



May 2024

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

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

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Short-answer Tests

Changes are Coming: REAL IDs
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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 _____

Changes are Coming: REAL IDs

The U.S. _____ gives the federal government some powers. The federal government can print money, _____ war, create an army, and make treaties. State governments have _____ powers.

One state _____ is to give out driver's licenses and photo identification (ID).

This is why a person has a _____ driver's license or a Colorado photo ID, and not a United States driver's license or photo ID.

The rules for licenses or photo IDs are different in _____ state. The application _____ and documents a person must show are different too. Even with these _____, people can use these photo IDs in any U.S. state. They can use them to show who they are, their age, and where they live. A person with a driver's license can _____ drive in all 50 states.

Now, people _____ show photo IDs when they go through airport security. They must also show an ID when going into a federal building or onto a military base. But the rules are changing.

WORD BANK

process	legally	Pennsylvania	power	must
differences	declare	Constitution	other	each

Name _____ Date _____

Laws About Work

There are many laws and _____ about work in the U.S.

Who can work?

- Employers may _____ only legal workers. These workers must be old _____ to work legally. Children are not _____ to do all of the same jobs that adults can do.

- New workers must _____ identification and fill out an Employment Eligibility Verification Form (I-9).

- Children aged 14 and 15 may not work _____ school hours. They may not work _____ than three hours on a school day, eight hours on a non-school day, or 40 hours in a non-school week. They may not work in _____ jobs, in factories, or in mines. In some states, children need special _____ papers signed by their parents and employer.

- Children _____ 14 may deliver newspapers or work as actors.

WORD BANK

during

working

regulations

enough

hire

bring

allowed

hazardous

under

more

Name _____ Date _____

Cinco de Mayo

The Fifth of May (*Cinco de Mayo* in Spanish) is an _____ holiday for Mexican Americans. On this day in 1862, a small Mexican army _____ 8,000 well-trained French soldiers.

History

The Mexicans had won independence from _____ in 1821. But from 1858 to 1861, the Mexicans had a civil _____. Napoleon III [the _____] of France thought it was a good time to invade Mexico. He wanted to _____ up an emperor in Mexico.

The battle of Puebla

The _____ army invaded Mexico in 1862. The French won many _____ in Mexico. But _____ that army came to the town of Puebla, Mexicans were ready for them. In a one-day battle on _____ 5, the Mexicans defeated the French.

WORD BANK

war	Spain	important	third	victories
set	May	French	when	defeated

Name _____ Date _____

Dr. Ali's Breakfast

One of the _____ important things to do to stay in good health is to have the right breakfast.

_____ the day right with hydration and good nutrition for the bowel, blood, and liver. This will give you _____ for the morning's work. It will help prevent up-and-down changes in your blood sugar levels _____ the day.

I _____ this breakfast for my patients who are in poor health. It's great for _____ who wants to be in optimum health.

Many illnesses, aches, and pains get their start in a _____ body. When you are dehydrated, your body _____ get rid of the waste products it produces.

I believe in overhydrating in the _____. That means drinking several glasses of plain _____.

WORD BANK

start	anyone	dehydrated	cannot	energy
water	suggest	morning	most	during

Name _____ Date _____

The First Transcontinental Railroad

Working on the railroad

Building railroads was very _____ work. Each rail _____ 700 pounds. It took five men to lift one _____.

The Union Pacific Company hired _____ slaves and former soldiers. They _____ immigrants from Ireland, Mexico, Germany, and England.

Many _____ tribes lived on the plains. They did not want the railroad to go _____ their lands. They attacked the workers. The government sent 5,000 soldiers to _____ the railroad builders.

In California, most of the Central Pacific Company's workers quit when they got to the _____. They wanted to look for _____ and gold! They hoped they could get rich.

WORD BANK

former	through	Sierra Nevada	protect	rail
silver	Indian	weighed	hired	hard

Name _____ Date _____

Here Come the Cicadas

People _____ the country hear a humming or buzzing sound in the air in the spring. The sound is different from crickets chirping, bees _____, or tiny frogs peeping. It is the sound of _____. This spring, _____ of cicadas will come out in parts of the U.S.

What is a cicada?

Cicadas are insects with big eyes, long bodies, and _____ wings. They live underground for _____ of their lives. They _____ nutrients from tree roots and plants.

When the cicadas are _____, they come out from underground. They climb _____ trees, fences, bricks, or other structures to shed their outer skin. This action is _____ molting. After they molt, the males start buzzing. They use this sound to call to the females.

WORD BANK

longer

ready

buzzing

onto

called

across

cicadas

trillions

eat

most

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.	state ID	passport	military ID	REAL ID
2.	military base	airport security	drive a car	federal building
3.	star	circle with a star	bear with a star	heart
4.	Indian	Cambodian	Jewish	Hawaiian
5.	karate	ikebana	heritage	yoga
6.	parade	horse race	fiesta	mariachi music
7.	George W. Bush	Hank Azaria	Aly Raisman	Judy Sheindlin
8.	mothers	fathers	aunts	grandmothers
9.	battle	National Guard	Air Force	Reserves
10.	park	forest	wilderness area	creature
11.	Blue Ridge	Shenandoah	mountains	White House
12.	American Indians	former slaves	Chinese workers	former soldiers

Name _____ Date _____

I. Changes are Coming: REAL IDs

1. What are four powers the U.S. Constitution gives to the federal government?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

2. What is one power that the state governments have? _____

3. Are the rules for licenses and photo IDs the same or different in each state?

SAME

DIFFERENT

4. Can a person with a driver's license legally drive in all 50 states? YES NO

5. What things must people show to get a REAL ID? Mark your answers

a. full legal name

b. how many children

c. date of birth

d. Social Security number

e. two documents with addresses

f. type of car

6. What happened on September 11, 2001 that made the federal government want rules for

photo IDs? _____

7. When will people need to start showing REAL IDs? _____

8. Where will people need to show REAL IDs? a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in May

1. Which immigrant group first came to the U.S. in May 1843? _____
2. On what day was the transcontinental railroad completed? _____
3. Who helped to build that railroad? _____
4. What country does the practice of yoga come from? _____
5. Which people enjoy *ikebana*, the art of flower arranging? _____
6. What percentage of people in the U.S. are Asian or Pacific Island American? _____
7. The healing art using needles, acupuncture, was first used in _____.
8. What is called “the most exciting two minutes in sports?” _____
9. How old are the horses in this race? _____
10. How long is the track? _____
11. On what day did a small Mexican Army defeat a French army? _____
12. What village was that near? _____
13. Who did Napoleon III send to Mexico to be its emperor? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in May (continued)

14. What musicians play traditional Mexican music? _____

15. When was the first Jewish American Heritage month? _____

16. How many Jewish people live in America today? _____

17. How many senators and representatives in Congress are Jewish? _____

18. What holiday is on Sunday, May 12? _____

19. Do some families do mom's chores on Mother's Day? YES NO

20. On what day is Armed Forces Day? _____

21. Name six branches of the Armed Forces.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

22. Who must register with Selective Service? _____

23. What holiday is the last Monday of May? _____

24. In what state is Arlington National Cemetery? _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Shenandoah National Park

1. In what state is Shenandoah National Park? _____

2. How far is it from Washington, D.C.? _____

3. How many people visit Shenandoah National Park each year? _____

4. What covers 90% of the park? _____

5. Which place is cooler in the summer? the Blue Ridge Mountains Washington, D.C.

6. How many different kinds of wildflowers are there? _____

7. What mountains are in this park? _____

8. What U.S. president had his summer home in this area in the 1930s? _____

9. What famous hiking trail goes through Shenandoah National Park?

10. Which of these things can you do at Shenandoah National Park?
 - a. hike b. camp c. ride a roller coaster d. surf

 - e. fish f. ride a horse g. row a boat h. watch wildlife

Name _____ Date _____

V. The First Transcontinental Railroad

1. When did someone discover gold in California? _____
2. What two railroad companies did Congress choose to build the railroad? _____

3. How much did each rail weigh? _____
4. How many men did it take to lift one rail? _____
5. Who did the Central Pacific Railroad company hire to built the railroad? _____
6. How long did it take for the two railroads to meet? _____
7. Where did the railroads meet? _____
8. What day did the railroads meet? _____
9. How many miles of railroad did the companies build? _____
10. How much land did the U.S. government give to the railroad companies? _____
11. What animal that lived on the plains did the new settlers kill? _____
12. Where were most Indian tribes from the plains forced to live? _____

Name _____ Date _____

VI. Here Come the Cicadas

1. What sound does a cicada make? _____
2. Where do cicadas live for most of their lives? _____
3. What do they eat? _____
4. What is it called when the cicadas shed their outer skin? _____
5. How many eggs can female cicadas lay? _____
6. How long does it take for the cicada eggs to hatch? _____
7. What are cicadas called that come out of the ground every year? _____
8. What are 13-year and 17-year cicadas called? _____
9. How many cicadas may come out this year? _____
10. How warm does the soil have to be for the cicadas to start to come out?

Critical-Thinking and Creative-Thinking Questions

Choose questions or projects to discuss in a small group. Report to the class.

1. Why is a photo ID important? Where does someone need to use a photo ID? Do you have a photo ID? When have you had to show your photo ID to someone? If you don't have a photo ID, look up the DMV for your state. Research how to get a photo ID in your area. After reading about the process for getting a photo ID, have your feelings about photo IDs changed? Did reading about the process make you want to get a photo ID? Why or why not?
2. In May 2025, people will need to start showing REAL IDs to fly on airplanes in the U.S., go into federal buildings and nuclear power plants, and to go on to military bases. The federal government says these REAL IDs will help make the U.S. safer. Do you agree with the government? Why or why not?
3. Why are laws for employers, employees, and the workplace important? What might happen if these laws are not followed?
4. Plan a trip to Shenandoah National Park. How would you travel there? How long would it take you to get there? What would you like to do when you got there?
5. The transcontinental railroad brought a lot of big changes. Some of those changes were good, but some of them were not. What other inventions have made such big changes in our lives? How have these inventions changed our lives? Have the changes been good or bad? Why?
6. Young men, both citizens and non-citizens, must register with Selective Service. This is so the government has a list of who to call on in case of a national emergency. Do you think young women should be asked to register, too? Why or why not?

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

I. Changes are Coming: REAL IDs

1. a. print money b. declare war
 c. create an army d. make treaties
2. give out driver's licenses and photo IDs
3. DIFFERENT
4. YES
5. a, c, d, e
6. terrorist attacks
7. May 7, 2025
8. a. airport security b. federal buildings
 c. military bases d. nuclear power plants

II. Laws About Work

1. NO
2. YES
3. YES
4. NO
5. NO
6. 18
7. \$7.25
8. tips
9. a. federal income taxes b. state income taxes
 c. Medicare d. Social Security taxes
10. NO
11. YES

III. Events in May

1. Japanese
2. May 10, 1869
3. Chinese workers
4. India
5. Japanese
6. 6.2%
7. China
8. Kentucky Derby
9. 3 years old
10. 1.25 miles
11. May 5, 1862
12. Puebla, Mexico
13. Maximilian
14. mariachi
15. 2006
16. 7.6 million
17. 35 - 9 senators, 26 representatives
18. Mother's Day
19. YES

20. May 18 (the third Saturday of May)
21. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force, and Coast Guard
22. all men from age 18 to 25 in the U.S. except foreign students
23. Memorial Day
24. Virginia

IV. Shenandoah National Park

1. Virginia
2. 75 miles
3. 1.5 million
4. forest
5. Blue Ridge Mountains
6. 850
7. Blue Ridge Mountains
8. Herbert Hoover
9. Appalachian Trail
10. a, b, e, f, h

V. The First Transcontinental Railroad

1. 1849
2. Central Pacific Railroad Company
 Union Pacific Railroad Company
3. 700 pounds
4. 5
5. Chinese workers
6. 3 years
7. Promontory Summit, Utah
8. May 10, 1869
9. 1,776 miles
10. 33 million acres
11. bison
12. on reservations

VI. Here Come the Cicadas

1. hum or buzz
2. underground
3. nutrients from tree roots and plants
4. molting
5. 400 to 600 or more
6. six to 10 weeks
7. annual cicadas
8. periodical cicadas
9. trillions or quadrillions
10. 64 degrees or warmer

