

# **Easy English NEWS**



**September 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## The Cells That Changed Science

The \_\_\_\_\_ body is made of cells. Different parts of the body have  
\_\_\_\_\_ kinds of cells. These cells \_\_\_\_\_ our  
body work. For \_\_\_\_\_ of years, scientists tried to study these cells. They  
\_\_\_\_\_ to see how diseases affect the body. They wanted to use their  
\_\_\_\_\_ to cure diseases.

Scientists needed a \_\_\_\_\_ of the same cells for their experiments. But most  
cells die \_\_\_\_\_ after they are removed from the body. They needed to find cells  
that \_\_\_\_\_ not die.

In 1951, Dr. George Gey, a cell biologist at Johns Hopkins hospital in \_\_\_\_\_,  
Maryland, got a sample of cells from a patient. These cells did not die like other cells.

### WORD BANK

research	human	Baltimore	different	lot
quickly	would	hundreds	wanted	help

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

## The Hottest Summer

In the summer, a \_\_\_\_\_ question people ask is, “How is your summer?”

The usual \_\_\_\_\_ are “good,” “busy,” or “going too fast.” This summer across the U.S. and in some \_\_\_\_\_ countries, the answer was “HOT!”

In June and \_\_\_\_\_, cities across the U.S. had record high temperatures.

Weather \_\_\_\_\_ reported that 2023 is the hottest year ever. There were

heat alerts \_\_\_\_\_ the country. People were told to drink lots of water and \_\_\_\_\_ out of the heat.

The temperature in \_\_\_\_\_, Arizona was more than 110 degrees for 31 days.

This was a new record. Death Valley was 128 \_\_\_\_\_ on July 16. This was the \_\_\_\_\_ it has ever been there. Other cities across the U.S. also broke records.

### WORD BANK

answers	across	forecasters	degrees	stay
common	July	Phoenix	hottest	other

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

## Constitution Day

September 17 is the birthday of the United States \_\_\_\_\_. The Constitution was \_\_\_\_\_ in 1787. This document is the foundation for the government of the United \_\_\_\_\_.

The Constitution sets up the government. It \_\_\_\_\_ the three parts of government and how Congress makes laws. There \_\_\_\_\_ been 27 amendments to the Constitution. The first \_\_\_\_\_ amendments are called the Bill of Rights.

\_\_\_\_\_ 17 is a popular day for new citizens to take the \_\_\_\_\_ of Allegiance.

The Constitution is important for you, but it's difficult to \_\_\_\_\_. You can read the *Constitution in \_\_\_\_\_ English* at **ElizabethClaire.com**.

### WORD BANK

simple	completed	understand	states	describes
oath	constitution	September	have	ten

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

## What Is Health?

by Dr. Majid Ali

The way I see it, health is having \_\_\_\_\_ to work, study, and enjoy

life. People in good health \_\_\_\_\_ with ease, digest food with ease,

and sleep with ease. They can concentrate and learn \_\_\_\_\_ ease.

They do not \_\_\_\_\_ have “*dis*-ease.” Health is waking up in the

\_\_\_\_\_ with a deep sense of gratitude simply for being alive.

Health means that our blood, heart, \_\_\_\_\_, digestive organs, and other

body systems all function well.

Medical doctors learn how to help people who are not \_\_\_\_\_.

They \_\_\_\_\_ disease. They fix broken bones and repair bodies

\_\_\_\_\_ accidents. They save lives with medicines and surgery when

\_\_\_\_\_.

### WORD BANK

morning

treat

necessary

with

energy

breathe

often

healthy

liver

after

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

## Levels of Education in the U.S.

The United States does not have a \_\_\_\_\_ public school system. In \_\_\_\_\_ states, children must be in school from the age of 5 or 6 until the age of 16 or 17. Each state sets the ages and has standards for high school \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ in each city and town pay for their own public schools. States and the federal government may \_\_\_\_\_ extra money to some schools.

\_\_\_\_\_ community makes rules for its own school buildings, teachers, materials, and students. In some cities, \_\_\_\_\_ are charter schools. Charter schools \_\_\_\_\_ make some of their own rules.

In \_\_\_\_\_ to public schools, there are parochial schools and private schools. Some families \_\_\_\_\_ their children at home. This is called homeschooling.

### WORD BANK

teach	taxpayers	give	addition	national
most	graduation	may	each	there

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

## Electing a U.S. President

Americans vote in elections \_\_\_\_\_ year. They vote for mayors, governors, and other \_\_\_\_\_ officials. Every four years, they vote for the \_\_\_\_\_ . The presidential election \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States is long and complicated.

### Who can become president?

The U.S. Constitution says that a president must be at \_\_\_\_\_ 35 years old. He or she must be a \_\_\_\_\_ citizen of the United States. That means that an immigrant \_\_\_\_\_ become president. An immigrant's child who is born in this country could \_\_\_\_\_ president. The president must be a resident of the United States for at least 14 \_\_\_\_\_ .

### The "two-party system"

There are \_\_\_\_\_ of political parties in the United States. Each political party has different ideas about what is important.

### WORD BANK

elected	cannot	natural-born	become	every
dozens	years	president	process	least



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

## September 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.

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
1.	blood	cells	tissue	maple syrup
2.	doctor	cell biologist	teacher	gynecologist
3.	hijacked	dehydrated	heat stroke	heat exhaustion
4.	stalactites	rock formations	stalagmites	hiking trail
5.	Kentucky	Maryland	Tennessee	Virginia
6.	challah	shofar	apples	honey
7.	Mexico	Dominican Republic	Puerto Rico	Cuba
8.	grade school	primary school	college	grammar school
9.	heart	digestive organs	gratitude	liver
10.	obesity	sanitation	arthritis	heart disease
11.	candidate	mayor	governor	president
12.	independent	Democratic Party	Green Party	Republican Party

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

## I. The Cells That Changed Science

1. What makes up the human body? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who wanted to study these things? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What cell biologist found ones that didn't die? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What hospital did he work for? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is it called when something doesn't die? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did the cell biologist name these cells? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Name four infections that scientists studied using these cells. \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who was the patient that these cells came from? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How did she die? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Did a doctor have to get a patient's permission to use their tissue in the 1950s?  
YES NO
11. Does a doctor have to get a patient's permission to use their tissue today?  
YES NO
12. What is this permission called? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## II. The Hottest Summer

1. What year did weather forecasters say was the hottest year ever? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Where was the temperature over 110 degrees for 31 days? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was the highest temperature recorded in Death Valley? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What two things are affecting the high temperatures now? \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_

5. What government agency studies weather and tracks storms? \_\_\_\_\_

6. A person may get \_\_\_\_\_ if he or she does not drink water.

7. When it is very hot, people may easily get \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Do scientists say the temperatures in August, September, and October will be higher or lower than normal?                      HIGHER                      LOWER

9. What is it called when there is not enough rain, plants and trees dry up, and there is not enough water for everyday things? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Will this heat wave end?                      YES                      NO

11. Will temperatures increase again in the future?                      YES                      NO

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

### III. Events in September

1. How many days are in September? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. What holidays or events are on these dates?
  - a. September 4 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. September 8 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. September 10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. September 11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. September 15 and 16 \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. September 17 \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. September 23 \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. September 24 \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Where are the 3 places that planes crashed on September 11, 2001? \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What building now stands near where the Twin Towers used to be?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. What are some ways schools and families can increase literacy? Mark your answers.
  - a. read together
  - b. watch a movie
  - c. share favorite books
  - d. play video games
  - e. talk about what they are reading
  - f. make lists of new words
  
6. When does hurricane season begin and end? \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. When is Hispanic Heritage Month? \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. What percent of Americans are Hispanic? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in September (continued)

9. What is another name for Hispanic? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Are the people of Puerto Rico American citizens? YES NO

11. Where have most Latinos in the U.S. come from? Mark your answers.

a. Spain                                      b. Mexico                                      c. Puerto Rico

d. Canada                                      e. the Dominican Republic                                      f. El Salvador

12. Are California, Texas, and Florida three states with large numbers of Hispanic people?

YES NO

13. What is another name for the Jewish New Year? \_\_\_\_\_

14. What do Jewish families eat for a sweet new year? \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

15. In what year was the U.S. Constitution completed? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What do citizens say during the naturalization ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_

17. What season starts on September 23? \_\_\_\_\_

18. What do people do in the fall? Mark your answers.

a. have festivals                                      b. shovel snow                                      c. go to the beach

d. buy pumpkins and apples                                      e. look at colorful leaves

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

## IV. Your Health: What is Health?

1. Who writes the articles in the Your Health section? \_\_\_\_\_

2. According to the doctor, what is “having the energy to work, study, and enjoy life”?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Do medical doctors treat disease, fix broken bones, and do surgery?                      YES                      NO

4. How do we create health? Mark your answers.

a. with what we eat and drink                      b. with the air we breathe                      c. hours of sleep

d. our thoughts we think                      e. how we deal with stress                      f. with the tv we watch

5. Which of these are degenerative diseases? Circle your answers.

a. obesity                      b. a cold                      c. the flu                      d. heart disease

e. arthritis                      f. cancer

6. Can degenerative diseases be caused by food allergies, chemical allergies, and

pollution?                      YES                      NO

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

## V. The Cumberland Gap

1. What mountains are in the eastern United States and Canada? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is a way through these mountains along the Kentucky and Virginia border?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. In U.S. history, who used the gap? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

4. What Civil War battle was fought here? \_\_\_\_\_

5. How many cars go through the tunnel under the gap each day now? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How many acres are in the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park? \_\_\_\_\_

7. How many miles of hiking trails are in the park? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What is a strip of rock coming down from the ceiling of a cave called?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What is the strip of rock coming up from the floor of a cave called?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Is there a cost for people to visit the park? YES NO

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

## VI. Electing a U.S. President

1. When is the next U.S. election for president? \_\_\_\_\_

2. To be president, someone must: Mark your answers.

a. be at least 35 years old

b. be an immigrant

c. be a natural-born citizen

d. be a resident of the U.S. for at least 14 years

e. live in Washington, D.C.

3. Can an immigrant's child born in the U.S. be president?                      YES                      NO

4. What are the two largest political parties in the U.S.? \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_

5. What are the two largest "third party" political groups in the U.S. today?

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

6. What activity must a candidate start in order to run for president? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is it called when candidates get together on a stage and talk about the issues?

\_\_\_\_\_



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. Henrietta Lacks's cells have changed science. Scientists have used her cells to learn about the human body, to study viruses and infections, and to make treatments and medicines that have saved millions of lives. But they did not ask Henrietta or her family if they could use her cells. Should the scientists have asked for permission? Why or why not? What might have happened if they did ask and her family said no? Now scientists and doctors have to ask permission in most cases. Do you think the laws about consent are good? Why or why not? If a doctor asked you if your cells could be used for scientific tests, would you give your consent? Why or why not?
2. The temperatures this summer have been very high in most parts of the U.S. Scientists say climate change and El Nino have been the causes. Research climate change. What is causing climate change? What are some ways that governments and companies can help try to stop climate change? What are some changes you can make in your life to help stop climate change?
3. What were your feelings on your first day at this school, or at some other school? How can a school help new students get adjusted and feel welcome? How could your school start a group of students to be a welcoming group? What should they do?
4. Why do you think there is a holiday to honor the workers of the U.S.? Is there any other group that should have a holiday? Who and why?
5. Does the U.S. have a time to celebrate the heritage and history of your home culture and country? If not, invent a month for your heritage. What do you think young people should learn about your heritage?
6. How does a person become a leader in your home country? What qualities must he or she have? What powers do they need?

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

**I. The Cells That Changed Science**

1. cells
2. scientists
3. Dr. George Gey
4. Johns Hopkins
5. immortal
6. HeLa cells
7. salmonella, tuberculosis, Ebola, and HIV
8. Henrietta Lacks
9. cancer
10. NO
11. YES
12. consent

**II. The Hottest Summer**

1. 2023
2. Phoenix, Arizona
3. 128 degrees
4. climate change and El Nino
5. NOAA
6. dehydrated
7. heat stroke, heat exhaustion
8. HIGHER
9. a drought
10. YES
11. YES

**III. Events in September**

1. 30 days
2. a. Labor Day  
b. International Literacy Day  
c. Grandparents Day  
d. Patriot Day  
e. Rosh Hashanah  
f. Constitution Day  
g. autumnal equinox/ first day of fall  
h. Yom Kippur
3. World Trade Center, New York City  
Pentagon, Washington, D.C.  
Shanksville, Pennsylvania
4. One World Trade Center
5. a, c, e, f
6. June 1 to November 30
7. September 15 to October 15

8. 19%
9. Latino
10. YES
11. b, c, e, f
12. YES
13. Rosh Hashanah
14. challah, apples, honey
15. 1787
16. an oath of allegiance
17. autumn or fall
18. a, d, e

**IV. Your Health**

1. Dr. Majid Ali
2. health
3. YES
4. a, b, c, d, e
5. a, d, e, f
6. YES

**V. The Cumberland Gap**

1. Appalachian Mountains
2. the Cumberland Gap
3. explorers and pioneers
4. The Battle of Cumberland Gap
5. 24,000
6. 14,000 acres
7. 85 miles
8. stalactite
9. stalagmite
10. NO

**VI. Electing a U.S. President**

1. November 5, 2024
2. a, c, d
3. YES
4. Democratic Party  
and Republican Party
5. Libertarian Party  
and Green Party
6. a campaign
7. a debate

