

Easy English NEWS



October 2023

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

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

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The U.S. Mail
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An Annular Eclipse
Halloween
The Boston Tea Party

Which Word Does not Belong?

Short-answer Tests

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Critical-thinking and Creative-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 _____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 _____

New Laws for Buying U.S. Farmland

The United States government works with other governments _____ the world. The U.S. buys _____ from and sells products to other countries. The U.S. _____ help to other countries if they need it and asks for help from them, too. The goal is to _____ the United States strong and safe.

Sometimes another country does _____ to make the U.S. feel less safe. When this happens, U.S. leaders _____.

Problems with China

In 2019, a _____ billionaire wanted to build a wind farm in Texas. He said it would help the _____ electricity grid. People were _____ that he was a part of the Chinese Communist Party. They said he might put devices on the wind turbines to spy on _____ Air Force Base. Texas lawmakers stopped the project.

WORD BANK

retaliate

around

something

state's

gives

worried

products

Laughlin

Chinese

keep

Name _____ Date _____

The U.S. Mail

Americans don't send a _____ of letters by mail these days. The fastest and most popular way to send a letter or _____ is by email, text message, or social media. In addition, a lot of people pay their _____ online. _____, when you want to send a check, a birthday card, or a paper document, you might mail them through the United States Postal Service (USPS).

The Postal Service _____ mail to homes, businesses, and Post Office (P.O.) boxes in the U.S. Letter carriers bring mail every day except Sundays and federal holidays.

To help your letter carrier get your mail to you, make sure your house number is on your house and mailbox. You can also tape your name on or _____ your mailbox. If you _____ your name for any reason, tape the new name there, too.

Mailing a letter

You can mail a letter at any U.S. _____ or in a blue USPS mailbox. Also, your letter carrier _____ pick up letters from your home or business.

Post offices are usually open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday _____ Friday.

WORD BANK

through

Post Office

inside

however

photo

change

delivers

lot

bills

can

Name _____ Date _____

Indigenous Peoples' Day

Indigenous Peoples' Day _____ traditions and cultures of indigenous people around the world. It is the _____ Monday of October, the same day as Columbus Day. This year it is _____ 9.

Indigenous people lived in the Americas for _____ of years before Columbus came. They lived and _____ together in communities.

Columbus was _____ to native people. He took _____ land. He used them as _____. His sailors brought _____ diseases with them. The native people got very sick. A _____ number of them died from these diseases.

WORD BANK

worked	second	European	October	cruel
slaves	large	thousands	celebrates	their

Name _____ Date _____

An Annular Eclipse

There will be an _____ solar eclipse over parts of the U.S. on October 14. A solar eclipse _____ when the moon moves between Earth and the Sun. It looks like the moon _____ the sun. In an annular solar eclipse, the moon does not _____ cover the sun. When the moon is in _____ of the sun, there is still a ring of light around it.

The annular eclipse will start at 9:13 a.m. (_____ Time) in the U.S. and move over Central and South America. If the weather is clear, people in _____, Utah, New Mexico, and Texas will be able to see the eclipse. People in _____ parts of California, Idaho, Colorado, and Arizona may see some of the eclipse too.

It is not safe to _____ directly at an annular eclipse. The sunlight can _____ your eyes.

WORD BANK

covers

Pacific

happens

fully

some

annular

Oregon

damage

front

look

Name _____ Date _____

Halloween

October 31 is _____. This popular holiday came to the United States with _____ immigrants.

Children _____ Halloween. They wear _____ and masks. They go to neighbors' homes that have outside lights on. They _____ on doors. When the door opens, the children say " _____ !" _____ neighbors give children candy, money, or some other treat.

Some elementary schools have a party in the _____ and a parade around the school playground. Parents come to take _____ of the parade of children in their costumes. Some adults have Halloween parties with costumes, _____.

WORD BANK

trick or treat

photos

costumes

Irish

too

Halloween

enjoy

afternoon

many

knock

Name _____ Date _____

The Boston Tea Party

This is the 250th anniversary of the “Boston Tea Party” of 1773. It was an important
_____ in American History.

Here’s how it _____:

Taxation without representation

Great _____ had many colonies in North America. When Britain needed
money in the 1760s, it decided to _____ the people in its colonies.

The _____ in America did not have any representatives in Britain.

In 13 of the British colonies, the people protested _____ the new
taxes. They said, “No taxation without _____.” British Parliament
_____ all but one tax, the tax on tea.

The colonists did not want to pay that tax, _____. They didn’t want to pay
any taxes that they hadn’t voted for _____.

WORD BANK

colonists

Britain

representation

started

tax

event

against

themselves

removed

either

Name _____ Date _____

October 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.	wind farm	tea ship	weather balloon	corn mill
2.	Idaho	North Dakota	Massachusetts	Florida
3.	Russia	North Korea	Iran	England
4.	paper letters	email	social media	text message
5.	USPS	DHL	UPS	FedEx
6.	First-Class	Forever Stamp	Priority Mail	UPS
7.	Columbus	Bjarni Herjolfsson	Leif Erikson	Saint Brendan
8.	jack-o'-lantern	ghost	skeleton	cider
9.	Arabic	Chinese	German	English
10.	colonists	Minutemen	British	Sons of Liberty
11.	bacteria	virus	fever	parasites
12.	fish	sugar	eggs	chicken

Name _____ Date _____

I. New Laws for Buying U.S. Farmland

1. Why does the United States government work with other countries around the world?

2. What do U.S. leaders do when another country does something to make the U.S. feel less safe? _____

3. What did a Chinese billionaire want to build in Texas in 2019? _____

4. What did Texas lawmakers do to this project? _____

5. What did a group of Chinese businesspeople want to build in North Dakota in 2021?

6. How far was the farmland from Grand Forks Air Force Base? _____

7. When did lawmakers stop the company from building on this land in North Dakota? _____

8. Do U.S. lawmakers want China to have unlimited access to the United States?

YES

NO

9. How many states had laws keeping people from foreign countries from buying U.S. farmland before 2023? _____

10. How many states have written bills in 2023 to stop the Chinese government, Chinese businesses, and Chinese people from buying U.S. farmland? _____

11. Which state's laws for buying U.S. land are the harshest so far? _____

Name _____ Date _____

I. New Laws for Buying U.S. Farmland (continued)

12. What name does the U.S. government give to Cuba, Russia, North Korea, Venezuela, Iran, and other countries? _____

13. Is Congress also working on new property laws for the federal government?

YES

NO

14. Do these new laws apply to Asian Americans and American citizens? YES NO

15. What are Asian Americans worried about with these new laws? _____

16. Who says these new laws go against the Fair Housing Act? _____

17. Do lawmakers think the new laws are discriminatory? YES NO

18. Who is worried that they will not have buyers for their land when they want to sell it because of these new laws? _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. The U.S. Mail

1. What organization delivers mail to homes, businesses, and Post Office boxes?

2. What color are the USPS mailboxes? _____

3. How much is a stamp for a First-Class letter that weighs one ounce or less? _____

4. How much must you add for each extra ounce up to 3.5 ounces? _____

5. How much is the Forever Stamp for First-Class letters today? _____

6. What number goes after the city and state in your address? _____

7. How much does it cost to send a Priority Mail envelope? _____

8. What type of mail should you use when you want a letter to arrive the next day?

9. How much does it cost to send a First-Class letter to a foreign country? _____

10. If you move to a new address, the USPS will forward your mail. For how long will it do
this? _____

11. USPS will not deliver a package over 13 ounces with stamps on it if you mail it in a blue
mailbox. Where can you mail it? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in October

1. On what day and year did Columbus reach America? _____

2. How many voyages did Columbus make to America? _____

3. Who gave Columbus money for ships and sailors? _____

4. Did Columbus know he had discovered a new world? YES NO

5. What national group organizes the Columbus Day parades? _____

6. What holiday are some cities and states in the U.S. celebrating now instead of Columbus Day? _____

7. When did the idea for this holiday start? _____

8. Is this holiday a federal holiday? YES NO

9. Child Health Day is the first Tuesday in October. TRUE FALSE

10. What are some ways to give a child a healthy start? Mark your answers.

a. doctor's appointments for the mom b. feed them sugar c. vaccinations

d. good nutrition e. let them watch a lot of tv f. good dental health

g. love

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in October (continued)

11. When is fire prevention week this year? _____ to _____

12. What is the theme for fire prevention week this year? _____

13. How many of the fires in homes start in the kitchen? _____

14. What is it called when the moon does not fully cover the sun in an eclipse? _____

15. What holiday is on October 31? _____

16. What do children do on this holiday? Mark your answers.

a. go swimming b. wear costumes c. say “Trick or Treat!” d. sleep a lot

e. eat candy from neighbors f. have school parties g. parade around school

17. What do many people make from a pumpkin? _____

18. When is United Nations Day? _____

19. What are the six official languages of the United Nations?

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Your Health: Your Immune System

1. What are five things in the environment that can make us ill? Mark your answers.

- a. air b. bacteria c. water d. viruses e. parasites
- f. toxins g. tea h. fungi

2. What works overtime to heal us when we are sick or hurt? _____

3. Drinking clear water, tea, soup or vegetable juice helps to clean out toxins that have

entered your body. TRUE FALSE

4. In what kind of environment do immune cells work best? _____

5. In what kind of environment do cancer cells and harmful microbes do well?

6. What foods does Dr. Ali suggest people should eat more of? Mark your answers.

- a. fresh vegetables b. beans c. sugar d. meat e. lentils
- f. fish g. alcohol h. chocolate i. eggs j. milk
- k. chicken l. yogurt

7. A living thing that cannot make its own food is a parasite. YES NO

8. What does a person have when he or she coughs, sneezes, or has a rash from touching or

breathing something in the environment? _____

Name _____ Date _____

V. The Boston Tea Party

1. Which country had colonies in Eastern North America in 1775? _____

2. Who was King of England in 1775? _____

3. Did the colonists in America have any representatives in British Parliament?

YES

NO

4. Who was the leader of the “Sons of Liberty?” _____

5. Who was the British governor of Massachusetts? _____

6. How many boxes of tea did the Sons of Liberty dump into Boston Harbor? _____

7. Who did the king punish for this event? _____

8. What harbor did he close to all ships? _____

9. What did colonists call the king’s punishments? _____

10. In what city did leaders of the thirteen colonies meet to talk about it?

11. On what day did the British soldiers march to find Samuel Adams and other American

leaders? _____

Name _____ Date _____

V. The Boston Tea Party (continued)

12. What town did the British soldiers march to first? _____

13. How many British soldiers were there? _____

14. How many American Minutemen met them? _____

15. How many Americans were killed in that battle? _____

16. No one knows who fired the first shot. TRUE FALSE

17. What day did Americans declare their Independence? _____

18. What day was the last battle of the War for Independence?

19. Where did they fight that battle? _____

20. What treaty gave the American colonies their independence from Great Britain?

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. The governments of other countries own 40 million acres of U.S. farmland right now. Canada owns the most with over 12 million acres. The Netherlands and Italy own the second and third most land. The Chinese government isn't even in the top 10 countries who own U.S. farmland. China owns 384,000 acres. Why are U.S. lawmakers writing laws to stop China from buying U.S. farmland? Why do you think the U.S. government and Americans are worried about China owning U.S. land but not Canada?
2. Research the U.S. "countries of concern" list on the internet. Which countries are on the list right now? Why would the U.S. government put countries on this list?
3. People used to send letters, birthday cards, notices, and advertisements by mail. They paid bills by mail and ordered products by mail. Now people do these things by email and the Internet. The U.S. Post Office is losing money and the cost to send mail is going up. How do you use the U.S. Post Office in your life? What are some good reasons to keep the U.S. Post Office running?
4. Christopher Columbus's voyages changed the entire world. What do you think were some of the good changes that came from Columbus's trips? What do you think some of the bad changes might have been? Was Columbus's discovery more positive or more negative? Why?
5. Children get a lot of candy at Halloween. Candy can cause tooth decay, diabetes, and other health problems. Should there be laws against candy? Who would want those laws? Who would not want those laws? What other treats could people give at Halloween instead of candy?
6. The American Revolution started because of taxes that people did not want to pay. But today we have many more taxes: income taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, automobile taxes. But no one is trying to start a new country because of it. What's the difference between 1776 and today?
7. After you read Dr. Ali's article on Your Health, make a list of health practices. How many do you do or practice every day? Why or why not? What does a person need besides information to create good habits?

October 2023
Answers to Easy English NEWS
Short-Answer Tests

I. New Laws for Buying U.S. Farmland

1. YES
2. retaliate
3. wind farm
4. stopped it
5. a corn mill
6. 12 miles
7. 2023
8. NO
9. 14
10. 33
11. Florida
12. countries of concern
13. YES
14. NO
15. discrimination
16. American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Asian rights groups
17. NO
18. some farmers

II. Sending Mail

1. United States Postal Service
- 2 blue
3. 66 cents
4. 20 cents
5. 66 cents
6. ZIP code
7. \$9.35
8. Priority Mail Express
9. \$1.50
10. 12 months
11. at the Post Office

III. Events in October

1. October 12, 1492
2. four
3. Queen Isabella of Spain
4. NO
5. Italian Americans
6. Indigenous Peoples' Day
7. 1977
8. NO
9. FALSE

10. a, c, d, f, g
11. October 8 to October 14
12. Cooking safety starts with you.
13. about half
14. annular eclipse
15. Halloween
16. b, c, e, f, g
17. a jack-o'-lantern
18. October 24
19. English, Chinese, French, Arabic, Russian, Spanish

IV. Your Health

1. b, d, e, f, h
2. immune system
3. TRUE
4. alkaline
5. acidic
6. a, b, e, f, i, k, l
7. YES
8. an allergy

V. The Boston Tea Party

1. Great Britain
2. George III
3. NO
4. Samuel Adams
5. Governor Hutchinson
6. 342
7. All of Massachusetts
8. Boston Harbor
9. Intolerable Acts
10. Philadelphia
11. April 18, 1775
12. Lexington
13. 700
14. 70
15. eight
16. TRUE
17. July 4, 1776
18. October 19, 1781
19. Yorktown, Virginia
20. Treaty of Paris of 1783

