

# Easy English NEWS



**May 2022**

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

**To the Teacher**

**Cloze Exercises**

**A Historic Nomination**

**Shopping for Clothes**

*Cinco de Mayo*

**The 100th Anniversary of the Lincoln Memorial**

**Filipinos in the United States**

**Which Word Does Not Belong?**

**Short-Answer Tests**

**A Historic Nomination**

**Shopping for Clothes**

**Events in May**

**The 100th Anniversary of the Lincoln Memorial**

**Filipinos in the United States**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

## A Historic Nomination

In June 2020, Joe Biden said he would choose a Black woman to fill a Supreme Court \_\_\_\_\_ if he was elected president. On January 27 this year, Justice Stephen Breyer announced he would \_\_\_\_\_. His retirement would open a seat on the \_\_\_\_\_ Court. After this announcement, President Biden said he \_\_\_\_\_ keep his promise. He would nominate a \_\_\_\_\_ woman to the Supreme Court.

On \_\_\_\_\_ 25, President Biden nominated Ketanji Brown Jackson.

The Senate \_\_\_\_\_ to approve this nomination. If they did not approve, \_\_\_\_\_ Brown Jackson could not be a Supreme Court Justice.

### The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the \_\_\_\_\_ court in the United States. In 1869, Congress agreed that there should be nine \_\_\_\_\_ on the Supreme Court.

### WORD BANK

justices

retire

Supreme

Ketanji

had

vacancy

Black

February

highest

would

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

## Shopping for Clothes

### What's your size?

Shopping for clothes in the United States can \_\_\_\_\_ newcomers. It can sometimes confuse \_\_\_\_\_, too! There isn't just \_\_\_\_\_ system for sizes.

There are *many* systems.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of a garment is printed on a label. The label may be printed or \_\_\_\_\_ on the garment. The size may also be on a tag on the garment. Try on a \_\_\_\_\_ before you buy it. Most clothing stores have \_\_\_\_\_

rooms where you can try on clothes.

You will need to learn the U.S. sizes for you and your children for shoes, socks, jeans, pants, shirts, sweaters, jackets, \_\_\_\_\_, hats, gloves, belts, dresses, and underwear.

Some clothing is marked S, M, or L (\_\_\_\_\_, *medium*, or *large*). There are also XS (extra small), XL (extra large), 2XL, and 3XL sizes. However, a *medium* in one brand of clothing may be \_\_\_\_\_ than a *large* in a different brand.

### WORD BANK

dressing

one

garment

bigger

size

confuse

small

Americans

coats

sewn

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

## ***Cinco de Mayo***

*Cinco de Mayo* means “\_\_\_\_\_ of May.” This date is important to \_\_\_\_\_ Americans in the United States. It celebrates a \_\_\_\_\_ for liberty.

In 1862, \_\_\_\_\_ Napoleon III of France invaded Mexico. The French army was \_\_\_\_\_ and well-trained. They marched through Mexico and won \_\_\_\_\_ battle. Then the French army \_\_\_\_\_ the little town of Puebla. After five days, a small Mexican force defeated the French \_\_\_\_\_. That stopped the emperor’s plans to own Mexico.

People in the United States and Mexico celebrate *Cinco de Mayo*. The largest celebration is in California. They celebrate with *fiestas*, street festivals, cultural events, food, music, \_\_\_\_\_, and fireworks. Men and women dress in \_\_\_\_\_ Mexican clothes. Musicians play lively Mexican music.

### **WORD BANK**

Mexican	soldiers	well-armed	attacked	fifth
victory	Emperor	traditional	dancing	every

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

## The 100th Anniversary of the Lincoln Memorial

The Lincoln Memorial in \_\_\_\_\_, D.C., honors Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States. On May 30 this year, the \_\_\_\_\_ turns 100 years old.

### The history

Abraham Lincoln was \_\_\_\_\_ in 1865. In 1867, Congress voted to \_\_\_\_\_ a memorial to honor him. They made a committee to plan the memorial. But the project did not start right \_\_\_\_\_. It took almost 50 \_\_\_\_\_ to start the memorial.

\_\_\_\_\_, in 1914, they started building the memorial. Architect Henry Bacon designed it to look like a building from \_\_\_\_\_ Greece. During World War I, builders had trouble \_\_\_\_\_ materials. It took \_\_\_\_\_ years to finish building the memorial.

### WORD BANK

finally	years	Washington	ancient	eight
getting	build	assassinated	memorial	away

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

## Filipinos in the United States

About 4.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Filipinos live in the United States today. They are the fourth largest immigrant group that has come to the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_. (The largest groups are the Mexicans, Indians, and Chinese.) Most Filipino Americans live in the \_\_\_\_\_ states, but many also live in New Jersey and New York City.

### The Philippine Islands

Many different ethnic groups lived on the more than 7,600 Philippine \_\_\_\_\_ in the western \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean. Spain made them part of the Spanish Empire in 1565 and \_\_\_\_\_ them into one country. Spain held the Philippines as a \_\_\_\_\_ until 1898.

### Spanish influences

The 300 years as part of the \_\_\_\_\_ Empire left a mark on the Philippines. There are many Spanish words in the \_\_\_\_\_ languages. The Spanish converted most of the population to their Catholic \_\_\_\_\_.

### WORD BANK

Pacific	million	Islands	religion	colony
western	Spanish	united	recently	local

## 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.	nominee	associate justice	judge	chief justice
2.	Sonia Sotomayor	Amy Coney Barrett	Elena Kagan	John Roberts
3.	garment	clothing	pants	label
4.	toddlers	juniors	misses	petite
5.	infant	husky	toddler	womens
6.	Selective Service	Armed Forces	unknowns	military
7.	computer	book	smart phone	video game
8.	Greece	Washington, D.C.	five dollar bill	penny
9.	western states	New Jersey	New York	Kentucky
10.	Tagalog	Chinese	English	Spanish
11.	karate	Kentucky Derby	tai chi	aikido
12.	World War I	World War II	Korean War	Vietnam War



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

## I. A Historic Nomination

1. Who did President Biden nominate for the Supreme Court?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What Supreme Court justice announced his retirement? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who has to approve the president's nomination? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many justices are on the Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who appoints justices to the Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How long do justices stay on the Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What committee has hearings to learn more about a Supreme Court nominee?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. How many senators are there on this committee now? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How many senators are there in the full Senate? \_\_\_\_\_

10. How many votes in the Senate does a nominee need to be confirmed? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Where did Ketanji Brown Jackson go to college and law school? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What current Supreme Court justice did she clerk for? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## I. A Historic Nomination (continued)

13. How many groups sent letters to the Senate to support her nomination to the court?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. How many senators voted yes to confirm her? \_\_\_\_\_

15. How many senators voted no? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Was she confirmed?                      YES                      NO

17. Why is Ketanji Brown Jackson making history? Mark your answers.

a. She is the first Black female Supreme Court justice.

b. She is the first Black Supreme Court justice.

c. She is the first female Supreme Court justice.

d. She is the first Supreme Court justice to have been a public defender.

e. It is the first time there are four women justices on the Supreme Court.

f. It is the first time there are more women and people of color on the Supreme Court than white men.

18. Who is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court now? \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Shopping for Clothes

1. Where is the size of a garment printed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does size XL mean? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What kind of shirt does a man wear with a suit and tie? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the length of a man's pants from the crotch to the cuff called? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What section of the clothing store is for teens and slim women? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What section of the clothing store is for shorter women? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What size garment can stretch to fit most sizes? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which child is older, a toddler or an infant? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What numbers are used for Misses dress sizes? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What women's sizes are for people size 16 and up? \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Events in May

1. May is \_\_\_\_\_ and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.
2. About how many Asian Americans live in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
3. About how many Pacific Island Americans live in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What great Chinese teacher had a strong influence on Asian culture?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Sushi, tofu, teriyaki, and hibachi are foods from \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What day is *Cinco de Mayo*? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What French emperor invaded Mexico? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where did a small force of Mexicans defeat the French army? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What race is the “most exciting two minutes in sports?” \_\_\_\_\_
10. How old are the horses that run in that race? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What day is Armed Forces Day? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What are six branches of the Armed Forces? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Events in May (continued)

13. In 2021, how many women were in the Armed Forces on active duty in the United States?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Who is the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Does the U.S. draft young men into the Armed Forces?                      YES                      NO

16. At what age must all young men register with the Selective Service System? \_\_\_\_\_

17. When is Memorial Day? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Where is a burial place for some of the soldiers who fought in America's wars?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. What place honors soldiers whose bodies were never found or never identified?

\_\_\_\_\_

20. The honor guard for this place patrols \_\_\_\_\_ hours a day, \_\_\_\_\_ days a week,

\_\_\_\_\_ days a year.

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

## IV. The 100th Anniversary of the Lincoln Memorial

1. Who was the 16th president of the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
2. When did Congress vote to build a memorial to honor him? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When did they start building the memorial? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How long did it take to build the memorial? \_\_\_\_\_
5. When did they dedicate the memorial? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who dedicated the memorial? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which of Lincoln's sons went to the memorial dedication? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many columns does the memorial have? \_\_\_\_\_
9. When can people visit the memorial? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What money is a picture of the memorial on? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
11. What famous person gave a speech on the steps of the memorial in 1963?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What do we call his speech? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## V. Filipinos in the United States

1. What country made the Philippine Islands its colony in 1565? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many islands are part of the Philippines? \_\_\_\_\_
3. To what religion did Filipinos convert? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In what year did the U.S. defeat Spain in a war? \_\_\_\_\_
5. For how many years were the Philippines an American colony? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In what language were the schools taught after 1900? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What country attacked the Philippines in 1941? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many Filipinos fought alongside American soldiers in that war? \_\_\_\_\_
9. When American soldiers returned to the United States, what did some of them bring with them? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What are the two official languages of the Philippines?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

## V. Filipinos in the United States (continued)

11. When American workers went on strike, who did employers use as strike breakers?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What advantage did Filipinos have over other Asian immigrants?

\_\_\_\_\_

13. When was the Civil Rights Movement in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

14. In what year was a new law passed that opened immigration to people from Latin America, Asia, and Africa? \_\_\_\_\_

15. What profession did many Filipinos enter in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What is the ability to get along with others called? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Who was the first Filipino governor of any state? \_\_\_\_\_

18. What educational movement did Rodolfo S. Bernardo, a school principal in Ohio, lead?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. Who were two Filipinos who won Pulitzer Prizes for journalism?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

20. Who are two award winning Filipino singers? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking Questions

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

1. Presidents nominate judges for the Supreme Court, courts of appeals, and district courts. Then the Senate approves them. What qualities do you think the president looks for in the people he nominates? What do you think makes a good judge? What qualities would you look for if you had to nominate judges to the federal courts? What about the Supreme Court?
2. Justices on the Supreme Court are appointed for life. This means that they are on the Supreme Court until they die or decide to retire. A person could be on the court for 30 or 40 years or longer. Do you think it is good for a person to be a judge for life? What are some positive and negative reasons to let judges be on the court for life?
3. How are the sizing customs for clothing and shoes in your home country different from those in the U.S.?
4. Many people are addicted to cell phones, TV, Facebook, computers, the internet, and video games. Interview five people to find out how much time they spend on these “screens.” Ask if they will (or did) avoid them during Screen-Free week. How difficult was it? What did they do instead? How did that feel?
5. There are many days to show appreciation to certain people: *Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Grandparents Day, Valentines Day, Teacher Appreciation Day, Administrative Professionals Day, Bosses Day, Armed Forces Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day...* What other people do you think deserve appreciation? How could people show their appreciation to them? How would you start a movement to show appreciation to those people?
6. Traditions and opinions for holidays, worker roles, family behavior, education, politics, and many other things are different in the U.S. from those in your home country. Have you acquired new ways of thinking and doing things, or do you still have the same opinions and customs as you had in your home country? How have you changed since coming to the U.S.?

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

**I. A Historic Nomination**

1. Ketanji Brown Jackson
2. Stephen Breyer
3. the Senate
4. 9
5. the president
6. until they retire or die
7. Senate Judiciary Committee
8. 22
9. 100
10. 51 (simple majority)
11. Harvard
12. Stephen Breyer
13. more than 75
14. 53
15. 47
16. YES
17. a, d, e, f
18. John Roberts

**II. What's Your Size?**

1. label or tag
2. extra large
3. dress shirt
4. inseam
5. juniors
6. petite
7. One Size Fits All
8. toddler
9. 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14 (even numbers)
10. plus sizes

**III. Events in May**

1. Asian American
2. 24 million
3. 1.4 million
4. Confucius
5. Japan
6. May 5
7. Napoleon III
8. Puebla
9. the Kentucky Derby
10. three years old
11. May 21 (third Saturday in May)
12. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force

13. 230,000
14. the U.S. President (President Biden)
15. NO
16. 18-25
17. Last Monday of May (May 30)
18. Arlington National Cemetery
19. Tomb of the Unknowns
20. 24, 7, 365

**IV. The 100th Anniversary of the Lincoln Memorial**

1. Abraham Lincoln
2. 1867
3. 1914
4. 8 years
5. May 30, 1922
6. Chief Justice William H. Taft
7. Robert Todd Lincoln
8. 36
9. Anytime: open 24 hours a day 7 days a week
10. \$5.00 bill and the penny
11. Martin Luther King Jr.
12. "I Have a Dream" speech

**V. Filipinos in the United States**

1. Spain
2. more than 7,600
3. Catholicism
4. 1898
5. 48 (1898-1946)
6. English
7. Japan
8. 250,000
9. Filipina "war brides"
10. English and Tagalog
11. Filipinos
12. spoke English
13. 1960s
14. 1965
15. health care
16. pakikisama
17. Benjamin J. Cayetano
18. character education movement
19. Byron Acohido and Alex Tizon
20. Enrique Iglesias and Bruno Mars

