

Easy English NEWS



November 2023

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

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

Is Blue Light Bad?
Photo Identification
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving
The Human Lifespan
The Gateway Arch
American Indians

Which Word Does Not Belong?

Short-answer Tests

Is Blue Light Bad? (2 pages)
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The Human Lifespan
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American Indians

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 Blue Light Bad?

Americans _____ over seven hours every day looking at screens. We spend _____ four hours of that time with smart phones close to our faces. Experts recommend less than two hours of screen time _____ day. They worry that too much _____ to blue light from these devices may affect our health.

What is blue light?

The white light we see is made up of _____ colors of light. When _____ shines on one side of a prism, a rainbow of light – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet – shows up on the other side. Each color of light has a different _____ of energy. Blue light has the _____ energy.

About _____ of the light we see is blue light. Most of the blue light _____ from the sun.

WORD BANK

one-third	different	exposure	amount	spend
comes	sunlight	almost	most	each

Name _____ Date _____

Photo Identification

In the United States, photo _____ (ID) is very important. You need a photo ID to drive, pick up mail at the _____ office, and fly on an airplane. You may need a photo ID to _____ how old you are or where you live. In _____ states, you may need a photo ID to vote.

Some _____ give their workers photo IDs. These IDs are _____ for work. They show who _____ for the company. The IDs show who is allowed to be in the building and _____ employees into their offices.

Most places that ask you for an ID want a government _____ ID. _____ you work for the government, work IDs are not official government IDs.

WORD BANK

prove	works	identification	unless	some
issued	valid	businesses	post	let

Name _____ Date _____

Veterans Day

Veterans Day is _____, November 11. On this day, Americans _____ the men and women who have served in the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Space Force. There are _____ in many cities and towns on Veterans Day. There is a special ceremony at the National Cemetery in Arlington, _____. People _____ flags and flowers to soldiers' graves.

Armistice Day

From 1914 to 1918, more than 61 million soldiers from 31 countries fought in World _____ I. Eight and a half _____ soldiers were killed in battles in that war. Five million civilians died, _____. On _____ 11, 1918, the countries signed an agreement to stop fighting. The armistice was signed “at the _____ hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month” of 1918.

WORD BANK

honor	Virginia	war	November	eleventh
bring	million	too	parades	Saturday

Name _____ Date _____

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day is the _____ Thursday of November. This year it is _____ 23. Americans give _____ for the things we have—family, friends, food, clothing, home, and health. Americans are thankful for _____ and our country, too.

Thanksgiving is not _____ to any religion. Everyone can enjoy this time to be _____ family and friends. We can all be thankful for what we _____.

Americans _____ eat a big meal on Thanksgiving. _____ foods served at Thanksgiving are turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, corn, beans, and squash. Traditional desserts are apple pie and _____ pie.

WORD BANK

liberty

fourth

connected

usually

with

pumpkin

thanks

November

traditional

have

Name _____ Date _____

The Human Lifespan

Two thousand years ago, in ancient _____, only 50% of people lived past their 22nd birthday. Now the average _____ expectancy in the U.S. is 76.4 years!

What has caused people to live longer lives?

People have more food because of better _____. Children are _____ against deadly diseases. _____ have running water and indoor toilets. People wash their hands and bathe more _____. Doctors have ways to _____ diseases with antibiotics and surgery.

Will our lifespan continue to increase?

It seems to me that most people could live to _____. However, _____ the past 30 years, there has been an epidemic of obesity. Two thirds of all adult _____ are overweight.

WORD BANK

vaccinated	often	Americans	Rome	100
farming	homes	treat	life	over

Name _____ Date _____

The Gateway Arch

The Gateway Arch is the _____ monument in the United States. It is _____ to the Mississippi River in St. Louis, Missouri. It is called the Gateway Arch because people say it is the “_____ to the west.”

The arch is 630 feet tall and made of _____ steel, carbon steel, and cement. The distance between the two sides at the base is 630 _____.

Eero Saarinen, an _____, and Hannskarl Bandel, a structural engineer, designed the arch in 1947. _____ of workers began building the arch in 1963. It took more than two years to _____. The workers _____ building the arch in October 1965.

There is a _____ tram that people can ride to the top of the arch. Each tram has eight cars with clear doors.

WORD BANK

special	architect	stainless	teams	next
gateway	tallest	finished	build	feet

Name _____ Date _____

American Indians

Millions of people already lived in North and South America before _____
came here in 1492. There were thousands of different _____.

Each nation had its _____ language, customs, and culture.

_____ groups were farmers. Some _____

hunters. Some lived in _____ cities.

When Columbus met the first of these people, he _____ he was in
the Indies. He called the people _____ “Indians”. Today we call them
“American Indians” or “_____ Americans”.

Relations between the newcomers and Indians

The _____ between American Indians and the Europeans who came to
the Americas was very complex.

WORD BANK

native	thought	relationship	own	nations
great	here	Columbus	were	some

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.	prism	red	blue	green
2.	computer	smartphone	book	tablet
3.	macula	sun	lens	retina
4.	acne	sunspots	depression	problems sleeping
5.	work ID	military ID	passport	driver's license
6.	indigenous people	Indians	Pilgrims	Native Americans
7.	mashed potatoes	turkey	cranberries	cake
8.	deer	stuffing	fish	clams
9.	high fructose corn syrup	sugar	salt	dextrose
10.	arch	museum	tepee	courthouse
11.	stainless steel	wood	cement	carbon steel
12.	sugarless gum	carrot sticks	hard candy	cigarettes

Name _____ Date _____

I. Is Blue Light Bad?

1. How much time do Americans spend looking at screens each day? _____

2. How much of that time do Americans spend on smart phones? _____

3. What kind of light is made up of different colors of light? _____

4. What color light has the most energy? _____

5. How much of the light we see is blue light? _____

6. Where does blue light come from? Mark your answers.

a. the sun

b. a book

c. LED TVs

d. fluorescent lights

e. playing cards

f. green light

g. red light

h. computer screens

i. laptop screens

j. smart phones

k. candle light

l. tablet screens

7. What are the back parts of the eye called? _____ and _____

8. What is it called when someone loses their vision in the center of their eye?

9. Does blue light make it easier to fall asleep?

YES

NO

Name _____ Date _____

I. Is Blue Light Bad? (continued)

10. Where does healthy blue light come from? _____

11. What problems do doctors treat with blue light? Mark your answers.

- a. sleep
- b. cancer
- c. seasonal depression
- d. type 2 diabetes
- e. heart disease
- f. acne
- g. sunspots
- h. inflammation

12. What four things can people do to limit their blue light exposure?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Photo Identification

1. Name three times you may need to show a photo ID. _____,
_____, and _____

2. Are most work IDs official government IDs? YES NO

3. Do you have to apply for government issued IDs? YES NO

4. What does a U.S. citizen need to travel outside the U.S.? _____

5. What photo IDs are for military members and their families? _____

6. What ID gives immigrants permission to work legally in the United States?

7. What is the formal name for a United States Green Card?

8. What office gives out driver's licenses in most states? _____

9. What two tests do people have to take in most states to get a driver's license?
_____ and _____

10. What ID can someone get if they are too young or do not want to drive a car?

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in November

1. Who were the first people to live on the North American continent? _____
2. On what day do Catholics and other Christian groups go to church to say special prayers for saints? _____
3. What does *Dia de los Muertos* mean? _____
4. Where in the U.S. is this holiday most popular? _____
5. When does Daylight Saving Time end? _____
6. When is Election Day? _____
7. Who can vote? _____
8. Where do people go to vote? _____

9. What is the day after Thanksgiving called for shoppers and stores? _____
10. Who do Americans honor on November 11? _____
11. Where is the National Cemetery for American soldiers? _____
12. When was World War I? _____

Name _____ Date _____

13. How many soldiers were killed in World War I? _____

14. How many civilians were killed in World War I? _____

15. What was the day called when World War I ended? _____

16. When did Congress change the name to *Veterans Day*? _____

17. What holiday is on the fourth Thursday of November? _____

18. What is the purpose of this holiday? _____

19. Is it connected to any religion? YES NO

20. When did the Pilgrims land in Massachusetts? _____

21. How many Pilgrims were still alive after the first winter in America? _____

22. Who were two Indians who spoke English and greeted the Pilgrims?

_____ and _____

23. How many Indians came to the feast in October? _____

24. What is the march and rally in Plymouth, Massachusetts on Thanksgiving called?

25. When did this protest start? _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. The Human Lifespan

1. What is the average life expectancy in the U.S. now? _____

2. What has become an epidemic over the past 30 years? _____

3. What two things do farmers put in animals' food to make them grow bigger?

_____ and _____

4. Cheap sweeteners and artificial flavors are _____ that make food
taste good.

5. What do toxins in our food do to our bodies? _____ and

6. Do sit-down jobs, TV, computers, and video games burn fat? YES NO

7. What should you do to fruits and vegetables before you eat them? _____

8. What should you read on food packages to find out what is in it? _____

9. What helps flush toxins out of your body? _____, _____,

and _____

Name _____ Date _____

V. The Gateway Arch

1. Where is the Gateway Arch located? _____
2. What river is it next to? _____
3. How tall is it? _____
4. How far apart are the two sides at the base? _____
5. When did they start building the arch? _____
6. When did they finish building it? _____
7. How do people get to the top of the arch? _____
8. How far can people see from the top of the arch? _____
9. How big is Gateway Arch National Park? _____
10. What are the three parts of the national park?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

Name _____ Date _____

VI. American Indians

1. Who gave the name Indians to the people he met in America? _____
2. What two diseases killed many Indians? _____ and _____
3. What governments made treaties with the Indians in the 1700s and 1800s?
_____ and _____
4. After these treaties, where did the Indians move? _____
5. What animal did the Plains Indians need for food? _____
6. Where did all Indians have to live after 1890? _____
7. When did Indians become U.S. citizens? _____
8. Where did the U.S. government send Indian children? _____
9. When did the American Indian Movement (AIM) begin? _____
10. How many American Indians are in the U.S. today? _____
11. At what events do Indians share their culture (tell stories, dance, and play music) with
other Indian groups? _____

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. Americans spend a lot of time on screens. We work on screens, we play on screens, and we use screens for school. This screen time increased because of the pandemic. Doctors and researchers encourage people to unplug and use screens less. How often do you use screens? Is it more or less than the recommended two hours a day? How much do the members of your family use screens? Brainstorm ways that you and your family could use screens less. Create a plan. What screen time is absolutely necessary? What screen time could be cut? What will you do instead to fill your time?
2. As of August 2023, 34 states required voters to show some type of ID. Twenty three of the 34 required a photo ID to vote. Do you think it is important for a person to show a photo ID in order to vote in U.S. elections? Why or why not? What challenges might stop people from getting a photo ID? Should those challenges also stop people from voting?
3. Daylight Saving Time lasts for 8 months. Some states want to be on Daylight Saving Time all year. Other states want to be on Standard Time all year. What problems come up if each state is on a different time? Right now, Arizona, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico do not change their clocks.
4. List ten things you can do to assure a healthy life and a full lifespan. Will you do them? Why or why not?
5. Talk to five people who smoke cigarettes. Ask them how they started. Ask if they have ever tried to stop smoking. If they did, what happened? How did they feel? Were they able to stop?
6. Find out what federal or state American Indian reservations are in your state. Where are they? How many people live on those reservations? How big are they? How do the American Indians on the reservations earn a living?

November 2023
Answers to *Easy English NEWS*
Short-answer Tests

I. Is Blue Light Bad?

1. over seven hours
2. almost four hours
3. white light
4. blue light
5. one-third
6. a, c, d, h, i, j, l
7. retina and macula
8. macular degeneration
9. NO
10. the sun
11. b, c, d, f, g, h
12. a. 20/20/20 strategy
 - b. use blue light glasses
 - c. limit screen time/ turn screens off 2 hours before going to sleep
 - d. use night-time settings on devices

II. Photo Identification

1. a. driving, b. picking up mail, c. flying on an airplane
2. NO
3. YES
4. U.S. passport
5. U.S. military ID cards
6. Employment Authorization cards
7. Permanent Resident card
8. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
9. a. road test, b. written test
10. non-driver photo ID

III. Events in November

1. the American Indians/ Native Americans
2. All Saints' Day
3. Day of the Dead
4. In the Southwest, near Mexico
5. 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 5
6. Tuesday, November 7
7. citizens 18 years old and older
8. schools, fire houses, community centers/polls
9. Black Friday
10. veterans
11. Arlington, Virginia
12. 1914-1918
13. eight and a half million
14. five million
15. Armistice Day
16. 1954
17. Thanksgiving

18. to give thanks for the things we have
19. NO
20. December 21, 1620
21. 54
22. Samoset and Squanto
23. 90
24. National Day of Mourning
25. 1970

IV. The Human Lifespan

1. 76.4 years old
2. obesity
3. antibiotics and hormones
4. additives
5. change our metabolism, clog our fat cells
6. NO
7. wash and peel them
8. label
9. water, soup, and tea

V. The Gateway Arch

1. St. Louis, Missouri
2. the Mississippi River
3. 630 feet
4. 630 feet
5. 1963
6. 1965
7. a tram
8. 30 miles
9. 91 acres
10. a. the arch
 - b. the museum
 - c. the Old Courthouse

VI. American Indians

1. Columbus
2. smallpox and measles
3. state and federal governments
4. west
5. buffalo
6. reservations
7. 1924
8. boarding schools
9. 1960s
10. four million
11. powwows

