

Easy English NEWS



April 2023

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.
- As capitalization practice: Words in the word bank

are intentionally not capitalized unless it is a proper name. Students can practice capitalization by adding capital letters where it is necessary.

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 _____.
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 _____

Building for Tomorrow

People around the world _____ Earth Day in April. They plant _____, clean up trash, and do other projects in their communities. These projects help the Earth, but they do not help _____. Governments and businesses _____ make changes, too.

Construction is one _____ that can hurt the environment. Some construction companies cut _____ trees. Building materials get _____ in landfills. Chemicals get into the groundwater or run off into _____ streams, lakes, or rivers. Some construction companies want to make construction and buildings _____ for the environment. These companies are _____ how they build buildings.

WORD BANK

business

must

changing

dumped

trees

enough

down

celebrate

nearby

better

Name _____ Date _____

Making a Budget

There are so many things to _____ money on every day. It is easy to spend money and not _____ how much you spent. Making a budget can help you track the money you spend _____ month. It can help you stay out of _____ and save money for the future.

What is a budget?

A budget is a _____ list of how someone spends money. It can be a budget for one person or a _____ family. A _____ can help you plan how you will pay bills and pay down loans or debt. It can also help you decide how _____ money to save each month.

Variable or fixed?

Some of your bills will be the same _____ month. These _____ are called *fixed expenses*.

WORD BANK

realize	debt	budget	much	bills
spend	whole	detailed	every	each

Name _____ Date _____

Earth Day

Earth Day is April 22. There will be _____ of events in 192 countries. Popular activities are street parades, clean-up parties, _____, fairs, and tree-planting.

There are events to _____ people about the environment. Although Earth Day is just one _____ day, there are year-round activities for saving the earth.

The _____ of Earth Day is this: “The earth _____ to all of us. We _____ all take care of it.” This year’s Earth Day theme is “_____ in Our Planet.” Businesses, governments, and people need to work _____ to help the environment. Each of us can _____ changes to help make our planet healthier.

WORD BANK

teach	belongs	thousands	special	must
invest	concerts	together	message	make

Name _____ Date _____

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The Great Smoky Mountains are on the _____ of North Carolina and Tennessee.

They are _____ of the Appalachian Mountains in the eastern United States. The

Smoky Mountains are _____ 200 and 300 million years old.

The mountains are covered in _____ that looks like smoke.

_____ people called the Smoky Mountains *Shaconage* [Sha Kon O Hey]. In the

Cherokee language, *Shaconage* _____ “Land of the Blue Smoke.”

The Great Smoky Mountains _____ a national park in 1926. It is the most

_____ national park in the country. More than 10 _____

people visit the park every year. There is _____ different to see in every season.

WORD BANK

between

means

something

became

fog

border

visited

Cherokee

million

part

Name _____ Date _____

Celebrating Poetry Month: Talking About Poetry

A _____ is a type of art. It has a lot of _____ in a few words. A poem can make us feel _____, sad, or surprised. It can _____ a picture or tell a story.

Poetic devices

The poet chooses words _____. Sometimes the _____ of a poem have a musical rhythm. Sometimes the words at the _____ of the lines rhyme. Some words are _____ more than others in each line.

A poet may _____ a poem many times to make it just right. He or she uses _____, assonance, or meter to “please the ear.”

WORD BANK

meaning	lines	alliteration	paint	happy
stressed	poem	carefully	rewrite	end

Name _____ Date _____

April 2023: 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. solar panels	windmills	water recycling system	chemicals
2. concrete	cork	sheep's wool	bamboo
3. energy efficient	louder	cheaper	safer
4. fixed expense	food	car payment	rent payment
5. insurance payment	variable expense	electric bill	water bill
6. emergency fund	hair cut	groceries	cell phone
7. Passover	Good Friday	Seder	matzoh
8. flowers	chicks	bitter herbs	rabbits
9. Earth Day	Easter	green buildings	April Fools' Day
10. flowers	parasites	diseases	mold
11. alliteration	pollinators	personification	imagery
12. main	rain	chain	again

Name _____ Date _____

I. Building for Tomorrow

1. What are some reasons construction hurts the environment? Mark your answers.

- a. companies cut down trees
- b. building materials are dumped in landfills
- c. buildings are eco-friendly
- d. chemicals get into the groundwater and streams
- e. buildings have special glass
- f. solar panels and windmills make electricity

2. How many green buildings were there in the U.S. in 2021? _____

3. Are green buildings usually green in color? YES NO

4. What are some things green buildings might have that regular buildings don't? Mark all answers.

- a. solar panels on the roof
- b. special glass and lights
- c. concrete floors
- d. wooden walls
- e. a water recycling system
- f. windmills to get electricity

5. What are some natural materials that construction companies might use on green buildings?

Mark your answers.

- a. wool
- b. hay
- c. concrete
- d. bamboo

6. What are some recycled materials that construction companies might use? Mark all answers.

- a. concrete
- b. reclaimed wood
- c. ashcrete
- d. enviroboard

Name _____ Date _____

I. Building for Tomorrow (continued)

7. What two companies are working together to 3D print houses in Austin, Texas?

_____ and _____

8. What is the robot that they are using called? _____

9. How wide is the robot? _____

10. How tall is each tower? _____

11. What material are they using to print these houses? _____

12. Does the robot leave spaces for windows and doors? YES NO

13. Will it cost less to heat and cool these 3D-printed houses? YES NO

14. What are some reasons that these 3D-printed houses are good for the environment?

Mark your answers.

a. They are faster and cheaper to build.

b. They are energy efficient.

c. They are noisier than regular houses.

d. They are safer in natural disasters.

15. Other than on Earth, where might these 3D-printed houses be used?

_____ and _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Making a Budget

1. What can making a budget help you do? Mark your answers.

- a. stay out of debt b. track your spending each month c. spend money
d. lose money e. make an emergency fund f. save money

2. Are the following expenses fixed or variable? Write *fixed* or *variable* on the line next to the expense.

a. cell phone bill _____

b. monthly rent payment _____

c. grocery bill _____

d. water bill _____

e. car payment _____

f. electric bill _____

g. insurance payments _____

h. gas bill _____

3. How do you put variable bills into your budget each month if you don't know how much they will be? _____

4. What account can help you pay for unexpected expenses that happen in a month?

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in April

1. What day is April Fools' Day? _____
2. What tree branches are used in Christian churches the Sunday before Easter? _____
3. Whose life, death, and resurrection do Christians celebrate on Easter? _____
4. What book tells the story of Easter? _____
5. Name the four symbols of Easter.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
6. What do children color for Easter? _____
7. Where is a famous Easter Egg Roll? _____
8. What holiday for Jewish people remembers the story of their escape from Egypt?

9. What is the special dinner on the first two nights of this holiday? _____
10. Which of these special things are on the table during this dinner? Mark your answers.
 - a. boiled egg
 - b. marshmallow chicks
 - c. lamb bone
 - d. bitter herbs
 - e. chocolate
 - f. salt water

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in April (Continued)

11. What is the deadline for paying income taxes in the U.S. this year? _____

12. Is there a penalty for filing a late return if a person does not owe taxes? YES NO

13. What day is Administrative Professionals Day this year? _____

14. What day is Earth Day? _____

15. What is the Earth Day theme this year? _____

16. What percent of all pollinators are endangered? _____

17. What percent of wild bee species in the U.S. are endangered? _____

18. What is killing pollinators? Mark all answers.

a. pesticides

b. warmer temperatures

c. bee keepers

d. parasites

e. diseases

f. flowers

g. mold

h. pollinator-friendly gardens

i. vegetables

19. How much of the food we eat depends on bees? _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Great Smoky Mountains National Park

1. In what two states are the Great Smoky Mountains found? _____

and _____

2. What mountains are they a part of? _____

3. How old are they? _____

4. What covers the mountains and looks like smoke? _____

5. What native people gave the mountains their name? _____

6. When did the Great Smoky Mountains become a national park? _____

7. How many people visit there each year? _____

8. How many miles of hiking trails are in the national park? _____

9. How many miles of streams are in the national park? _____

10. Is it legal for people to fish in the national park? YES NO

11. Is it legal for people to go up and touch a bear in the park? YES NO

12. How many different species have scientists and park employees found in the park?

Name _____ Date _____

V. Celebrating Poetry Month

1. Who wrote the poems, *Here's A Nut*, *Hello! Hello!*, and *I Write About The Butterfly*?

2. Where was she born? _____

3. What was her most famous book called? _____

4. How many copies has this book sold? _____

5. What word in *Here's A Nut* rhymes with "away"? _____

6. What word in *Hello! Hello!* rhymes with "float" ? _____

7. What word from *I Write About The Butterfly* means caterpillar? _____

Write the letter of the best matching poetry tool on each line:

a. imagery

b. alliteration

c. rhyme

d. rhythm

8. _____ words with the same ending sounds

9. _____ musical flow of words

10. _____ create a picture in the readers mind

11. _____ repetition of the same consonant

Name _____ Date _____

Budget Worksheet

Use the budget worksheet below to help you create your own monthly budget. Remember to put anything you spend money on each month in your budget. Keep track of what you spend all month. At the end of the month fill in the “spent” column. Check to see how well you followed your budget. Subtract your total monthly expenses from your total monthly income. This is the amount that you can save each month.

Monthly Income	Amount	Monthly Expenses	Estimated	Spent
Total Monthly Income				
		Total Monthly Expenses		

Total Monthly Income	
Total Monthly Expenses	
Amount Left for Savings	

Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking Questions

Choose one or more of the following questions to discuss with a partner or small group. Report your ideas to the class.

1. Construction companies are coming up with new ideas every day to make buildings better for the environment. What are some changes you think construction companies could make to help the environment? Why do you think these changes would be better than what the companies are already doing?
2. The theme for Earth Day this year is “Invest in our Planet.” This calls for people, governments, and businesses to work together to save the Earth. What are things you can do in your life and community that could help save the Earth? How do you think these changes will help? How long do you think it will take for these changes to help?
3. Would you like to live in a 3D-printed house? Why or why not? What do you think makes 3D-printed houses different to live in than regular houses? What might be the same between 3D-printed houses and regular houses?
4. Create a budget for your family. What expenses do you need to include each month? What expenses do you need to include only once or twice a year? What special occasions do you need to remember when you are making a budget? Do you think making a budget is important? Why or why not?
5. Choose your favorite poem. Share it with the class. Why do you like this poem? What poetic devices does the poet use in your favorite poem? Do you like poems that rhyme or poems that don't rhyme? Why? Try writing a poem of your own.

April 2023
Answers to Easy English NEWS
Short-answer Tests

I. Building for Tomorrow

1. a, b, d
2. 110,000
3. NO
4. a, b, e, f
5. a, b, d
6. b, c, d
7. Icon and Lenner Corp
8. the Vulcan
9. 46.5 feet
10. 15.5 feet
11. Lavacrete
12. YES
13. YES
14. a, b, d
15. the moon and Mars

II. Making a Budget

1. a, b, e, f
2. a. fixed
b. fixed
c. variable
d. variable
e. fixed
f. variable
g. fixed
h. variable
3. estimate
4. emergency fund

III. Events in April

1. April 1
2. palm branches
3. Jesus Christ
4. the Bible
5. a. flowers
b. eggs
c. rabbits
d. baby chicks
6. eggs
7. White House lawn
8. Passover
9. Seder

10. a, c, d, f
11. April 18
12. NO
13. April 26
14. April 22
15. Invest in our Planet
16. 40%
17. 25%
18. a, b, d, e, g
19. 1/3; one third

IV. Great Smoky Mountains National Park

1. North Carolina and Tennessee
2. the Appalachain Mountains
3. between 200 and 300 million years old
4. fog
5. the Cherokee
6. 1926
7. 10 million
8. 800 miles
9. 2,900 miles
10. YES
11. NO
12. 19,000 species

V. Celebrating Poetry Month

1. Louisa May Alcott
2. Germantown, Pennsylvania
3. Little Women
4. 10 million
5. day
6. boat
7. grub
8. c
9. d
10. a
11. b

