

Easy English NEWS



June 2023

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

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

Is COVID-19 Gone?
Different Types of Taxes
Pledge of Allegiance
Independence Day
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Summer Safety

Which Word Does not Belong?

Short-answer Tests

Is COVID-19 Gone?
Different Types of Taxes
Events in June and July (2 pages)
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Summer Safety

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.
- 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 _____

Is COVID-19 Gone?

On May 5, the World Health Organization (WHO) said COVID-19 is not a _____ health emergency anymore. On May 11, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) said the public health _____ in the U.S. was over.

But COVID-19 is _____ making some people sick.

Both the WHO and HHS said that _____ people are getting COVID-19.

Reports show that the _____ is not as strong as before. Fewer people are _____ to the hospital with COVID and fewer people are dying from it. They said more people are _____ from the virus because of natural immunity, vaccinations, and medicine that can treat the virus.

They said _____ is not gone, but the health emergency is over.

What changes now?

The U.S. government _____ COVID-19 a public health emergency on January 31, 2020. Because of this declaration, the government could _____ laws and programs to protect people from the virus. Some of these programs have already ended.

WORD BANK

COVID-19	fewer	emergency	virus	global
going	create	protected	still	declared

Name _____ Date _____

Different Types of Taxes

Most people in the United States pay _____ kind of taxes. The most _____ taxes are income taxes. The _____ government, 42 states, and some cities and towns require residents to pay income tax. These taxes help pay for the _____ bills.

Income taxes are _____ out of each of your paychecks.

Then in _____ each year, you must file a tax return. This tax

_____ tells the government how much tax you paid. If you

_____ too much, you will get a tax refund. If you did not pay

_____, you will owe more taxes. (*See the February and March 2023 issues of*

Easy English NEWS for more information about tax forms, tax returns, and refunds.)

Payroll taxes are also income taxes. They are also taken out of your _____. They pay for Social Security, Medicare, and unemployment.

WORD BANK

common

return

paycheck

April

enough

federal

some

governments'

paid

taken

Name _____ Date _____

The Pledge of Allegiance

_____ pledge allegiance

to the _____ of the United _____ of America

and _____ the _____

for _____ it stands,

one _____ under God,

_____ ,

with _____ and justice for _____.

WORD BANK

all

I

States

indivisible

liberty

flag

to

nation

which

republic

Name _____ Date _____

Independence Day

On July 4, the _____ States will celebrate its birthday. The _____ will be 247 years old. Americans celebrate the nation's Independence Day with picnics, parades, speeches, music, and _____.

In the evening on the Fourth, people go to town parks to see fireworks _____ . Others _____ fireworks on TV. It is a very _____ evening.

The birth of the United States

England (Britain) had _____ in America. People in the colonies began fighting for their rights in 1775. In 1776, leaders of 13 colonies came _____ in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This Continental Congress voted to fight for complete _____ from England. They asked a committee of five men to prepare a _____ of Independence.

WORD BANK

fireworks	colonies	Declaration	country	displays
independence	noisy	United	together	watch

Name _____ Date _____

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is a very _____ park. The Hawaiian Islands are made up of _____. The islands grow and change when the volcanoes _____. The _____ point in the national park is 13,680 feet high. Two of the _____ most active volcanoes are in the park. They are _____ Kilauea [Kil uh WAY uh] and Mauna Loa [Mah na LOH a].

Hawaiian _____ says that Pele [Pay lay], the god of volcanoes, created the islands. Stories say that she traveled _____ Hawaii looking for a home. She settled in the _____ at the top of Kilauea. Hawaiian people believe that Pele is _____ (family). It is a tradition to ask Pele for permission to travel through the islands.

WORD BANK

across

world's

volcanoes

named

erupt

crater

special

tradition

highest

'ohana

Name _____ Date _____

Summer Safety

Summer is a _____ for fun for lots of people. For _____ people, it also means working outdoors in the heat. _____ in the U.S. can be 90 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for many days at a time. People need ways to keep _____.

Beaches, lakes, and swimming _____ are crowded in the summer. Picnics in the park and camping are _____. Air _____ help people stay cool indoors.

Here are a few summer safety _____:

Don't overheat

Your body _____ more when it is hot. The sweat evaporates. This cools your body. You need to drink more _____ such as water, sports drinks, light tea, or diluted fruit juice.

WORD BANK

pools	fluids	conditioners	popular	tips
time	cool	temperatures	some	sweats

June 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. COVID-19	vaccine	Paxlovid	natural immunity
2. wash hands	use hand sanitizer	at-home test	stay home if you're sick
3. spring water	coffee	vegetable juice	seltzer
4. hydration	heat stroke	sunburn	food poisoning
5. helmet	firecrackers	protective gear	life jacket
6. shark	wide-brimmed hat	sunglasses	sunscreen
7. itch	rash	sweat	poison ivy
8. bride	groom	maid of honor	graduate
9. preacher	minister	priest	spouse
10. money	life	liberty	happiness
11. Kilauea	Mauna Loa	Pele	volcano
12. father	mother	uncle	grandfather

Name _____ Date _____

I. Is COVID-19 Gone?

1. When did the World Health Organization say that COVID-19 isn't a global health emergency anymore? _____
2. When did the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services say the public health emergency in the U.S. was over? _____
3. Do reports show that the coronavirus is getting weaker or stronger? weaker stronger
4. What protections do people have from COVID-19 now? _____,
_____, _____
5. Will tests, vaccines, and treatments be free for anyone in the U.S. now? YES NO
6. How many people may lose health insurance? _____
7. How long will hospitals send COVID information to the CDC? _____
8. What are three ways to protect yourself from viruses? _____,
_____, and _____
9. Are most people still wearing masks in the U.S.? YES NO
10. People with what type of illness should still wear masks at the doctor and hospital?

11. When is the FDA meeting about new vaccines? _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Different Types of Taxes

1. What are the most common taxes in the U.S.? _____

2. How many states make people pay income taxes? _____

3. What tells the government how much tax a person paid in a year? _____

4. What will you get if you paid too much tax? _____

5. Are payroll taxes income taxes? YES NO

6. What do payroll taxes pay for? _____,

_____, and _____

7. What tax does someone pay if they sell something and make a profit?

8. What tax do people pay when they buy something? _____

9. How many states do not have sales tax? _____

10. What tax does someone pay on land or a house? _____

11. What does property tax pay for? _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in June and July

1. How many days are in June? _____

2. What holidays or events are on these dates?

a) June 19 _____ b) June 14 _____

c) June 18 _____ d) June 21 _____

e) July 4 _____

3. How many stars are in the U.S. flag? _____

4. How many stripes are there? _____

5. What color are the stripes? _____ and _____

6. What do people “pledge allegiance to?” _____

7. What is the name of the national anthem of the U.S.? _____

8. What is another name for the “longest day of the year?” _____

9. What is a favorite month for weddings? _____

10. When did Abraham Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in June and July (continued)

11. When did the news that slaves were free reach Texas? _____

12. At what event do people wear special caps with tassels? _____

13. How old will the United States be on its birthday July 4? _____

14. How many colonies fought for independence from England? _____

15. How many men were on the committee to write the Declaration of Independence? _____

16. Who was the best writer on that committee? _____

17. What year did American leaders sign the Declaration of Independence? _____

18. What was the punishment for treason? _____

19. In what year did the War for Independence end? _____

20. Who won the war? _____

21. In what year did the new United States sign a peace treaty with Britain? _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. America the Beautiful: Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

1. What makes up the Hawaiian Islands? _____
2. What do volcanoes do if they are active? _____
3. Who is the god of volcanoes? _____
4. Where did she make her home on Kilauea? _____
5. What does 'ohana mean to Hawaiian people? _____
6. When did Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park become a national park?

7. How many people visit the park each year? _____
8. How long was the last volcano eruption in the park? _____
9. When did the last eruption end? _____
10. When is the park open? _____
11. Does the park sometimes close when volcanoes are erupting? YES NO

Name _____ Date _____

V. Summer Safety

1. What helps people keep cool indoors when it is very hot outside? _____
2. Which color clothing is best to wear when it is hot? LIGHT DARK
3. Is it okay to leave a sleeping person in a car parked in the sun? YES NO
4. What is the most important water safety rule? _____
5. Should you drink alcohol before going swimming? YES NO
6. What dangerous animal swims in the ocean? _____
7. What should people wear if they go out in a boat? _____
8. What should you wear if you are riding a bicycle? _____
9. What plant with three leaves can give a person an itchy rash? _____
10. What disease do some deer ticks give to people? _____
11. Where should you go when it thunders? _____
12. What problem can a person get by eating meat, salad, or cream cakes that have been
outside in the heat for two hours? _____

Name _____ Date _____

Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking Questions

Choose one or more of these questions. Work with a partner or a small group to discuss or research these questions and report to the class.

1. COVID-19 has affected people all over the world for three years. Now, the public and global health emergencies are ending. What changes do you see in your community, schools, doctors' offices, etc.? What changes are you making in your family? How will you and your family work to protect yourselves from getting COVID and other illnesses?
2. Scientists say that another global pandemic is possible. What can countries do to prepare themselves for another pandemic? What can cities and states do? What can you do at home?
3. Communities get most of their money to pay bills from property taxes. Imagine you are on the board of your local community. What programs would you use the property tax money for? What community programs do you think are most important? How would you convince the other people on the board to go along with your plan? How would you convince the people in your community?
4. Where do you think it is better to live: In a place that has mild winters but very hot summers, or a place with mild summers but very cold and snowy winters? Find out: Where are most of the job vacancies in the U.S.? Where are living costs lower? Report to the class.
5. Research: Poison ivy is a three leafed plant that can cause an itchy rash. What other plants in your area can cause skin rashes or poisoning? Report your findings to the class.
6. Flag colors, pictures, and designs are symbols for the country or group the flag represents. Create a flag for your class or group. What colors, pictures, and designs will you use? What do they mean? Explain how this flag represents your class or group.

June 2023
Answers to Easy English NEWS
Short-Answer Tests

I. Is COVID-19 Gone?

1. May 5
2. May 11
3. WEAKER
4. natural immunity, vaccinations, medicines
5. NO
6. 17 million
7. April 2024
8. wash hands, use hand sanitizer, stay home
9. NO
10. respiratory illnesses
11. June 15

II. Different Types of Taxes

1. income taxes
2. 42
3. tax return
4. tax refund
5. YES
6. Social Security, Medicare, unemployment
7. capital gains tax
8. sales tax
9. 5
10. property tax
11. schools, roads, police, fire departments, ambulance services

III. Events in June and July

1. thirty
2. a) Juneteenth b) Flag Day
 c) Father's Day d) first day of summer
 e) Independence Day
3. fifty
4. thirteen
5. red and white
6. the United States flag
7. Star Spangled Banner
8. summer solstice
9. June
10. January 1, 1863
11. June 19, 1865
12. graduation
13. 247 years
14. thirteen

15. five
16. Thomas Jefferson
17. 1776
18. death
19. 1781
20. America
21. 1783

IV. America the Beautiful: Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

1. volcanoes
2. erupt
3. Pele
4. the crater at the top
5. family
6. 1916
7. 1.3 million
8. 61 days
9. March 2023
10. 24 hours a day, seven days a week
11. YES

V. Summer Safety

1. air conditioning
2. light
3. NO
4. learn to swim
5. NO
6. sharks
7. life jacket
8. helmet
9. poison ivy
10. Lyme disease
11. indoors or in a car
12. food poisoning

