



Dear Colleague:

Welcome back to a new school year and welcome to all our new subscribers! You'll find many types of teacher support that come with your subscription: *Word Help* and *Let's Talk About It* are directly in the pages of *Easy English NEWS*. This monthly Teacher's Guide gives background information, objectives, and procedures for the major articles, plus reproducible quizzes.

To make your life easier, we create Cloze Exercises, a "Which Word Does Not Belong" activity, Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking questions, and Short-answer Tests for each major article. You can download the pdf from our website FREE each month. You can print them out or your students can fill them in on the computer. If you sign up at the website, we'll send you a monthly reminder and a link to these Teacher Aids.

We're so excited you're here with us this year. Have a great month!

*Carol Brigham*

### The cells that changed science (pages 1 and 9)

**Purpose:** HeLa cells have been used in science for decades now and the book introducing the world to Henrietta Lacks was published in 2010. So, this is not a new topic. However, news of the Lacks family reaching a settlement with one of the companies that has been profiting from HeLa cells was announced last month. Their case brings forward the importance of consent and patients' rights. Your students may not know their rights in a medical situation. Your class can help them better understand what to expect and the choices they may have.

**Objectives:** Students will be able to tell what cells are and why they are important to scientists. They will be able to tell why HeLa cells are different from other cells. They will be able to explain why they are called HeLa cells. They will be able to tell why consent is important.

**Preparation:** If you have time, the book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot is a very enlightening

read. You can also watch the movie of the same name on HBO. The movie is a little intense in some scenes. Please view it first before showing it to your classes to make sure it is appropriate for your students. Familiarize yourself with all the breakthroughs that have been made using HeLa cells. We cover them generally in the article, but there are many more.

**Procedure:** Elicit from students what they know about cells and biomedical testing. Ask questions such as: *What is a cell? What do scientists use cells for?*

Read the story together slowly. Have students ask questions as you read. Some students may have a lot of experience with science topics and some students may not have any experience. Everyone has been touched in some way with medical breakthroughs made by tests done on HeLa cells. Ask questions such as: *Who was Henrietta Lacks? Why did she go to Johns Hopkins? Why did they take her cells? What made her cells different than other cells?*

Talk about the differences between the 1950s and today. Have a conversation about consent and what that means. Make sure students know that if they have a medical procedure, they must give consent for doctors to do the procedure and use their tissue afterwards. This will usually be done when they are signing paperwork before their procedure. It is important that they have an interpreter or someone with them that understands English if they do not understand well enough themselves.

### The hottest summer (pages 1 and 5)

**Objectives:** Students will be able to tell two heat records that have been broken this summer. They will be able to tell why it has been so hot this summer and why it might be hotter next summer. They will be able to identify reasons why the heat is bad for health. They will be able to list reasons why the heat causes problems in daily life.

**Procedures:** Ask students what temperatures they like most - hot, cold, warm, cool, etc. Ask them if they have noticed that the weather is hotter this year. Using the internet, view recent local temperatures. Ask students to report on any records your area has been breaking because of the heat and weather.

Read the article. Have students point to areas that have been extremely hot on a map. Ask students questions such as: *When it is really hot, what do you do to keep cool? How can you tell if you are getting too hot? Have you ever had heat exhaustion or heat stroke before? What happened?*

### Events in September (pages 2 and 3)

Have students find the dates for each of the events in September and write those on a blank calendar. Also have them write in any school events and personal events such as birthdays and anniversaries. Ask what holidays are celebrated in their home countries in September.

**Labor Day:** Ask students which day is Workers' Day in their home countries. (In most it will be International Workers Day, May 1.) *What happens on that day? How is Labor Day celebrated here in the U.S?*

**Grandparents Day:** Ask questions, depending on the age of your students, such as *Where are your grandparents? What did you learn from them? (Or, Are you a grandparent? What can you do for your children? What family history do you want them to know?)* Ask students to work in small groups of two or three telling stories they heard from their grandparents. Draw a simple family tree on the board. Have students draw their family trees. Review names for extended family members: *aunt, uncle, cousin, niece, nephew, in-law, step-, foster-, half-, great grand-, ancestor, descendant*, as well as words like *deceased* and *passed away*.

**Patriot Day:** This day is a memorial to those who died in terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001. There are many videos on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) talking about that day and the memorials that have come every year since. Most of them can be very upsetting due to graphic images and language. We do not recommend watching them in class without viewing them first. For a prescreened option, check our YouTube links supplement, but feel free to find your own based on your students' interest in the topic. It is a day that Americans will never forget. Talk to your students about where they were and what they were doing. It is interesting to hear how the rest of the world felt and reacted to these attacks.

**Hispanic Heritage Month:** Use a world map to help students learn the names of countries where Spanish is spoken and the areas of the U.S. that were originally owned by Spain (Florida) and by Mexico (southwestern states and Texas.) Have students locate and list place names in the U.S. that are Hispanic. Bring in Latino foods to sample; play Spanish music; watch Spanish dancing on YouTube and have your students try some themselves. If you have Hispanic or Latino students in your class, have them share memories, foods, and traditions with the rest of the class.

**Constitution Day:** Download the *Constitution in Simple English* from Elizabeth Claire's website [elizabethclaire.com](http://elizabethclaire.com) for high school and adult students. Find and read Article Five that tells how to change the Constitution (2/3 majority in both houses and 3/4 of states to agree).

**Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur:** Ask any Jewish students in your class (or invite a Jewish person to your class) to explain the customs and meanings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Bring in challah, honey, and apples to sample.

**Hurricane season:** This year's hurricane season has been relatively quiet so far, but forecasters are saying the fall could still be a dangerous time for hurricanes. If your area is prone to hurricanes or tornadoes, it's a good time to help students be prepared. They should know the warning signs, TV station channels, sirens, etc. Elizabeth also has a free guide to hurricane safety on her website [elizabethclaire.com](http://elizabethclaire.com).

**Autumn begins:** In most parts of the U.S. there are some changes that happen with each season. Talk about the changes that happen in the fall in your area. Have students talk about their favorite things to do in the fall. *Do they have any special traditions for this time of the year? Do they do things the same here in the U.S. as they would do in their home country?*

**International Literacy Day:** Have students share their favorite books or stories with the class or group. Talk about how important it is to read at home as well as at school. Encourage adult students to read at home with their children. They can help each other. Encourage students to check out their local libraries. See if their children (or children in their lives) are eligible for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library: [www.imaginationlibrary.com/usa/find-my-program/](http://www.imaginationlibrary.com/usa/find-my-program/).

### This Is Your Page (page 4)

Read the stories and discuss any similar stories the students want to tell. Ask

questions such as: *Have you ever ridden on public transportation? What happened when you did? What is your favorite vacation memory? Where do you like to go on vacation? Do you shop at second hand stores like Goodwill? What do you look for when you shop there? What words in English are hard for you to remember? Do you have any tricks to help you remember these words? Have you ever felt lucky? What has happened in your life to make you feel lucky?*

### Dr. Ali: Your Health What is health? (page 5)

Elicit from students their ideas of health. *Why is good health important? How does a body create good health? Can doctors create good health?* Remind students that Dr. Ali's suggestions are not medical advice and that the information is not meant to substitute for seeing their own health practitioner.

### America the Beautiful: The Cumberland Gap (page 6)

**Objectives:** Students will be able to tell where the Cumberland Gap is. They will be able to tell why the Cumberland Gap was important to U.S. history. They will be able to tell why people visit the Cumberland Gap and the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. They will be able to tell what stalactites and stalagmites are.

**Procedures:** Locate the area where Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky meet on a map. Look near there to see if the Cumberland Gap is marked on your map. Follow the Appalachian Mountain range to see how far north and south it goes. Explain that a national park is a place that is protected from development, homes, buildings, business, etc. and is reserved for people's enjoyment and the preservation of nature.

Watch a video on the Cumberland Gap and the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Have students plan a trip to the Cumberland Gap and park. What would they like to see and do there? How would they travel there? How long would it take them to get there?

### Levels of education in the U.S. (page 7)

**Objectives:** Students will be able to talk about their educational level and to explore options for higher education opportunities after high school graduation or high school equivalency.

**Procedures:** Talk about credit needed for graduation at your school. If you don't have graduation at your school or program, talk about graduation requirements at

a local high school, or talk about the requirements needed to move into the next level of your program. Explore the areas that are important to your students. Point out that there are grants and loans for low-income students. Find out if your state is one that allows in-state tuition costs and grants for undocumented immigrant students.

### Electing a U.S. president (page 10)

**Purpose:** We are very early in the next election process. While politics will not be our main focus this year, we will include important election information and civics information in the months to follow. The U.S. election process is very important for new U.S. citizens and people looking to become U.S. citizens.

**Objectives:** Students will be aware that American citizens vote for the president of the whole country every four years, unlike the process in parliamentary democracies where the national leader is chosen by the majority party in power. Students will know the date of the presidential election. They will know the names of the two major political parties.

**Procedures:** Elicit the name of their home country's leader, and the way he or she became leader, and how long their term is. Explain that the system is different in the U.S. Read the article and build the vocabulary needed. Ask students to watch the news, tune in to the debates, and report which candidates they have been seeing in the news. Remind students that it is very early in the election process, that others may still become candidates. Discuss the difference between fact and opinion. Point out that information in newspapers and TV and on social media is sometimes not accurate and is often biased.

### ANSWERS

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. d              | 16. F (3-5)         |
| 2. b              | 17. T               |
| 3. a              | 18. T               |
| 4. b              | 19. F (Autumn)      |
| 5. d              | 20. T               |
| 6. d              | 21. I (die)         |
| 7. b              | 22. C (amendment)   |
| 8. b              | 23. E (wildlife)    |
| 9. b              | 24. A (diploma)     |
| 10. c             | 25. J (caves)       |
| 11. F (Monday)    | 26. G (debate)      |
| 12. F (hurricane) | 27. H (route)       |
| 13. T             | 28. D (forecasters) |
| 14. F (Jewish)    | 29. B (cells)       |
| 15. F (2001)      | 30. F (harvest)     |

**September 2023 Quiz I**

*Choose the best answer. Write its letter on the line in front of the number.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Who did scientists name HeLa cells after?
- a) Helen Lane
  - b) Howard Long
  - c) Hopkins Lab
  - d) Henrietta Lacks
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. How were HeLa cells different from other cells?
- a) They were bigger.
  - b) They did not die.
  - c) They were smaller.
  - d) They died faster.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. What vaccine did Jonas Salk create using the tests he did on the HeLa cells in 1953?
- a) Polio
  - b) HIV
  - c) cancer
  - d) Ebola
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. What is it called when a person gives a doctor permission to use their tissue in medical testing?
- a) patience
  - b) consent
  - c) experimenting
  - d) research
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. How many experiments using HeLa cells have scientists published so far?
- a) 16,000
  - b) 1,953
  - c) 100
  - d) 110,000
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. When the weather has been very hot and dry for a long time, there may be \_\_\_\_\_
- a) a hurricane.
  - b) an earthquake.
  - c) a blizzard.
  - d) a drought.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Hurricane season in the U.S. is
- a) from November 30 to June 1.
  - b) from June 1 to November 30.
  - c) during the spring.
  - d) from June 1 to July 30.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The next election for the U.S. president will be
- a) January 20, 2025.
  - b) November 5, 2024.
  - c) at different times in each state.
  - d) during the national debates between candidates.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. We say that the United States has a “two-party system” because
- a) citizens only want two parties.
  - b) for the past 170 years, presidents have only been Democrat or Republican.
  - c) the Constitution allows only two parties.
  - d) it’s too expensive to have more parties.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Candidates travel around the country to
- a) eat food from all 50 states.
  - b) ride on airplanes, trains, and buses.
  - c) make speeches and talk to voters.
  - d) visit their families and friends.

## II. From Here and There

**True or False?** Write “T” for true, and “F” for false. If the sentence is *false*, *make it true*. Write a word to replace the underlined word.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Labor Day is the first Tuesday in September.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. A tornado is a very strong tropical rain storm.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. About 19% of people in the United States are Hispanic.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Rosh Hashanah is a Muslim holiday.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Patriot Day is a memorial for the people who died on September 11, 2011.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. The Head Start Program is for children ages 6-7 years old. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. A person in the second year of high school or college is called a sophomore.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Constitution Day is a day when many new citizens take the Oath of Allegiance.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. September 23 is the first day of winter.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Reading helps students build their vocabulary.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## III. Building Vocabulary

Write the best word to complete each sentence. Write the letter of that word on the line in front of the number.

### Word List

- |                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| A. diploma     | F. harvest |
| B. cells       | G. debate  |
| C. amendment   | H. route   |
| D. forecasters | I. die     |
| E. wildlife    | J. caves   |
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. The teacher rolls a \_\_\_\_\_ to see which group the students will be in.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. A change or addition to the Constitution is an \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. The plants and animals in an area are called \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. A college student receives a \_\_\_\_\_ at graduation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. People like to explore \_\_\_\_\_ under the mountains.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. Candidates for president \_\_\_\_\_ each other on TV to help viewers learn their ideas.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. The bus takes the same \_\_\_\_\_ to take the children to school each day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. Weather \_\_\_\_\_ tell people when a big storm is coming.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. Scientists use \_\_\_\_\_ to test vaccines and medicines.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. Autumn is a time when farmers \_\_\_\_\_ their crops.