



April 2024

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

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

**Ocean Life in Danger
How to Keep Your Job
Arbor Day
Crater Lake
Poetry Month
The First Earth Day**

Which Word Does Not Belong?

Short-answer Tests

**Ocean Life in Danger
How to Keep Your Job
Events in April (2 pages)
Arbor Day
Crater Lake
Poetry Month
The First Earth Day (2 pages)**

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 _____

Ocean Life in Danger

_____ is Earth Month. It's a time to learn _____
about our planet. We _____ to know how to keep it safe for all the people,
plants, and animals that live on it.

Oceans

About 71% of Earth is _____ by oceans. The oceans
help keep Earth's _____ steady. They help warm the land
in the _____ and cool it in the summer. Plankton that
_____ on the ocean surface creates half of the oxygen that people and animals
need to breathe.

Scientists think there may be over 2.2 _____ species of plants and animals
that live in the ocean. More than one million of these _____ live in coral reefs.

Coral reefs

Coral reefs are _____ from the skeletons of coral polyps.

WORD BANK

winter	million	temperature	species	more
April	need	covered	grows	made

Name _____ Date _____

How to Keep Your Job

Hooray! You got a _____!

Next _____: *Can you keep it?*

To keep your job, you will have to be a _____ employee.

A _____ can't afford to keep employees who don't do their work. In many cases, the most cooperative and productive employees will keep their jobs the _____ . Here are some _____ :

Ask questions so that you are _____ of what to do and how to do it.

Don't be afraid to ask people to explain things _____ than once.

Show up on time or a little _____. Make sure you work all of the hours your employer is _____ you for.

WORD BANK

tips	company	early	valuable	sure
more	question	longest	paying	job

Name _____ Date _____

Arbor Day

National Arbor Day is the last _____ in April. This year it is _____ 26. People across the U.S. plant trees to _____ it. Each state chooses the day that is good for _____ trees in their own state. Thirty-eight states celebrate _____ Day in March or April. Twelve states have Arbor Day in other _____.

How to plant a tree

When you plant a tree, you have to _____ into the future. How _____ will the tree be in 30 years? It will _____ a lot of space then. Don't plant it too close to _____ trees, a sidewalk, a house, a fence, or a wall. Don't plant the tree under telephone lines or electric power lines.

WORD BANK

big	Friday	celebrate	need	months
think	arbor	planting	April	other

Name _____ Date _____

Crater Lake

Crater Lake is in southern _____ . It was

_____ 7,700 years ago. A _____ called

Mount Mazama erupted. The _____ of the volcano collapsed. It made a

crater.

Crater Lake is 1,949 feet _____ . It is the deepest lake in the _____

_____ . It is the _____ deepest lake in North America.

_____ snow and ice from glaciers and rainwater fill the lake. No rivers go

_____ or out of the lake.

Crater Lake is part of Crater Lake National Park. The park is open all year. It costs

_____ \$15.00 and \$30.00 to enter.

WORD BANK

deep

second

United States

formed

into

Oregon

melting

between

volcano

top

Name _____ Date _____

Poetry Month

April is _____ Month. It is a time to read poetry, learn about poetry,
_____ poetry, and love poetry. We can enjoy poems all year, not
_____ in April.

Poetic devices

A person who _____ poems is called a poet [POH et]. A poet
wants to express an idea, tell a story, or show a _____ with
words. The poet chooses the words _____. Sometimes a poet
_____ repeat a word or line for emphasis.
_____ poets will use the same sounds at the end of words. This is
_____ a *rhyme* [RIME]. Many poems contain rhymes, but some do
_____.

WORD BANK

writes	poetry	carefully	often	feeling
just	will	memorize	not	called

Name _____ Date _____

The First Earth Day

Fifty years ago, there weren't many laws _____ air
and water pollution. Gasoline for cars _____ lead. Cars
got only 13 _____ to the gallon of gas. Cities dumped
_____ in the ocean and sewage in the rivers. Factories dumped
toxic waste _____ rivers. The water in lakes and rivers was
_____ safe to drink, and the fish were not safe to eat.
There were big mountains of garbage outside of many _____ cities.
_____ burned trash; dirty smoke filled city air. Smog in some cities
made people's eyes _____ and gave children asthma. There were no
_____ rules about drilling for oil in the ocean near the shore.

WORD BANK

large

miles

contained

about

strict

not

into

incinerators

burn

garbage

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.	clownfish	anemone	coral	bird
2.	crevice	plankton	cave	hole
3.	deep	warm	shallow	clear
4.	pollution	climate change	laws	El Niño
5.	memories	coral	pictures	souvenirs
6.	ocean	Oregon	state quarter	license plate
7.	walk	drive a car	take a bus	ride a bike
8.	incinerator	pollution	sewage	smog
9.	seder	matzoh	concert	synagogue
10.	rhythm	rhyme	meter	image
11.	receptionist	doctor	office manager	secretary

Name _____ Date _____

I. Ocean Life in Danger

1. How much of Earth is covered by oceans? _____
2. What creates half of the oxygen that people and animals need to breathe? _____
3. How many species of plants and animals live in coral reefs? _____
4. What makes up coral reefs? _____
5. Do corals grow quickly or slowly? _____
6. How long does it take to grow a full reef? _____
7. What do reefs help protect beaches from? _____
8. Why are scientists studying animals and plants from coral reefs? _____
9. What is it called when coral loses its color? _____
10. What happens if the coral does not let the algae back in? _____
11. What can people do to help save coral reefs? (Mark your answers)
 - a. use less plastic
 - b. take pictures as souvenirs
 - c. take coral as souvenirs
 - d. leave lights on
 - e. use fewer chemicals
 - f. wear mineral sunscreen

Name _____ Date _____

II. How to Keep Your Job

1. To be a valuable employee and good co-worker, you should: (Mark your answers)

- a. ask questions.
- b. blame others.
- c. take long breaks.
- d. complain at work.
- e. do extra work.
- f. be flexible.
- g. get to work on time.
- h. do drugs.
- i. gossip about a co-worker's personal life.
- j. play computer games at work.
- k. cooperate with co-workers.
- l. have a messy desk or work space.
- m. tell the boss about the work you are doing.
- n. never ask for help.
- o. call your friends while you are at work.
- p. show up late to work.
- q. compete with co-workers
- r. brag about how much money you make.

2. Is it OK to tease co-workers about their religion, weight, or language? YES NO

3. You and three co-workers are working on a project. The project is due tomorrow morning.

It's 5:00 p.m., the time you usually go home. Your co-workers ask you to stay a little longer and finish the project with them. What should you do? (Mark one)

- a. Go home. It is not your problem.
- b. Tell them that you already finished your part of the project.
- c. Stay and help finish the project.
- d. Post on Facebook that your co-workers are lazy.

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in April

1. What event happens on April 1? _____
2. When is National Poetry Month? _____
3. What special bread do Jewish people eat during Passover? _____
4. What is the special dinner on Passover called? _____
5. According to the story, who led the Jewish people out of Egypt? _____
6. What was on the two large stone tablets that he brought down from the mountain top?

7. What is the deadline for people to pay their income taxes this year? _____
8. Can walking to work help a person think more clearly? YES NO
9. What is happening on April 8? _____
10. What is the holy month for Muslims? _____
11. What is the special holiday at the end of the holy month for Muslims? _____
12. What saying means “blessed feast or festival?” _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in April (continued)

13. What saying means “good things can come after something bad happens?”

14. When is National Park Week? _____

15. How many national parks are there in the U.S.? _____

16. What is a person who does a job for free called? _____

17. When is Earth Day? _____

18. What is celebrated on the last Wednesday of April? _____

IV. Arbor Day

1. What day is National Arbor Day? _____

2. Does each state celebrate Arbor Day on the same day? YES NO

3. What does someone need when they plant a tree? (Mark your answers)

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| a. a shovel | b. a bucket | c. stakes | d. a basket |
| e. nylon stockings | f. compost | g. a young tree | h. a hammer |
| i. a ball | j. mulch | k. a window | l. a hat |

Name _____ Date _____

V. Crater Lake

1. Where is Crater Lake? _____

2. When was Crater Lake formed? _____

3. How was Crater Lake formed? _____

4. How deep is Crater Lake? _____

5. Do rivers run into and out of the lake? YES NO

6. How much snow does Crater Lake National Park get? _____

7. Who tells stories about the lake and gives information about the lake and Crater Lake
National Park on the boat and trolley tours? _____

8. What do people do in the park in the winter? _____, _____,
_____, and _____

9. What must a camper get from the ranger station? _____

10. When did the Oregon State quarter come out? _____

VI. Poetry Month

1. What do you call a person who writes poetry? _____

2. Choose the pairs of words that rhyme:

a. sea me

b. house mouse

c. pain pair

d. to go

e. two blue

f. line lane

g. night light

h. gave have

3. What are the tools a poet uses in poetry called? _____

4. What is the rhyme pattern in the poem, *Bed in Summer*? _____

5. Who wrote the poem, *Bed in Summer*? _____

6. What word, that rhymes with you, did he use in the poem to mean the color of the sky?

7. What were his four most famous stories? _____

8. What was he going to be before he decided to be a writer? _____

VII. The First Earth Day

1. Choose words from this list to fill in the blanks in the sentences:

lead smog spill factories sewage gas

- a. Cities dumped _____ into lakes and rivers.
- b. Cars got only 13 miles per gallon of _____.
- c. _____ dumped toxic waste into rivers.
- d. There was _____ in the air in some cities that burned people's eyes.
- e. Gasoline had _____ in it.
- f. There was a terrible oil _____ near Santa Barbara in 1969.

2. Gaylord Nelson had been the governor of what state? _____

3. When was the first Earth Day? _____

4. Who helped Gaylord Nelson with the first Earth Day? _____

5. How many Americans took part in that first Earth Day? _____

Name _____ Date _____

VII. The First Earth Day (continued)

6. How many schools, colleges, and communities participated in the first Earth Day?

_____ schools

_____ colleges

_____ communities

7. What four laws did Congress pass by the end of the year after the first Earth Day?

Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking Questions

Choose one or more questions to discuss with a partner or in a small group. Gather more information. Report to the class.

1. Coral reefs are dying across the world. Scientists are trying to find ways to save them. Some scientists are experimenting with growing coral that can survive in warmer water. How do you think these experiments could help save coral reefs? What problems might come from changing natural coral? What ideas do you have for saving the coral reefs?
2. There are over 400 national parks in the United States. Which national parks are in your state? Which national parks are close to you? Which national parks have you visited? What did you see and do there? Which national parks would you like to visit? Why do you want to go there? How would you get there?
3. Volunteers are very important in the community. Do you know any volunteers? What do they do as volunteers? Research volunteer opportunities in your community. What ways could you volunteer in your community?
4. How many ways can you think of that trees help people or the environment?
5. Think about the feelings you have in spring. Write a poem about the changes in spring and the feelings you have. It doesn't have to rhyme. Work on the poem until it has the "best words." Read your poem to the class.
6. Research Earth Day celebrations in your area. What events are happening near you? What will the events do for the community? What events sound interesting to you? Would you like to be involved in any of these events? Why or why not?
7. Plan an Earth Day event. What would the event's focus or theme be? Who would you invite to the event? Where would you have the event? When would you have the event? What supplies would you need? How would you get them? Is it a free event or will people have to pay a fee to attend? What other details would you need to consider?

April 2024
Answers to *Easy English NEWS*
Short-Answer Tests

I. Ocean Life in Danger

1. 71%
2. plankton
3. one million
4. coral polyp skeletons
5. slowly
6. 10,000 years
7. erosion
8. for new medicines
9. coral bleaching
10. the coral dies
11. a, b, e, f

II. How to Keep Your Job

1. a, e, f, g, k, m
2. NO
3. c

III. Events in April

1. April Fool's Day
2. April
3. matzoh
4. a seder
5. Moses
6. the Ten Commandments
7. April 15
8. YES
9. a total solar eclipse
10. Ramadan
11. Eid al-Fitr
12. Eid Mubarak
13. April showers bring May flowers
14. April 20 to April 28
15. more than 400
16. a volunteer
17. April 22
18. Administrative Professionals Day

IV. Arbor Day

1. the last Friday in April/April 26
2. No

3. a, b, c, e, f, g, h, j

V. Crater Lake

1. southern Oregon
2. 7,700 years ago
3. volcano eruption
4. 1,949 feet
5. NO
6. more than 40 feet
7. park rangers
8. snowshoe, cross-country ski, downhill ski, sled
9. a permit
10. 2005

VI. Poetry Month

1. a poet
2. a, b, e, g
3. poetic devices
4. AABB CCDD EEFF
5. Robert Louis Stevenson
6. blue
7. Treasure Island, Kidnapped, A Child's Garden of Verses, Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
8. a lighthouse engineer

VII. The First Earth Day

1. a. sewage b. gas c. factories
d. smog e. lead f. spill
2. Wisconsin
3. 1970
4. students
5. 20 million
6. 10,000 schools, 2,000 colleges,
1,000 communities
7. Environmental Protection Act,
Clean Air Act,
Clean Water Act,
Endangered Species Act

