

**February 2015**

## ***Easy English NEWS***

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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.
- 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 in class 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.

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

## How Do People Get the Flu?

When a person with the flu coughs or \_\_\_\_\_, the virus goes into the \_\_\_\_\_. A person nearby can \_\_\_\_\_ in the virus through their nose or \_\_\_\_\_. The flu virus can also live on \_\_\_\_\_, handles, keyboards, and other things that people \_\_\_\_\_.

Between 15 million and 60 million Americans get the flu each \_\_\_\_\_. In some years, the \_\_\_\_\_ is not very bad. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says that this year's flu is \_\_\_\_\_ than usual.

The flu virus lives best in \_\_\_\_\_ weather. That's why the flu season is November to March. In the southern part of the world, the flu season is May to October.

### WORD BANK

mouth	touch	year	worse	doors
air	sneezes	breathe	cold	flu

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

## What Happens When a Person Is Arrested?

Police may arrest a person for many \_\_\_\_\_. They may put \_\_\_\_\_ on the person. They search him or her for a gun or knife, or illegal \_\_\_\_\_. They take the person to a \_\_\_\_\_ station.

If the police think that the person has committed a \_\_\_\_\_, they will take the person's fingerprints. They take a \_\_\_\_\_. The arrested person is "booked." That means the police write her or his name, \_\_\_\_\_, Social Security number, and employment information in the police book or \_\_\_\_\_.

Police must give a Miranda \_\_\_\_\_ if they are going to ask \_\_\_\_\_ about a crime.

### WORD BANK

warning	handcuffs	police	reasons	crime
questions	photograph	computer	address	drugs

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

## Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is a fifteen-day \_\_\_\_\_. This year, Chinese New Year is February 19. Many other Asian countries celebrate \_\_\_\_\_ New Year at this time, too. The Year of the \_\_\_\_\_ ends. The new year will be the Year of the Sheep.

This is a very \_\_\_\_\_ holiday for Chinese people and other Asians. People pay all their \_\_\_\_\_ and debts before the new year. People clean their homes \_\_\_\_\_. They “\_\_\_\_\_ away bad luck” and make room for good \_\_\_\_\_ to come in. They decorate their doors and windows. They buy new clothes.

All the members of the \_\_\_\_\_ get together on New Year’s \_\_\_\_\_. They have a feast.

### WORD BANK

family	lunar	festival	important	luck
sweep	Horse	bills	Eve	completely

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

## George Washington

George Washington was born in \_\_\_\_\_ on February 22, 1732. He became a \_\_\_\_\_ landowner. George Washington was the commander-in-chief of the American \_\_\_\_\_ that fought for independence from \_\_\_\_\_ (1775-1783).

After the War for Independence, Washington helped write the \_\_\_\_\_ for the United States. He was elected to be the first \_\_\_\_\_. Four \_\_\_\_\_ later, he was elected again, for a second term. He was president from 1789 to 1797.

George Washington knew that \_\_\_\_\_ presidents would copy many of his \_\_\_\_\_. He tried to do the things that were right and good for the new \_\_\_\_\_. His actions gave the United States a good beginning.

### WORD BANK

country	rich	future	actions	Virginia
army	Constitution	Britain	president	years

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

## San Francisco

San Francisco, \_\_\_\_\_ is built on hills next to the Pacific  
\_\_\_\_\_ and San Francisco Bay.

It is the 14th-largest \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States. The  
\_\_\_\_\_ is about 840,000. San Francisco's people are from  
many \_\_\_\_\_. More than 35% of the people were born in  
\_\_\_\_\_ countries; 25% were born in other states.

San Francisco is surrounded on three sides by \_\_\_\_\_. It is  
\_\_\_\_\_ in summer and warm in winter. It is \_\_\_\_\_ foggy.

Many \_\_\_\_\_ come to see the beautiful places in San Francisco.

### WORD BANK

California	foreign	places	tourists	Ocean
city	water	cool	often	population

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

## Thurgood Marshall

### Becoming a lawyer

Thurgood Marshall \_\_\_\_\_ to become a lawyer. After high school, he went to a black \_\_\_\_\_. After graduation, he applied to the University of Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ School. They would not \_\_\_\_\_ him because he was black.

This event hurt Marshall. It made him \_\_\_\_\_ to do everything he could to end segregation. He then went to Howard University, an \_\_\_\_\_ law school.

Marshall graduated in 1933 at the \_\_\_\_\_ of his class.

In 1936, Marshall worked as the top lawyer for the National \_\_\_\_\_ for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

He brought many cases in front of the \_\_\_\_\_ Court, the highest court in the United States. He won most of the \_\_\_\_\_.

### WORD BANK

determined	college	accept	cases	Supreme
wanted	Law	top	Association	all-black

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

## February 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. influenza	symptoms	flu	virus
2. headache	broken arm	sore throat	stuffy nose
3. fingerprints	photograph	handcuffs	mug shot
4. attorney	guilty	not guilty	plead
5. bail	arraignment	judge	lemon
6. playoff games	February 2	shadow	groundhog
7. Lent	Valentine	Ash Wednesday	Mardi Gras
8. Lunar New Year	horse	sheep	groundhog
9. George Washington	commander-in-chief	President	Civil War
10. Abraham Lincoln	Constitution	Emancipation Proclamation	Republican
11. used car	buyer beware	fever	lemon
12. registration	insurance	mileage	financing

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

## I. A Bad Year for the Flu

1. Flu is the short word for what illness? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many Americans get the flu each year? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the government organization that watches over health and disease in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
4. When is flu season in the U.S.? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What vitamins help prevent flu? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who advises that people get a vaccine against the flu? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What are two drug medications for people with the flu? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the strain of virus that is most common this year? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Does this year's vaccine protect against that exact virus? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many different strains of flu virus are there? \_\_\_\_\_
11. How long should a person stay home after the fever is gone according to the CDC? \_\_\_\_\_
12. If you have to go out when you have the flu, what can you wear to keep from spreading the flu? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## II. What Happens When a Person is Arrested?

1. What do police officers put on a person's hands when they arrest him or her?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What warning must police give an arrested person before asking any questions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If a person doesn't have an attorney, will the court provide one? YES NO

4. What is a "mug shot?" A \_\_\_\_\_ of the arrested person.

5. If the police find illegal drugs on the arrested person, will they return these? YES NO

6. At what event does an arrested person plead to the crime? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Who best gives advice to an arrested person? \_\_\_\_\_

8. After a person pleads guilty, will there be a trial? YES NO

9. In the U.S., a person is innocent until the government proves he or she is \_\_\_\_\_.

10. What must an arrested person leave in court in order to go free until a trial?

\_\_\_\_\_.

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

### III. Events in February

1. February is a time to learn the history of what American minority group? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. When is Groundhog Day? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What special game do the two champion football teams play on February 1 this year?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What do we call the season 40 days before Easter? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Who celebrates this season: Christians, Muslims, or Jews? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How do you say *Fat Tuesday*? in French? \_\_\_\_\_

7. On Ash Wednesday, what mark does a priest make with ashes on the forehead of a

Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

8. For how many days do Chinese and other Asians celebrate the Lunar New Year? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What do Chinese people sweep out of their house before their new year?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What festival is fifteen days after the Chinese New Year? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in February (continued)

11. What day in February is a special day for love? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What day is Presidents Day? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Who was the first president of the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
14. In what war was he the commander-in-chief? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What document did he help to write for the new country? \_\_\_\_\_
16. From what year to what year was he president? \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
17. When was Abraham Lincoln born? \_\_\_\_\_
18. What new political party was formed to stop slavery from spreading to the new western lands? \_\_\_\_\_
19. What year was Lincoln elected president? \_\_\_\_\_
20. What document did Lincoln sign that freed the slaves in the states that were fighting against the union? \_\_\_\_\_
21. Where was Lincoln when an angry Southerner shot and killed him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

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

## IV. Ask Elizabeth: Buying a Used Car

1. What does *caveat emptor* mean? \_\_\_\_\_
2. A car that needs a lot of repairs is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A compact car is \_\_\_\_\_ than a minivan.      LARGER      SMALLER
4. Which engine gives more power, a 4-cylinder engine or a 6-cylinder engine? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What kind of car has a roof that folds up? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does SUV stand for? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Name three American car companies: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is a polite term for *used car*? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Where can you learn the history of the car's owners, accidents, and damages?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the short way to say vehicle identification number? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## V. Thurgood Marshall

1. What was the name Thurgood Marshall's parents gave him? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Marshall have to memorize as punishment for his bad behavior in high school?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What court decided in 1896 that it was legal to have separate but equal facilities for black and white races? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did the University of Maryland Law School not accept Thurgood Marshall as a student? Because he was \_\_\_\_\_.
5. What law school did he go to? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What organization did Marshall start working for when he graduated from law school?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What right did he win for black teachers? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What was Marshall's greatest victory in the courtroom? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who appointed Marshall to the Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many years did he serve on the Supreme Court? \_\_\_\_\_

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

**I. A Bad Year for the Flu**

1. influenza
2. between 15 million and 60 million
3. Centers for Disease Control
4. November to March
5. C and D
6. the CDC
7. Tamiflu and Relenza
8. A-H3N2
9. no
10. More than 100
11. 24 hours
12. face mask

**II. What Happens When  
a Person Is Arrested?**

1. handcuffs
2. Miranda Warning
3. YES
4. photograph
5. NO
6. the arraignment
7. his or her attorney
8. NO
9. guilty
10. bail money

**III. Events in February**

1. African Americans
2. February 2
3. Super Bowl
4. Lent
5. Christians
6. *Mardi Gras*
7. Sign of the Cross
8. 15
9. bad luck
10. Festival of Lanterns
11. February 14; Valentine's Day
12. 3rd Monday in February; February 16
13. George Washington
14. War for Independence
15. the Constitution
16. 1789 to 1797

17. February 12, 1809
18. Republicans
19. 1860
20. Emancipation Proclamation
21. at the theater

**IV. Buying a Used Car**

1. Let the buyer beware (be careful)
2. lemon
3. smaller
4. six-cylinder engine
5. convertible
6. Sports Utility Vehicle
7. Chrysler, General Motors, Ford
8. pre-owned car
9. Carfax.com
10. VIN

**V. Thurgood Marshall**

1. Thoroughgood
2. the U.S. Constitution
3. Supreme Court
4. black
5. Howard University Law School
6. the NAACP
7. Equal pay with white teachers
8. Brown v Board of Education, ending legal segregation in the schools.
9. President Lyndon Johnson
10. 24