

# Easy English NEWS



May 2023

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Is That Picture Real?

Artificial intelligence (AI) uses computer programs to do \_\_\_\_\_ and solve problems. The first AI program started in 1951 in \_\_\_\_\_. Over the \_\_\_\_\_ 72 years, technology has changed a lot.

As technology changes, AI programs change, \_\_\_\_\_. They get \_\_\_\_\_ and faster. They can do \_\_\_\_\_ things. They learn from data that computer \_\_\_\_\_ give them. They also \_\_\_\_\_ from all the information people put on the internet.

Artificial \_\_\_\_\_ is everywhere in our daily lives. Some AI is easy to identify \_\_\_\_\_ you can see it in use. This AI technology is in things like robots and self-driving cars. They use AI to learn where to go and how to do their jobs.

### WORD BANK

stronger	tasks	programmers	learn	too
England	last	intelligence	because	more

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

## Saving for Retirement

When you have \_\_\_\_\_ for 40 years or more, you may be ready to stop working. This is called \_\_\_\_\_. In retirement, you may want to \_\_\_\_\_, do hobbies, or spend more time with family. But if you are not working, how do you \_\_\_\_\_ for these things? It is \_\_\_\_\_ to plan and save for your retirement.

### Social Security

Social Security is a tax that \_\_\_\_\_ worker in the U.S. pays. The tax is \_\_\_\_\_ out of each worker's paycheck. The U.S. government puts this money into a fund for people who are retired or \_\_\_\_\_ work because of a disability.

To get Social Security benefits, you must be 62 years old or \_\_\_\_\_. Also, you must work for at \_\_\_\_\_ 10 years before you can file for Social Security.

### WORD BANK

travel	each	retirement	cannot	pay
worked	older	important	taken	least

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

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Today, there are 20.6 \_\_\_\_\_ Asian Americans and Pacific Island Americans in the U.S. That's 6.2% of the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_. May is the month to learn about the history and \_\_\_\_\_ of these Americans. These include people who come from (or whose ancestors came from) China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, \_\_\_\_\_, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, the Philippines, and the islands of the Pacific Ocean.

At first, Asian people in America did not have the \_\_\_\_\_ rights as other immigrants. They could not \_\_\_\_\_ citizens. Laws in some states said Asian people could not \_\_\_\_\_ land. In 1882, the U.S. government made it \_\_\_\_\_ to immigrate to the U.S. from China. In 1924, the U.S. government made it difficult for people from \_\_\_\_\_ Asian countries to immigrate here as well. In 1965, immigration laws were \_\_\_\_\_. Asian people were allowed to come to the U.S. Then the Asian population in the U.S. began to grow quickly.

### WORD BANK

become	illegal	contributions	changed	own
population	million	Cambodia	same	other

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

## ***Cinco de Mayo***

*Cinco de Mayo* (the \_\_\_\_\_ of May) is an important holiday for Mexican Americans. It celebrates a day of \_\_\_\_\_ and victory in Mexico.

In 1862, the Mexican army stopped the \_\_\_\_\_ of Napoleon III of France. There was a long battle in the town of \_\_\_\_\_.

Four \_\_\_\_\_ Mexican soldiers kept Mexico free. They \_\_\_\_\_ the French army that was twice as large.

In Mexico and in the \_\_\_\_\_ part of the United States, people celebrate *Cinco de Mayo*. They have parades, street fairs, and festivals with music,

dancing, food, and \_\_\_\_\_ of fun. There are fireworks and battle \_\_\_\_\_.

Schools have \_\_\_\_\_ programs to learn about Mexican culture and history.

### **WORD BANK**

invasion

special

southwestern

Puebla

fifth

thousand

defeated

reenactments

courage

lots

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

## Cape Lookout National Seashore

Cape Lookout National Seashore is on the \_\_\_\_\_ coast of North Carolina. It is \_\_\_\_\_ of the Outer Banks. It is 56 miles of \_\_\_\_\_ land, plants, and animals. Sailors, \_\_\_\_\_, and whalers lived there many years ago. No one lives there \_\_\_\_\_.

More than 500,000 people visit Cape Lookout National Seashore \_\_\_\_\_ year. They \_\_\_\_\_ take a boat or ferry to get there. When they are \_\_\_\_\_, they camp, fish, swim, walk on the beach, and look for shells.

Ships in the ocean use the Cape Lookout Lighthouse to \_\_\_\_\_ their way up the coast. The current lighthouse was \_\_\_\_\_ in 1859. It is 163 feet tall. It is painted white with black diamonds.

### WORD BANK

today	opened	fishermen	there	each
must	southern	protected	part	find

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

## Get Ready for Screen-Free Week

Are you \_\_\_\_\_ to TV or to your computer or smartphone? Can you live \_\_\_\_\_ watching a screen for a week? Do you have ideas of \_\_\_\_\_ ways to have fun?

This month is the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ to find out.

May 1 to \_\_\_\_\_ 7 is Screen-Free Week. It's a time to turn \_\_\_\_\_ TVs, laptops, computers, smartphones, and tablets. Take a break from video games, FaceBook, Twitter, and \_\_\_\_\_ the Web.

Why? What \_\_\_\_\_ is there in life?

There's the \_\_\_\_\_ world.

Not too long ago, people \_\_\_\_\_ outside. They played board games. They read books. They talked to their friends and family.

### WORD BANK

whole	other	surfing	played	May
without	time	addicted	else	off



## 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.	Alexa	Google Assistant	Siri	image creator
2.	painter	AI image creator	potter	photographer
3.	hobby	work	travel	spend time with family
4.	401(k)	traditional IRA	tax	Roth IRA
5.	horse racing	yoga	karate	tai chi
6.	draft	Army	Air Force	Navy
7.	Mexico	Thailand	Japan	India
8.	Kentucky Derby	Belmont Stakes	aikido	Preakness Stakes
9.	walk on the beach	camp	fish	ride wild horses
10.	sailors	teachers	whalers	fishermen
11.	books	computers	tablets	smartphones
12.	read	walk in the woods	send emails	watch the stars

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

## I. Is That Picture Real?

1. What does AI stand for? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does AI use to do tasks and solve problems? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When and where was the first AI program started? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Does AI learn from data and information on the internet? YES NO
5. Which of these things in our daily lives uses AI? Mark all your answers.
  - a. robot vacuum
  - b. books
  - c. Alexa
  - d. Siri
  - e. toy ball
  - f. self-driving cars
  - g. social media
  - h. Google Assistant
6. What does an AI image creator program make? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who programs the AI image creators? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many AI image creator programs are there now? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Are all AI image creator programs free? YES NO
10. What company says AI image creators are breaking copyright laws? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Do AI image creators save publishers and advertisers time? YES NO
12. What group is worried that they won't be paid for their work anymore? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Why do people post fake photos on the internet? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## II. Saving for Retirement

1. What is it called when someone finishes working after working for 30 or 40 or more years?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is Social Security a tax that workers pay?                      YES                      NO

3. How old do you have to be to get Social Security benefits? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How long must you work before you can file for Social Security benefits?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Is Social Security guaranteed?                      YES                      NO

6. What are two ways a person can save for retirement through work?

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

7. What are two types of IRAs? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Which IRA is taxed when you take the money out? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Which IRA is taxed when you put the money in? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in May

1. On what day is May Day? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do the French words, *m'aider* mean? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In some parts of the world, who is honored on May Day? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many Asian Americans and Pacific Island Americans live in the United States?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. In what year did the U.S. pass a law that said a person from China may not immigrate to  
the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

6. In what year did a new law allow Asian people to immigrate to the U.S.?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. What teacher had a great influence on Asian culture? \_\_\_\_\_

8. When did he live? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Which group in the U.S. has the highest level of education? \_\_\_\_\_

10. From what country did Americans learn yoga? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in May (continued)

11. Who was the first Asian American voted in as vice president of the United States?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. How many members of Congress are:

a. Japanese Americans \_\_\_\_\_ b. Chinese Americans \_\_\_\_\_

c. Indian Americans \_\_\_\_\_ d. Filipino Americans \_\_\_\_\_

e. Thai Americans \_\_\_\_\_ f. Samoan Americans \_\_\_\_\_

g. Korean Americans \_\_\_\_\_ h. Taiwanese Americans \_\_\_\_\_

i. Chamorro Americans \_\_\_\_\_

13. What event is called the “fastest two minutes in sports?”

\_\_\_\_\_

14. On what day will that event be? \_\_\_\_\_

15. What does *Cinco de Mayo* mean? \_\_\_\_\_

16. In what year did the Mexican army stop the invasion of Napoleon III of France?

\_\_\_\_\_

17. Who do Americans honor on the second Sunday of May? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in May (continued)

18. When is Armed Forces Day this year? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Who must register with Selective Service? \_\_\_\_\_

20. When is Memorial Day this year? \_\_\_\_\_

21. When was America's War of Independence? \_\_\_\_\_

22. What country did the U.S. fight in the War of 1812? \_\_\_\_\_

23. What country was the U.S. at war with from 1846 to 1848? \_\_\_\_\_

24. When was the American Civil War? \_\_\_\_\_

25. When did the United States fight in these wars?

a. Spanish American War? \_\_\_\_\_ b. World War I? \_\_\_\_\_

c. World War II? \_\_\_\_\_ d. Korean Conflict? \_\_\_\_\_

e. Vietnam War? \_\_\_\_\_ f. War in Afghanistan? \_\_\_\_\_

g. War in Iraq? \_\_\_\_\_ h. Global war on Terror? \_\_\_\_\_



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

## V. Cape Lookout National Seashore

1. Where is Cape Lookout National Seashore? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How long is Cape Lookout National Seashore? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who lived there long ago? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

and \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many people visit each year? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How do they get there? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What helps ships find their way up the coast? \_\_\_\_\_

7. When was this opened? \_\_\_\_\_

8. How tall is it? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How many wild horses are there on Cape Lookout National Seashore?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Is it legal to ride them?

YES

NO

11. What endangered animals lay their eggs on the beach on Cape Lookout National Seashore?

\_\_\_\_\_



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

## VI. Get Ready for Screen-Free Week

1. When is Screen-Free Week? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Screen-Free Week means turning \_\_\_\_\_ T.V.s, laptops, computers, and tablets.

3. What shouldn't you use during Screen-Free Week? Mark all your answers.

a. a book

b. video games

c. board games

d. Facebook

e. TikTok

f. smart phones

4. How many hours a day do children and teenagers spend looking at a screen?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Is watching too much T.V. as dangerous as smoking?

YES

NO

6. What are some things you can do with family and friends during Screen-Free Week?

Mark all your answers.

a. go to the park

b. check email

c. go to the library

d. download apps

e. learn new games

f. bake cookies

## 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. Artificial intelligence has become more popular in the last few years. AI image creator programs can be a great tool to help people find the exact picture they are looking for, but they also have issues. What do you think are the biggest issues with these image creator programs? Do you use image creators in your life? How do you use them? (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, etc.) How do you protect yourself when you use these programs?
2. More and more devices (i.e. ovens, refrigerators, doorbells, vacuums, etc.) are becoming “SMART.” This means that they have a computer in them. That computer may use artificial intelligence. People can control these devices with their smartphones. What are the positives of Smart devices? What are the negatives of Smart devices? Do you use any of these devices in your home? Which ones? How do they work? How do you protect yourself from criminals that may try to take control of your devices?
3. Some people really look forward to retirement. They are excited about all the things they will get to do when they are no longer working. Other people are not excited to retire. They love their job and don't want to leave it. How do you feel about your life? Will you be excited to retire? What would you like to do when you retire? How is retirement in the United States different than retirement in your home country?
4. Why do you think a country honors men and women who died in that country's wars? Why do you think men and women freely give their lives for their country? Research: Ask 10 older people (50+ years old) and 10 teenagers (13 to 19 years old) this question. Are their answers different? Report to the class.

**May 2023**  
**Answers to *Easy English NEWS***  
**Short-Answer Tests**

**I. Is That Picture Real?**

1. artificial intelligence
2. computer programs
3. England, 1951
4. YES
5. a, c, d, f, g, h
6. digital pictures
7. developers
8. 30
9. NO
10. Getty
11. YES
12. artists
13. to trick people

**II. Saving for Retirement**

1. retirement
2. YES
3. 62
4. at least 10 years
5. NO
6. 401(k) and SEP
7. traditional IRA and Roth IRA
8. traditional IRA
9. Roth IRA

**III. Events in May**

1. May 1
2. help me
3. workers
4. 20.6 million
5. 1882
6. 1965
7. Confucius
8. 551 - 479 BCE
9. Asian Americans
10. India
11. Kamala Harris
12. a) 4                      b) 2
- d) 1                      e) 1
- g) 4                      h) 2
13. the Kentucky Derby
14. May 6
15. May 5; fifth of May
16. 1862
17. mothers
18. May 20

19. all young men aged 18 to 25
20. May 29
21. 1776 - 1783
22. England
23. Mexico
24. 1861 - 1865
25. a) 1898                      b) 1917-1918
- c) 1941 - 1945              d) 1950-1953
- e) 1964 - 1975              f) 2001 - 2021
- g) 2003 - 2011              h) 2001 - 2021

**IV. Former President Indicted**

1. Donald Trump
2. New York grand jury
3. March 30
4. Alvin Bragg
5. April 3
6. April 4
7. NO
8. NO
9. 34
10. not guilty
11. a trial
12. December 4, 2023

**V. Cape Lookout National Seashore**

1. southern coast of North Carolina
2. 56 miles
3. sailors, fishermen, and whalers
4. 500,000
5. ferry or boat
6. Cape Lookout Lighthouse
7. 1859
8. 163 feet tall
9. 120 to 130
10. NO
11. sea turtles

**VI. Get Ready for Screen-Free Week**

1. May 1 to May 7
2. off
3. b, d, e, f
4. 7.5 hours
5. YES
6. a, c, e, f

