

**JUNE 2014**

# ***Easy English NEWS***

## **Cloze Exercises and Tests**

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## To the Teacher

Thank you for downloading these supplementary tests and exercises. I'm hoping they will save you many hours of work each month and will help expand your students' reading skills, vocabulary, and retention of important information.

There are dozens of ways to use the tests included in this supplementary packet. Experiment to see which methods work best for your classes, or you can alternate ways you use them to provide more variety in lessons. Some techniques will be better for students with less command of English, and others appropriate for those with greater fluency.

### 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. They are taken directly from articles in the paper so students can check their own or others' work by referring back to the article. 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.

Tell the students that if a word comes at the beginning of a sentence, or if it is part of someone's name, or a name that needs a capital letter, they should capitalize it.

For advanced students: Cover up the word box at the bottom of the page before duplicating the cloze exercises. Students can work individually, or in pairs or small groups.

As a spelling test: Dictate the sentences including the missing word for the students to write in.

As copy practice: Students can copy the entire selection for writing practice, filling in the missing words.

### WHICH WORD DOES NOT BELONG

Students think about the four words in each row, and decide how three of the words go together while a fourth one does not fit in the category. The answers to this are not necessarily firm, so it shouldn't be regarded as a written test. It's best to have students circle their choices, and then discuss them in class. 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 pattern: 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.

There are many ways to use these tests:

You may give these tests as pretests to learn what students already know about the topic.

After reading the article in class or for homework, students can read the questions aloud and give the answers orally in class.

Students can do the tests as "open book (newspaper) tests" in class or for homework.

Students can work in pairs or groups to come up with the answers with newspapers closed, after having read the article. Students can use the Answer Page to correct their own or others' answers.

You can give the test to evaluate students after reading the article. Give the same test a week or more later to evaluate the retention of the information.

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

## Childhood Obesity

Obesity is a big \_\_\_\_\_ problem all over the world. Today, nearly one \_\_\_\_\_ of American children are overweight. Twenty percent of children are obese. Twenty-one \_\_\_\_\_ of teenagers are now \_\_\_\_\_ . Thirty-one percent of \_\_\_\_\_ are now obese.

Childhood obesity has more than \_\_\_\_\_ in the past 30 years. Obesity has quadrupled in children aged 12 to 19. It is an \_\_\_\_\_ .

Obesity often leads to \_\_\_\_\_ such as high blood pressure, asthma, diabetes, and some \_\_\_\_\_ of cancer. Americans \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 billion every year on obesity-related illnesses.

### WORD BANK

epidemic	doubled	third	health	percent
illnesses	spend	obese	adults	forms

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

## Places to Buy Clothes

There are many \_\_\_\_\_ to buy clothes. \_\_\_\_\_

malls have stores for women's clothing, men's clothing, and children's clothing. There are shops

for extra \_\_\_\_\_ sizes, such as Big and Tall shops for men, or

Lane Bryant stores \_\_\_\_\_ women. There are shops for expectant

\_\_\_\_\_ and for high-fashion clothing. Some stores \_\_\_\_\_

only shoes or only sports clothing.

A \_\_\_\_\_ store sells clothing and shoes for the whole

\_\_\_\_\_. It also sells towels, blankets, dishes, pots, \_\_\_\_\_,

computers, jewelry, perfume, and makeup.

Do you want a \_\_\_\_\_? A factory outlet sells new clothing at low prices.

### WORD BANK

shopping	for	department	family	large
appliances	want	places	mothers	sell

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

## July 4, 1776

Before 1776, there were thirteen \_\_\_\_\_ on the east coast of North  
\_\_\_\_\_. These colonies belonged to Great Britain (England).

In the 1760s and '70s, Britain put new \_\_\_\_\_ on things that the  
colonists used every \_\_\_\_\_. They made laws that took away some  
of the colonists' \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_  
in the colonies did not like the new taxes or the new laws. However, colonists could not  
send \_\_\_\_\_ to the British Parliament. They had no way to  
\_\_\_\_\_ things.

In 1775, leaders from each colony met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to \_\_\_\_\_ about  
these problems. They said, "Taxation without representation is \_\_\_\_\_."  
They began to fight for their "rights as Englishmen."

### WORD BANK

change	taxes	wrong	day	representatives
freedoms	colonies	talk	America	people

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

## Acadia National Park

One hundred twenty years \_\_\_\_\_, there were no air  
\_\_\_\_\_. Rich people knew what to do. They went to their summer homes  
near the \_\_\_\_\_. Some of the richest people in America spent their  
summers at Mount Desert Island off the coast of \_\_\_\_\_. The ocean is  
\_\_\_\_\_ there, about 55° Fahrenheit. The wind blows from the ocean to the  
\_\_\_\_\_. This makes \_\_\_\_\_ air conditioning.  
In 1901, three of these \_\_\_\_\_ people gave their land to the  
\_\_\_\_\_ people. It became a \_\_\_\_\_ park in  
1929. Now anyone can enjoy cool days there in the summer.

### WORD BANK

wealthy	national	ago	sea	conditioners
Maine	American	land	cold	natural

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

## Paul Bunyan, an American Tall Tale

The men who cut \_\_\_\_\_ in the North Woods were big, strong men. At night, in the \_\_\_\_\_, they told stories about the biggest and \_\_\_\_\_ logger of them all: Paul Bunyan.

Even the \_\_\_\_\_ was funny. *Bunyan* sounds like *bunion*. A bunion is a large \_\_\_\_\_ bump on a person's big toe.

The \_\_\_\_\_ said that Paul Bunyan was born in Bangor, Maine. He was such a big \_\_\_\_\_ his parents didn't know what to do. His first bed was in a lumber \_\_\_\_\_.

When Baby Paul was hungry, he cried so loud, he scared all the \_\_\_\_\_ out of the rivers. For breakfast, he drank \_\_\_\_\_ from twenty cows. He ate ten barrels of oatmeal every two hours.

### WORD BANK

name	trees	loggers	baby	wagon
fish	winter	strongest	milk	painful

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

## More Activity

When kids are physically active, they do better in \_\_\_\_\_. They miss \_\_\_\_\_ days because of illness. They \_\_\_\_\_ better. Students should have \_\_\_\_\_ activity before, during, and after school.

Young people need safe \_\_\_\_\_ and community centers where they can be active after school. They need sports programs that are for average kids, not just for the best \_\_\_\_\_. They need activity \_\_\_\_\_ during the day, outside and inside. They need games, dancing, and fitness programs that are \_\_\_\_\_ and challenging.

Children need \_\_\_\_\_ ways to walk to school. \_\_\_\_\_ kids need safe bike paths. They need safe places to lock their bikes and keep them out of the rain. .

### WORD BANK

physical	behave	school	playgrounds	athletes
older	safe	exciting	fewer	time



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

## Russia and Ukraine

Ukraine was once part of the \_\_\_\_\_. It became \_\_\_\_\_ in 1991. Seventy-seven \_\_\_\_\_ of the people are Ukrainian; 17 % are \_\_\_\_\_. There are a small number of Bulgarians, Romanians, Moldovans, Poles, Belarusians, and Hungarians.

Ukraine has coal and \_\_\_\_\_ mines. It has ports on the Black \_\_\_\_\_. Russian gas and oil \_\_\_\_\_ go through Ukraine to Europe. European countries need Russian oil and gas.

Each day there are more \_\_\_\_\_ in Ukraine. There were violent protests in March. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Ukraine fled to Russia. Crimea \_\_\_\_\_ from Ukraine and joined Russia. Soldiers wearing masks came into eastern Ukraine from Russia.

### WORD BANK

troubles	percent	president	pipelines	Soviet Union
iron	Sea	seceded	independent	Russian

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

## June 2014: 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. increase	decrease	double	quadruple
2. junk food	saturated fats	sugar	protein
3. My Plate	dairy	protein	vegetables
4. fitness program	whole grains	bike path	playground
5. thrift shop	garage sale	boutique	catalogue
6. price tag	refund	cashier	receipt
7. laundry	tall tale	exaggeration	Paul Bunyan
8. logger	tank	lumber	trees
9. island	pool	ocean	river
10. hike	swim	wildlife	kayak
11. fishermen	artists	creatures	rangers
12. whale	lobster	seagull	canoe

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

## I. Childhood Obesity

1. About what percent of American children are overweight? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What percent of adults are now obese? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who started the program called "Let's Move?" \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many hours do children spend sitting down at school and after school? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many minutes of activity do children need every day? \_\_\_\_\_
6. When muscles are not used, how are food calories stored? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What do you call a machine that can sell things? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What cheap form of sugar do many food companies put into their processed foods?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What is a new educational program to help children learn about the different kinds of food they  
should choose every day? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What should we drink instead of sodas, sports drinks, or energy drinks? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Is partly-hydrogenated vegetable oil good for our health? YES NO
12. Who should control the kinds of foods that come into the house? \_\_\_\_\_
13. How much TV time should children under two years old have? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What is the term for a scale that asks one's height and weight, and tells if a person is underweight,  
normal weight or overweight? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## II. Places to Buy Clothes

1. What kind of store sells clothing for men, women and children, plus dishes, towels, computers, jewelry, makeup and appliances? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Tell three places that have clothing at lower prices. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Name three ways to buy clothing without leaving your house. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What do you need in most stores when you return clothing that doesn't fit?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Where is the place you can take items to return them? \_\_\_\_\_
6. If a store gives you a store credit, where can you spend it? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in June and July

1. What do students get when they graduate from a high school or college? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. The person with the highest grades of a graduating class is called the  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. The person with the second highest grades who makes a welcoming speech is the  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
4. What special day is June 14? \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. When a person says the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, which hand do they put over their  
heart? \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Should citizens of other countries say the Pledge of Allegiance? YES NO
  
7. Should people stand up or sit down when the Pledge is given? \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. What comes after: "And to the Republic \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,"
  
9. What day is Father's Day? \_\_\_\_\_
  
10. What day does summer begin? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in June and July (continued)

11. What are the two people who are getting married called? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
12. When does the Month of Ramadan begin for Muslims in 2014? \_\_\_\_\_
13. How long is the Muslim calendar? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What do Muslims do during the month of Ramadan? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What is special about the fourth of July? \_\_\_\_\_
16. In what year did American leaders sign the Declaration of Independence? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Who did the thirteen colonies belong to before 1776? \_\_\_\_\_
18. In what city was the Declaration of Independence signed? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Colonists said that \_\_\_\_\_ without representation was wrong.
20. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## IV. Acadia National Park

1. In what state is Acadia National Park? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What ocean is it on? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the temperature of the water during the summer? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In what year did Acadia become a national park? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many visitors come to Acadia National Park each year? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who explains the park's history and nature to visitors? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What village is on Mount Desert Island? \_\_\_\_\_
8. When is a good time to watch the waves crash at Thunder Hole? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## V. Paul Bunyan, an American Tall Tale

1. What is a painful sore on a big toe? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where was Paul Bunyan born? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was Paul Bunyan's first bed? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Paul wear when he was one week old? \_\_\_\_\_
5. To what state did Paul's family move when they needed more room for Paul?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What made the 10,000 lakes in that state? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What were the names of the seven loggers that Paul worked with? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What color was the snow one very cold winter? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What did Paul name his baby ox? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What did the ox eat before breakfast? \_\_\_\_\_
11. When Paul Bunyan's water tank sprang a leak, what river did it become? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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

## VI. Russia and Ukraine

1. What year did Ukraine become independent from the Soviet Union? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What percent of the people are Russian? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What percent of the people are Ukranian? \_\_\_\_\_

4. On what sea does Ukraine have ports? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What country's oil and gas pipelines go through Ukraine? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What part of Ukraine seceded? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What country did it join? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Name seven countries that touch Ukraine. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**June 2014**  
**Answers to Easy English NEWS**  
**Short-Answer Tests**

**I. Childhood Obesity**

1. 33%
2. 31%
3. Michelle Obama
4. about 13 1/2 hours a day
5. at least 60
6. as fat
7. vending machine
8. high-fructose corn syrup
9. My Plate
10. water
11. NO
12. parents
13. none
14. Body Mass Index (BMI)

**II. Places to Buy Clothes**

1. a department store
2. garage sale, thrift shop, consignment shop
3. catalogue by mail; Internet; telephone
4. receipt
5. customer service desk
6. only in the store

**III. Events in June and July**

1. a diploma
2. valedictorian
3. salutatorian
4. Flag Day
5. right
6. NO
7. stand up
8. for which it stands
9. third Sunday in June
10. June 21
  
11. bride and groom
12. June 28
13. 354 days
14. fast and pray
15. the Birthday of the U.S. (Independence Day)
16. 1776

17. Britain/ England
18. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
19. taxation
20. Thomas Jefferson

**IV. Acadia National Park**

1. Maine
2. Atlantic Ocean
3. 55 degrees
4. 1929
5. 2 million
6. park rangers
7. Bar Harbor
8. High tide

**V. An American Tall Tale**

1. bunion
2. Bangor, Maine
3. a lumber wagon
4. his father's clothes
5. Minnesota
6. Paul's footprints
7. Elmer, Elmer, Elmer, Elmer, Elmer, Elmer, and Elmer
8. blue
9. Babe
10. 30 bales of hay
11. the Mississippi River

**VI. Russia and Ukraine**

1. 1991
2. 17%
3. 77%
4. Black Sea
5. Russia
6. Crimea
7. Russia
8. Russia, Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Belarus