

**April 2015**

# ***Easy English NEWS***

## **Cloze Exercises and Short-Answer Tests**

### **To the Teacher**

#### **Cloze Exercises**

**Will We All Have Enough Water?**

**Prisons and Jails**

**Will There Really Be a Morning?**

**Vietnamese in America**

**Taxes and Health Insurance**

#### **Which Word Does Not Belong?**

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**Will We All Have Enough Water?**

**Prisons and Jails**

**Events in April**

**Vietnamese in America**

**Taxes and Health Insurance**

#### **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.
- What happens if you cut off the word box at the bottom of the page before duplicating the cloze exercises? This increases the challenge. Students can work individually, or in pairs or small groups. They can use their newspapers or not.
- 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 read the four words in each row, and decide how three of the words go together and one does not. The answers to this are not necessarily firm, so it shouldn't be done as a written test.

- 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 pattern: A, B, and D are all \_\_\_\_\_s. 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

- You may give these tests as pre-tests to learn what students already know about the topic and again as post-tests.
- After reading the article, students can read the questions aloud and give the answers orally.
- You can let the students do the tests as "open book (newspaper) tests" after reading the article in class or for homework.
- 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 the retention of the information.

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

## Will We Have Enough Water?

\_\_\_\_\_ is “Earth Month.” It’s a time to think about our home, the  
\_\_\_\_\_ Earth. April is a time to learn how to keep our “home” healthy and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Most of the Earth is covered with \_\_\_\_\_. But 97% percent of this water is sea  
water. We can’t drink that.

Almost 69% percent of the \_\_\_\_\_ water on Earth is in the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of ice. It’s at the north or south \_\_\_\_\_ or on the tops  
of \_\_\_\_\_.

Living things need water.

People and \_\_\_\_\_ need clean, safe water for drinking. Plants need water to  
\_\_\_\_\_. Water makes up 50% to 65% of the cells in our bodies.

### WORD BANK

planet

grow

animals

April

safe

fresh

form

mountains

pole

water

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

## Prisons and Jails

Americans love \_\_\_\_\_. Many people in the U.S. lose their liberty when they commit a \_\_\_\_\_. More than two million people are in \_\_\_\_\_. That's \_\_\_\_\_ of every 100 adult Americans! The United States has the \_\_\_\_\_ prison population in the world.

Many lawmakers are tough on crime. They say, Get \_\_\_\_\_ off the streets. \_\_\_\_\_ them up. To do this, the government hires more \_\_\_\_\_. The police \_\_\_\_\_ more criminals. The \_\_\_\_\_ convict more criminals. The government builds more prisons.

### WORD BANK

criminals	one	biggest	liberty	courts
police	prison	crime	lock	arrest

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

## National Poetry Month: Will There Really Be A Morning?

Will there \_\_\_\_\_ be a morning?

Is there \_\_\_\_\_ a thing as day?

\_\_\_\_\_ I see it from the mountains

If I were as \_\_\_\_\_ as they?

Has it \_\_\_\_\_ like water-lilies?

Has it feathers like a \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Is it brought from famous countries

Of which I have \_\_\_\_\_ heard?

Oh, some scholar! Oh, some sailor!

Oh, some \_\_\_\_\_ man from the skies!

\_\_\_\_\_ to tell a little pilgrim

Where the \_\_\_\_\_ called morning lies!

*Emily Dickinson*

### WORD BANK

place	wise	never	such	could
feet	tall	please	really	bird

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

## Vietnamese Culture

The \_\_\_\_\_ Confucius had a strong influence on Asian culture. The highest  
\_\_\_\_\_ are family, education, and hard \_\_\_\_\_. These values  
helped many Vietnamese to \_\_\_\_\_ in the U.S.

Vietnamese parents urge their \_\_\_\_\_ to work hard in school. They want their  
children to enter \_\_\_\_\_ in science, medicine, or engineering. Vietnamese

Americans try to keep their traditional \_\_\_\_\_ alive. They \_\_\_\_\_

their children the Vietnamese \_\_\_\_\_. They \_\_\_\_\_ their  
traditional foods.

### WORD BANK

values	succeed	work	philosopher	culture
professions	cook	teach	language	children

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

## Taxes and Health Insurance: What a Mess!

The U.S. tax season will be a big \_\_\_\_\_ this year. Many U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ will be surprised and confused. Some will be \_\_\_\_\_.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) says that \_\_\_\_\_ must have health insurance.

People with low \_\_\_\_\_ get a subsidy from the government.

No health insurance?

Six million people *didn't* buy \_\_\_\_\_ insurance. Now they will have to pay a \_\_\_\_\_. The penalty is \$95 per adult, \$47.50 per child, or 1% of a family's \_\_\_\_\_ income, \_\_\_\_\_ is greater.

The penalty next year will be \_\_\_\_\_. It will be \$325 per adult, \$162.50 per child, or 2% of a family's yearly income.

### WORD BANK

everyone	mess	incomes	health	taxpayers
higher	whichever	penalty	angry	annual

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

## April 2015: 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. rain water	melted snow	ground water	ocean
2. wells	aquifer	spring	pump
3. fertilizer	chlorine	pesticide	sewage
4. prison	court	jail	inmate
5. parole	convict	punish	arrest
6. robbery	treason	murder	arson
7. Passover	Good Friday	Seder	matzoh
8. flowers	chicks	bitter herbs	rabbits
9. poverty	tax return	refund	extension
10. boat people	refugee	pirate	immigrant
11. escape	family	education	hard work
12. funds	money	subsidy	penalty



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

## I. Will We All Have Enough Water?

1. What special month is April? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is most of the earth covered with? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What percent of the earth's water is sea water? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In what form is most of the earth's fresh water? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What percent of our bodies are made up of water? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How long can a person live without water? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the water in the porous rock underground called? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many people die each year because they don't have safe drinking water? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How much water does it take to produce one pound of hamburger? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What chemical do water companies add to water to kill bacteria? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Which kind of food uses less water to produce: MEAT      VEGETABLES
12. We can desalinate \_\_\_\_\_ water, using electrical energy.

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

## II. Prisons and jails

1. How many people are in prison in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
2. A person who commits three serious crimes in some states must go to prison for 25 years or the rest of his or her life. This is because of laws that say “ \_\_\_\_\_ and you’re out!”
3. What does it cost to keep a person in prison for a year? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many state prisons are there in the U.S.? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many federal prisons are there in the U.S.? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which prison will a person go to if he or she is convicted of these crimes: (State or federal)
  - a. murder \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. arson \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. tax evasion \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. kidnapping \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. embezzlement \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. treason \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. robbery \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. drug distribution \_\_\_\_\_
7. Most criminals are: MEN                  WOMEN
8. What percent of prison inmates cannot read or write? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What percent of federal prisoners are immigrants? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many children have a parent in prison? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in April

1. What day is April Fools' Day? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. Whose life, death, and resurrection do Christians celebrate on Easter? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What book tells the story of Easter? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What are four symbols of spring and new life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. What do children color for Easter? \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Where is a famous Easter Egg roll? \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. What day is Earth Day? \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. What is the Earth Day movement's goal for this year? \_\_\_\_\_
  
9. Where will the "Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day" event be? \_\_\_\_\_
  
10. What day is Administrative Professionals Day? \_\_\_\_\_
  
11. What day is the deadline for paying income taxes in the U.S.? \_\_\_\_\_
  
12. Is there a penalty for filing a late return if a person does not owe taxes? YES NO

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

## IV. Vietnamese in America

1. How many Americans died in the War in Vietnam? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Whose side were the Americans on, North or South? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What kind of government did North Vietnam have? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What city is the capital of South Vietnam? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What day did the city fall to the North Vietnamese? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who were in great danger after the end of the war? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many South Vietnamese left Vietnam on American planes or ships in the spring of 1975? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What law allowed Vietnamese refugees to enter the United States? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. How many more South Vietnamese tried to escape by boat after 1977? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What countries did the “Boat People” reach? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

#### **IV. Vietnamese in America (continued)**

11. How many refugees did the U.S. accept in the second wave? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What philosopher had a strong influence on Asian culture? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What are three values of that culture? \_\_\_\_\_

14. How many Vietnamese live in the United States today? \_\_\_\_\_

plus \_\_\_\_\_ more with one Vietnamese parent.

15. In what state do most Vietnamese Americans live? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What percentage of Vietnamese have become U.S. citizens? \_\_\_\_\_

17. What year is the 40th anniversary of the end of America's war in Vietnam?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Who was the first Vietnamese American to become a general in the U.S. Army?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. When can you see the PBS television show: Last Days in Vietnam? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

## V. Taxes and Health Insurance: What a Mess!

1. How many people did not sign up for health insurance through the government's Affordable Health Care plan? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the penalty for not signing up for health insurance? \$\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_% of a person's annual income, whichever is greater.

3. Next year, the penalty will be \$\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_% of a person's yearly income.

4. There is still time to enroll at Healthcare.gov from March 15 to \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The government mailed what form to people who had signed up for a health plan in 2014?  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How many people did the government send the wrong information to? \_\_\_\_\_

7. People must fill out \_\_\_\_\_ with their income tax return if they had health insurance for only part of 2014

8. What can people with a low income get from the government to help pay for health insurance? \_\_\_\_\_

9. If a person's income went up after they enrolled in a health care plan, will the subsidy go up or down? \_\_\_\_\_

**April 2015**  
**Answers to Easy English NEWS**  
**Short-Answer Tests**

**I. Will We All Have Enough Water?**

1. "Earth Month"
2. water
3. 97%
4. ice
5. 50%-65%
6. three or four days
7. aquifer
8. 2,000,000
9. 2,500 pounds
10. chlorine
11. vegetables
12. sea

**II. Prisons and jails**

1. two million
2. three strikes
3. \$24,000- \$54,000 a year
4. 1,719
5. 102
- 6a. state            b. state
- c. federal         d. federal
- e. federal         f. federal
- g. state            g. federal
7. men
8. 40%
9. 30%
10. 60%

**III. Events in April**

1. April 1
2. Jesus Christ
3. the Bible
4. chicks, eggs, rabbits, flowers
5. eggs
6. White House lawn
7. April 22
8. 2 billion acts of green
9. Washington, D.C.
10. April 22
11. April 15
12. NO

**IV. Vietnamese in America**

1. 50,000
2. South
3. communist
4. Saigon
5. April 30, 1975
6. South Vietnamese
7. 125,000
8. Refugee Assistance Act of 1975
9. more than a million
10. Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and other south-east Asian countries
11. 625,000
12. Confucious
13. family, education, hard work
14. 1,500,000 + 2,000,000
15. California
16. 76%
17. 2015
18. Viet Luong
19. April 28, 9 p.m. Eastern time

**V. Tax Day, What a Mess!**

1. 6,000,000
2. \$95 or 1%
3. \$325 or 2%
4. April 30
5. Form 1095A
6. almost a million
7. Form 8965
8. a subsidy
9. down