

Easy English NEWS



January 2024

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

To the Teacher

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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 _____

A New Treatment

Some diseases _____ from person to person through viruses or bacteria. Some diseases are _____. These genetic diseases come from _____ or changes in people's DNA before they are even born. Genetic diseases can be hard to treat and _____ to cure. One of these genetic diseases is _____ cell disease.

On Friday, _____ 8, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved two new gene therapies for sickle cell disease. One of these new therapies uses technology to change _____. It is the _____ treatment the FDA has approved that uses this technology.

What is sickle cell disease?

Each person has _____ sets of genes. One set comes from _____ parent. When both parents have the sickle cell mutation in their DNA, they can pass the mutation on to their children. Children with two sickle cell gene mutations are born with sickle cell disease.

WORD BANK

sickle	first	problems	two	spread
genetic	each	December	DNA	harder

Name _____ Date _____

Classified Advertisements

Classified advertisements (classified ads) give you _____. Some classified ads _____ job openings or community events. Some classified ads list items that are for sale or items that people are _____ to buy. Some classified ads describe services from _____ like cleaning, utility repairs, or landscaping. For _____ of years, classified ads have been printed in newspapers and magazines. People _____ for the ads by the number of words or by the number of lines. These _____ ads were usually very short, so they were not too expensive. People used abbreviations to help _____ the ads shorter. _____, fewer classified ads are printed on paper. More ads are _____ on online websites.

WORD BANK

hundreds

earlier

information

keep

posted

announce

today

companies

pay

looking

Name _____ Date _____

The Calendar

People all over the world use the _____ calendar for most purposes. It's _____ called the western calendar.

The Gregorian calendar is based on the time it takes the earth to make a _____ trip around the sun. This is 365.25 _____.

A calendar can't have a _____ of a day. That's why the Gregorian calendar adds an _____ day every four years. The year 2024 is a leap year. The extra day is _____ 29.

When does the new year begin?

The Jewish new year is in late summer or _____ fall each year. The old Irish new _____ was in late fall. The Chinese new year is in January or February _____ year. This year it is in February.

WORD BANK

quarter	extra	February	early	complete
Gregorian	year	sometimes	days	each

Name _____ Date _____

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The third Monday of _____ is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

This year it is on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, January 15. King was a great civil rights

_____.

King became well-known when he was 26 _____ old. He was a minister in a small _____ in Montgomery, Alabama. At that time, there were segregation laws in the _____ states. These laws kept White people and _____ people separate in schools, restaurants, theaters, buses, and trains.

The Montgomery bus boycott

Laws in _____ Southern states said that on a bus, White people could sit in front. Black people had to _____ in the back of the bus.

One day in 1955, a Black woman, Rosa _____, sat on a crowded bus. Parks _____ to give her seat on the bus to a White person. She was arrested.

WORD BANK

leader	most	church	black	refused
southern	sit	January	Parks	years

Name _____ Date _____

Primary Elections and Caucuses

Why does it take so _____ for the United States to elect a president?

The U.S. system is different from parliamentary systems that _____, Germany, and the United Kingdom have. There, the political party _____ its leader. The leader of the party that wins the _____ of seats in government becomes the prime minister. Canada can have an election just 37 _____ after the prime minister calls for it.

In the United States, _____ of people might run for president. All adult citizens have a _____ to vote for the president. But whose names will be on the _____ on election day?

Political parties

_____ to a political party's national convention will nominate their presidential candidate. A candidate needs a majority of these delegates' votes to be the nominee. The _____ major political parties in the U.S. are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. There are smaller parties, too.

WORD BANK

days

Canada

delegates

chance

two

ballot

majority

hundreds

chooses

long

Name _____ Date _____

Sandra Day O'Connor

Sandra Day was born in El Paso, _____, on March 26, 1930. She grew up on her family's _____ ranch in Arizona. She _____ to shoot guns and ride horses before she was eight years old.

She married John Jay O'Connor in 1952. That year she graduated from _____ Law School with high honors. _____, she had trouble getting a job as an attorney. The men in her law _____ got high-paying jobs with large companies. Sandra Day O'Connor applied to _____ than 40 law firms. Not one of them would _____ her. They didn't hire women attorneys.

"I'll work without pay."

Finally, she offered to _____ for no salary. That got her a job as a _____ county attorney in San Mateo, California. She learned how hard it was for a woman to get a professional job. This experience made her go into politics. She wanted to help change things.

WORD BANK

learned	cattle	nevertheless	interview	work
Texas	deputy	Stanford	classes	more

Name _____ Date _____

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.	disease	virus	bacteria	treatment
2.	red blood cells	plasma	lungs	white blood cells
3.	pain medicine	blood clot	transfusion	bone marrow transplant
4.	bus boycott	job openings	services	things for sale
5.	PT	BNU	FT	FT/PT
6.	diets	projects	resolutions	flags
7.	state	sugar	sure	shoe
8.	vision	treasure	rouge	justice
9.	political party	justice	Democratic Party	Republican Party
10.	Joe Biden	Donald Trump	Dean Phillips	Marianne Williamson
11.	Joe Biden	Donald Trump	Nikki Haley	Ron DeSantis
12.	Sandra Day O'Connor	Elena Kagan	Rosa Parks	Sonia Sotomayor

Name _____ Date _____

I. A new treatment

1. How do some diseases spread from person to person? _____

and _____

2. What kind of diseases come from problems or changes in people's DNA?

3. What organization approved new gene therapy treatments for sickle cell disease?

4. What is a change in DNA called? _____

5. What parts make up a person's blood? _____,

_____, _____, and _____

6. What is the protein in red blood cells called? _____

7. What does this protein take from the lungs to other cells? _____

8. What are symptoms of sickle cell disease? (Mark your answers.)

a. anemia

b. sore throat

c. pain

d. cough

e. swollen hands and feet

f. infections

g. vision problems

Name _____ Date _____

I. A New Treatment (continued)

9. How many people around the world have sickle cell disease? _____

10. How many people in the United States have sickle cell disease? _____

11. How many African American babies are born with sickle cell disease? _____

12. Do most treatments cure sickle cell disease? YES NO

13. What are some treatments for sickle cell disease? (Mark your answers.)

a. transfusions

b. pain medicine

c. sunlight

d. oxygen

e. bone marrow transplant

f. carbon dioxide

14. What are the two new gene therapies for sickle cell disease? _____,

and _____

15. What is one problem with these gene therapies? _____

16. Have the trials been successful? YES NO

Name _____ Date _____

II. Classified Advertisements

1. What do classified advertisements give you? _____
2. How did people pay for classified ads? _____ or

3. What do people use to keep classified advertisements short? _____
4. What is the abbreviation for administrative? _____
5. What is the abbreviation for Monday through Friday? _____
6. What does HR stand for? _____
7. What do min and max stand for? _____ and

8. What is the abbreviation for one of a kind? _____
9. What is the abbreviation for excellent used condition? _____
10. What does BNNU stand for? _____
11. What does HTF stand for? _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Classified Advertisements (continued)

Read the following advertisements and answer the questions.

Job opening for FT Admin Assistant pos in Dr. Jacob's office. M-F 8:30 am to 5:30 pm. Duties include answering calls, working with patients, and completing paperwork. 3 refs req. Sal DOE. Start ASAP. Call 777-688-1968 for more information.

12. What is the job in the advertisement for? _____

13. Is the job full time or part time? _____

14. What days does the person work? _____

15. What time does the person work? _____

16. How much will the person be paid? _____

BNNU pair of Nike tennis shoes. Size 12. RTS. Sold out in most stores, HTF. Asking \$95.00 obo. Pay with PPGS. Free shipping with insurance. Shoes look better IRL than in pictures. PM for any questions.

17. What is for sale? _____

18. What is the condition? _____

19. Is the seller accepting offers? YES NO

20. Can the seller ship the item quickly? YES NO

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in January

1. What is one club of people who go swimming in freezing waters on New Year's Day?

2. What calendar is used by people all over the world for most purposes?

3. When do Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas? _____

4. What calendar do Orthodox Christians use for their holidays? _____

5. Who was born on January 1, 1752? _____

6. According to legend, what did she make? _____

7. What holiday do Americans celebrate on the third Monday of January? _____

8. Segregation laws kept _____ people and _____ people
separate in schools and other public places.

9. Who did Montgomery police arrest for refusing to give her bus seat to a white person?

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in January (continued)

10. Who led the Montgomery bus boycott? _____

11. What group did King and other civil rights leaders form? _____

12. Who taught his followers to “use love, not violence”? _____

13. Did the governors of the Southern states want to end segregation? YES NO

14. Where did 250,000 marchers go on August 28, 1963? _____

15. What famous speech did Martin Luther King Jr. give on this day?

16. When did Congress pass the Civil Rights Act? _____

17. What prize did Martin Luther King Jr. win soon after that? _____

18. When did James Earl Ray assassinate Martin Luther King Jr.? _____

19. What big speech does the president make each year in January or early February?

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Primary Elections and Caucuses

1. What are the two biggest political parties in the U.S.? _____
2. How many months will the primaries and caucuses take in the U.S.? _____
3. What is the meeting where members of a political party listen to speeches and then vote by walking to a candidate's area called? _____
4. In a primary election, members of a political party vote by _____ ballot.
5. When and where is the first 2024 caucus? _____
6. When and where is the first primary election? _____
7. How many states will have their primary elections on Super Tuesday, March 5? _____
8. Where is the Democratic Party's national Convention? _____
9. When is it? _____
10. How many Democratic delegates will go? _____
11. Where is the Republican Party's national Convention? _____
12. When is it? _____
13. How many Republican delegates will go? _____

Name _____ Date _____

V. Sandra Day O'Connor

1. Where was Sandra Day born? _____

2. What law school did she graduate from? _____

3. Was it easy for her to get her first job as an attorney? YES NO

4. What did she get paid at her first job as a deputy county attorney? _____

5. In what place was Sandra Day O'Connor the majority leader? _____

6. When did she become a judge on the Arizona Court of Appeals? _____

7. Who appointed O'Connor to the Supreme Court? _____

8. How many women were justices on the Supreme Court before that time? _____

9. How many years did O'Connor serve on the Supreme Court? _____

10. What is the website that O'Connor started to help educate American students about government called? _____

11. What award did President Barack Obama give to O'Connor?

12. When did Sandra Day O'Connor pass away? _____

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. Gene therapy is a new way to help people with sickle cell disease. Doctors hope it may help people with other genetic diseases in the future. Do you think this technology is good or bad? Why do you think that? How might changing DNA help or hurt people?
2. Work with a partner to practice the abbreviations from the article. Pick 10 abbreviations and decide how you might use them in an advertisement. Would your ad be for a job, service, or item you want to sell? What information would you put in the ad? How would you use abbreviations to make your ad? Share your ad with your classmates and see if they can read and understand your ad.
3. Make a list of New Year's Resolutions. Look at your list. Which resolutions will be easy to keep? Which resolutions will be harder to keep?
4. Martin Luther King Jr. worked hard for civil rights. Communities all over the country celebrate him in January. How does your community celebrate him? Think of ways you could celebrate him in your home or at school. Report your ideas to the class.
5. Listen to Martin Luther King Jr.'s *I Have a Dream* speech on YouTube. What do you think about his dream for the country in 1963? In 2024, has his dream come true? Why or why not? What are your dreams for your life? What are your dreams for our country?
6. How is the leader chosen in your home country? Who has the right to help choose that leader?

January 2024
Answers to Easy English NEWS
Short-Answer Tests

I. A New Treatment

1. viruses and bacteria
2. genetic diseases
3. the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
4. mutation
5. red blood cells, white blood cells, plasma, and platelets
6. hemoglobin
7. oxygen
8. a, c, e, f, g
9. over 20 million
10. more than 100,000
11. 1 in 365
12. NO
13. a, b, e,
14. Casgevy and Lyfgenia
15. they are expensive
16. YES

II. Classified Advertisements

1. information
2. by word or by line
3. abbreviations
4. Admin
5. M-F
6. Human Resources
7. minimum and maximum
8. OoAK
9. EUC
10. Brand New Never Used
11. Hard to Find
12. Administrative Assistant
13. Full Time
14. Monday through Friday
15. 8:30 in the morning to 5:30 at night
16. it depends on a person's experience
17. Nike tennis shoes
18. Brand New Never Used
19. YES
20. YES

III. Events in January

1. Polar Bear Clubs
2. Gregorian calendar
3. January 7

4. Julian calendar
5. Betsy Ross
6. the first American flag
7. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
8. White, Black
9. Rosa Parks
10. Martin Luther King Jr.
11. Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
12. Martin Luther King Jr.
13. NO
14. Washington, D.C.
15. *I Have a Dream* speech
16. 1964
17. Nobel Peace Prize
18. 1968
19. The State of the Union

IV. Primary Elections and Caucuses

1. Democratic Party and Republican Party
2. 6 months, January through June
3. caucus
4. secret
5. Iowa, January 15
6. New Hampshire, January 23
7. 14
8. Chicago, Illinois
9. August 19 to 22
10. 4,532
11. Milwaukee, Wisconsin
12. July 15 to 18
13. 2,469

V. Sandra Day O'Connor

1. El Paso, Texas
2. Stanford Law School
3. NO
4. nothing
5. Arizona State Senate
6. 1979
7. President Ronald Reagan
8. none
9. 25
10. iCivics.org
11. Presidential Medal of Freedom
12. December 1, 2023

