbage.

_____ are parades in a lot of cities. The _____ Saint Patrick's Day parades are in New York City and Boston, Massachusetts.

WORD BANK

leprechauns	more	there	cookies	Irish
traditional	green	biggest	descent	sing

Name _____ Date _____

“Mother” Jones

A _____ years ago, workers in the U.S. worked in very poor conditions. There was no _____ wage. There was no limit on how many _____ they had to work.

Mary Harris Jones was one of the greatest _____ of the labor movement. She gave thousands of workers a _____. She was extremely brave. She faced violence and _____. She was _____ many times.

Ireland to Canada to the U.S.

Mary Harris was born in Cork County, Ireland around 1830. Her family left Ireland during the _____ famine in the 1840s. They _____ to Canada.

Soon she moved to Chicago, Illinois, and then to Memphis, Tennessee. Mary worked as a _____ and as a dressmaker.

WORD BANK

minimum	tragedy	potato	teacher	hundred
heroes	immigrated	voice	arrested	hours

Name _____ Date _____

Income Tax Time

Americans must _____ their income taxes for 2021 by April 18, 2022.

People who live in Maine and Massachusetts have until April 19, 2022. Most people file a tax return

_____ tax day. They want to get a _____. They use a

special tax return _____ called the 1040 (“ten-forty”).

Who must pay income taxes?

Everyone who works as an _____ pays taxes during the year. The employer withholds taxes from paychecks and sends that money to the Internal _____

Service (IRS).

If your employer did not withhold _____ money, you must pay the _____ you owe by April 18. If your employer _____ too much money, you can get a refund.

Not _____ has to file an income tax return.

WORD BANK

Revenue	taxes	everyone	refund	before
form	enough	employee	withheld	pay

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.	state ID	W-2 form	social security card	passport
2.	hacker	scammer	criminal	taxpayer
3.	online	virtual	paper	app
4.	Illinois	Pennsylvania	California	Arizona
5.	meal subscription	pick-up	HelloFresh	Blue Apron
6.	Walmart	Instacart	ID.me	Shipt
7.	new leaves	Ash Wednesday	flowers bloom	baby animals
8.	green cookies	Saint Patrick	leprechaun	pot of gold
9.	Form W-2	Form 1040	schedules	penalty
10.	salary	loan	tips	wages
11.	minimum wage	union	time-and-a-half	overtime
12.	epidemic	strike	protest	march

Name _____ Date _____

I. Protecting your identity?

1. What documents can be used to prove a person's identity? Mark all your answers.

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| a. W-2 form | b. social security card | c. passport |
| d. state ID | e. form 1040 | f. A-number |
| g. birth certificate | h. permanent resident card | i. driver's license |

2. Was it easier to protect personal information when most people did official business in person? YES NO

3. Where should people keep their personal documents? _____

4. What company is helping people prove their identities online? _____

5. During the pandemic, states started using this company. Why did they need people to prove their identities? _____

6. How many states are using this company? _____

7. What process does this company use to match pictures? _____

8. What groups does the program have trouble matching? _____ and

Name _____ Date _____

I. Protecting your identity? (continued)

9. What government agency hired this company in 2021 to make their website safer?

10. What were lawmakers worried about? _____

11. Who might steal Americans' personal information from this company?

12. Which of these states is using ID.me? Mark your answers.

a. Louisiana

b. Colorado

c. Florida

d. Illinois

e. Vermont

f. Delaware

g. Washington

h. Kentucky

i. Arkansas

j. Wyoming

k. Nebraska

l. Indiana

Name _____ Date _____

II. Ordering Groceries

1. What did a lot of grocery stores add during the pandemic? _____

2. Lots of people started ordering their groceries for _____ or
_____.

3. With a meal subscription, do you choose how many meals you want each week?

YES

NO

4. What two things does a meal subscription box have in it? _____ and
_____.

5. How fast can you get your groceries delivered from some companies? _____

6. Who do companies like Instacart and Shipt hire to pick out people's groceries?

7. What four things should someone find out before ordering groceries or buying a meal
subscription?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in March

1. March is _____ History Month.

2. “*March comes in like a* _____

3. *and goes out like a* _____.”

4. Who wrote “The Cat in the Hat,” and many other children’s books? _____

5. Who converted the Irish to Christianity? _____

6. What color do many Irish people wear on March 17? _____

7. On what day must we turn our clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Saving Time?

8. What day does spring begin? _____

9. What is another name for the first day of spring? _____

10. What games for disabled athletes will be played from March 4 to 13? _____

11. What holiday’s name means *Fat Tuesday* in French? _____

12. What day do priests put ashes on people’s foreheads? _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. “Mother” Jones

1. Where was Mary Harris born? _____
2. Why were people dying of hunger in Ireland in the 1840s? _____
3. What two jobs did Mary Harris have first in America? _____
4. What disease killed Mary Jones’s husband and children? _____
5. What destroyed Mary Jones’s home, shop, and possessions? _____
6. What secret organization tried to get better conditions for workers?

7. What would an employer do to a worker if he or she joined a union?

8. Who was the “most dangerous woman in America”? _____
9. How many textile workers went on strike in Kensington, Pennsylvania in the
spring of 1903? _____
10. How many of them were children? _____

IV. "Mother" Jones (continued)

11. To what city did Mary Jones and a group of children and workers march?

12. How long did it take them to get there? _____

13. What president signed the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938?

14. The Fair Labor Standards Act created a shorter work week in many industries.

How long was it? _____ hours per week.

15. The Fair Labor Standards Act created a minimum wage. How much was it?

_____ per hour.

16. The Fair Labor Standards Act said that children under 16

CAN CANNOT work during school hours.

17. What is the federal minimum wage today? _____

Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking Questions

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

1. Everyone has some kind of personal information. This information helps them to show other people who they are. Why is it so important to protect this personal information? What are some ways that people can protect this information? How do you protect your personal information?
2. The lawmakers in Washington, D.C. were worried about ID.me having personal information for millions of Americans. They were afraid that hackers would break into the ID.me computers and steal this information. ID.me said that they use higher security than most banks. Do you think ID.me is safe? Why or why not? What other options could the IRS use to protect people who want to use their website?
3. Search for your favorite grocery store online. Do they offer online ordering? If yes, find out if there are delivery fees, membership fees, a minimum amount you must order, and how far they will deliver an order. Also find out if they offer pick-up at their store and how you can pick up an order (i.e. curbside pick-up, special parking spot, in-store pick-up, etc.) Try putting items in your online cart. Is the website easy to use? Did you have any problems using the website? Was everything you wanted to order available? Tell about it.
4. Interview five women under 25 and five women over 50. Ask: *What career did you want (or do you want) when you went to school? What made you decide on the job you have now? Does being a woman have anything to do with your job choice?* Report to the class on any differences in careers or reasons between the younger and the older women you spoke to.
5. Some states want to end the practice of changing the clock forward in the spring and back in the fall. What are their reasons? Ask ten people if they would want to end daylight saving time and their reasons.
6. Most people do not like to pay income taxes. Imagine other ways for a government to get money to provide services for the nation. How does the government get money in your home country? Do they have a tax system? How does it work?

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

I. Protecting Your Identity?

1. b, c, d, f, g, h, i
2. YES
3. a safe place
4. ID.me
5. unemployment compensation
6. 27
7. facial recognition
8. women and minorities
9. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
10. Americans' privacy
11. hackers
12. a, b, c, f, g, j, l

II. Ordering Groceries

1. online ordering
2. pick-up or delivery
3. YES
4. recipes and ingredients
5. two hours
6. personal shoppers
7. a. delivery fees
b. membership fees
c. minimum order
d. location

III. Events in March

1. Women's
2. lion
3. lamb
4. Dr. Seuss
5. Saint Patrick
6. green
7. March 13
8. March 20
9. vernal equinox
10. Paralympics
11. Mardi Gras
12. Ash Wednesday

IV. "Mother" Jones

1. Cork County, Ireland
2. the potato famine
3. teacher and dressmaker
4. yellow fever epidemic
5. The Great Chicago Fire
6. the Knights of Labor
7. fire the worker
8. Mary Jones
9. 46,000
10. 10,000
11. New York City
12. four weeks
13. Franklin D. Roosevelt
14. 44
15. 25 cents
16. cannot
17. \$7.25 per hour

V. Income Tax Time

1. W-2 Form
2. Form 1040
3. an employer
4. IRS
5. NO
6. YES
7. YES
8. electronically (e-file)
9. NO
10. retirement plan
11. earned income credit

