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Easy English NEWS

Cloze Exercises and Short-Answer Tests

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

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Which Word Does Not Belong?

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**Problems for the Next President
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Popular Votes and Electoral Votes**

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.

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 is not necessarily one firm answer to this activity.

- 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 their choices.
- Teach the patterns:
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

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 _____

Problems for the Next President

The United States has _____ different problems. Will we _____ the problems? How? A lot _____ on the next president and Congress. Here are some of the problems:

Jobs and wages

Many _____ have left the United States. They can _____ lower wages in other countries. They don't have to pay high taxes there. Robots are doing a lot of _____, too. There are fewer _____ jobs. Many Americans have not had good jobs in a long _____. Other Americans have only part-time jobs. The _____ wage has not increased since 2009. How can a country create more jobs?

Education

Schools in some cities are doing a poor job. Many students drop out without _____.

WORD BANK

companies	many	minimum	work	depends
time	graduating	fix	pay	factory

Name _____ Date _____

The Parties and the Candidates

About 27% of _____ say they are Republicans. About 31% say they are Democrats. These are the two _____ political parties in the U.S. About 38% of Americans say they are _____.

The _____ and Democratic candidates will be on the ballot in _____ state. The Libertarian Party and the _____ Party are called “third” parties. Their candidates may be on the _____ in all states, too. There are other third _____. However, they are _____. They did not get on the ballot in many _____.

WORD BANK

every	Green	Republican	states	ballot
independent	small	Americans	major	parties

Name _____ Date _____

Halloween

Watch out for the ghosts and goblins! _____ 31 is Halloween. This is a day and _____ for fun, tricks, masks, and costumes. _____ love this holiday. Many adults have fun, too.

Halloween is a very old holiday. _____ immigrants brought this holiday with them to the United States.

Halloween customs

Many people _____ their homes, yards, and doors with Halloween symbols.

Some people make _____ for their children. Older children may make their own costumes. You can also buy or _____ a costume.

After school, children knock on _____ in their neighborhood. When a neighbor opens the door, the children say, “ _____ or Treat!” People give the children small _____ such as candy, gum, pencils, raisins, or money.

WORD BANK

treats	rent	October	Irish	Trick
doors	children	costumes	night	decorate

Name _____ Date _____

Columbus Day

The _____ Monday in October is Columbus Day. This day celebrates the European _____ of America on October 12, 1492. (This year, Columbus Day is celebrated on October 10.) On this day, Americans honor Columbus and other bold _____ of the past. Columbus Day is a _____ holiday in most states. Government offices and _____ are closed. Many schools are closed.

Christopher Columbus was born in _____. He was an expert and bold sea captain. Columbus said, "We can sail _____ and get to the East. An all-water route to China and India would be faster and _____ than the route over land."

Queen Isabella of Spain gave Columbus ships, sailors, and _____ for supplies. Columbus sailed from Spain with three ships: the *Nina*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*. They crossed the Atlantic _____.

WORD BANK

banks	second	west	Ocean	explorers
legal	discovery	safer	Italy	money

Name _____ Date _____

Fire Prevention Week

October 9 to 15 is Fire Prevention Week. During this week, fire _____ have programs to teach people how to prevent fires.

Some ways to _____ fires:

- Check your _____ often for fire hazards.
- Do not plug too many _____ into one outlet. The outlet can get _____ and cause a fire.
- Keep matches and lighters away from _____ children.
- Have smoke detectors in your sleeping areas. Test the detectors once a _____ . Change the batteries twice a year.
- Do not _____ in your home, especially in bed or when you are sleepy.
- Learn how to use a fire extinguisher. Place a fire _____ in the kitchen, but not near the _____ .

WORD BANK

hot	extinguisher	month	home	small
departments	wires	prevent	stove	smoke

Name _____ Date _____

Popular Votes and Electoral Votes

Americans do not vote _____ for the president of the United States. Instead,

Americans _____ for their state's electors. The electors vote for president.

The states get one _____ for each of its representatives and

senators in Congress. The votes of the electors are called electoral votes. States with many

_____ have more electoral votes than states with few people. Every state has at

least _____ electoral votes.

The total number of electoral votes for the _____ country is 538. (There are 435

representatives in _____, and 100 senators in the Senate. In addition, the city of

Washington, D.C. gets three _____ votes.)

On _____ 8, Americans will go to the polls. They will vote for the candidate

they _____. However, the votes are actually for that candidate's electors.

WORD BANK

elector	whole	electoral	November	people
Congress	like	directly	vote	three

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.	Jewish	Democratic	Republican	Libertarian
2.	borrow	debt	money	criminal
3.	cut	reduce	raise	lower
4.	Barack Obama	Hillary Clinton	Gary Johnson	Donald Trump
5.	votes	census	election	polls
6.	county	country	state	courthouse
7.	Congress	Supreme Court	Medicare	President
8.	immigration	health care	gun violence	popular votes
9.	costume	apple cider	mask	goblin
10.	Medicare	Social Security	Armed Forces	food stamps
11.	UNICEF	Security Council	Affordable Care Act	General Assembly
12.	border	visa	immigrant	elector

Name _____ Date _____

I. Problems for the next president

1. Where can companies pay lower wages and not pay high U.S. taxes? _____
2. In what year was the federal minimum wage last increased? _____
3. In the past 12 years, there were four liberal justices on the Supreme Court.
 - a. How many conservative justices were there? _____
 - b. How many conservative justices are there today? _____
4. The Supreme Court decisions become the “Law of the Land.” YES NO
5. Who has the power to choose new justices for the Supreme Court? _____
6. For how long can a justice on the Supreme Court serve? _____
7. The United States welcomes what kind of immigrants? _____
8. The United States has enough oil underground for our own needs. YES NO
9. What method of oil production might be causing earthquakes? _____
10. By what year may sea levels rise as much as six feet? _____
11. According to the Affordable Health Care Act, Americans who don’t have health insurance must do what? _____

Name _____ Date _____

I. Problems for the next president (continued)

12. What is the unemployment rate among young black men? _____

13. What group has protested against police violence in many cities?

14. What amendment to the U.S. Constitution says that citizens have the right to have guns?

15. How many guns are there in the United States today? _____

16. How much is the national debt? _____

17. What terrorist organization are Americans worried about? _____

18. Name five countries that the U.S. has difficult relations with. _____

19. How many refugees will come to the United States from Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan in 2016? _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. The Parties and the Candidates

1. According to a Gallop poll from August 2016, what percentage of Americans are:

Independent? _____ Democratic? _____ Republican? _____

2. Who are the candidates for president and vice president for these political parties:

a. Republican _____ and _____

b. Democratic _____ and _____

c. Libertarian _____ and _____

d. Green Party _____ and _____

3. Which two parties want a smaller federal government? _____

and _____

4. Which party has conservative ideas about marriage, family, and religion?

5. Which party wants to keep the Affordable Care Act? _____

6. Which candidate wants to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico?

Name _____ Date _____

II. The Parties and the Candidates (continued)

7. Which candidate wants to have free public college education? _____

8. Which candidate wants to reduce pollution and take good care of the environment?

9. Which candidate wants to end income tax and corporation taxes? _____

10. Which candidates are or were:

a. First Lady of the U.S. _____

b. a medical doctor _____

c. a businessman _____

d. a senator from New York _____

e. governor of New Mexico _____

11. What third party candidate was elected president in 1860? _____

12. Where can you read each candidate's ideas and plans for what he or she will do if he or she is elected president? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in October

1. On what day and year did Columbus reach America? _____

2. How many voyages did Columbus make to America? _____

3. Who gave Columbus money for ships and sailors? _____

4. What were the names of Columbus' three ships? _____

5. Did Columbus know he had discovered a new world? YES NO

6. What month is sometimes called European-American Heritage Month?

7. What group of Americans march in the Steuben Parade in New York City?

8. What Prussian general helped the American armies defeat the British in the Revolutionary

War? _____

9. What is the Jewish New Year called? _____

10. When does it begin this year? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in October (continued)

11. A shofar is a horn that is used to call Jews to prayer. What animal is it from?

12. What are three symbols of a sweet new year? _____

13. What is the Jewish Day of Atonement called? _____

14. On what day is the birthday of the United Nations? _____

15. What are the six official languages of the United Nations? _____

16. What five countries are permanent members of the UN Security Council? _____

17. What holiday is on October 31? _____

18. Who brought this holiday to the United States? _____

19. What do children say when a neighbor opens his or her door? _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Fire Prevention Week

1. When is Fire Prevention Week? _____

2. Write the letter of the correct word on each line.

Use this to put out a small fire. _____

a. lighter

Have one of these outside each sleeping area. _____

b. fire extinguisher

Do not plug too many wires into this. _____

c. smoke detector

This rings to start a fire drill in school. _____

d. oily rags

Use this to start a fire. Keep it away from children. _____

e. fire alarm

These can start to burn spontaneously. _____

f. outlet

3. Smoke rises. The cleanest air in a fire is near the floor. YES NO

4. How often should you change the batteries in your smoke detectors? _____

5. Should you go back into a burning house to get anything? YES NO

6. What should you wrap around your head and shoulders if you must run through an area that's on fire? _____

7. Should you use an elevator during a fire? YES NO

8. What phone number should you call to get the fire department when there is a fire?

Name _____ Date _____

V. Popular Votes and Electoral Votes

1. Do Americans vote directly for president? YES NO

2. Who actually votes for president? _____

3. How many electors are there for the whole country? _____

4. Which states have more electors? (circle one)

THE LARGER STATES

STATES WITH MANY PEOPLE

5. How many representatives are there in the House of Representatives? _____

6. How many senators are there in the U.S. Senate? _____

7. How many electoral votes does a candidate need to win the presidential election? _____

8. When do the electors meet to cast their votes? _____

9. Who counts the votes? _____

10. When is the formal counting of electoral votes? _____

11. If no candidate has 270 electoral votes, who chooses the president?

12. If that happens, how many votes does each state get? _____

Name _____ Date _____

V. Popular Votes and Electoral Votes (continued)

13. How many electoral votes do these states have?

a. California _____ b. Texas _____ c. New York _____

d. Florida _____ e. Pennsylvania _____ f. Illinois _____

14. Which seven states have only three electoral votes? _____

15. How often does the U.S. take a census of the number of people in the country? _____

16. In 48 states, the candidate who has the most popular votes gets all of that state's

_____.

17. Which two states do not have that "winner-take-all" rule?

_____ and _____

18. How old must a citizen be to vote? _____

Critical-Thinking and Creative-Thinking Questions

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

1. In some countries, the Congress or Parliament chooses the president or prime minister of the country. Do you think that is a better system? Why or why not? Compare the way Americans elect a president with the way a leader is chosen in your home country.
2. What are the most important problems or issues in your home country? How are these similar to the issues and problems in the United States? How are they different? What other problems do you think the United States has?
3. Go to the website of one of the candidates. Find out what the candidate promises to do about creating jobs, the minimum wage, and taxes for business. Report to the class. In your opinion, can that candidate actually do what he or she promises? Explain your reasons.
4. Make a list of all the ways the federal, state, and local governments affect you and your family. What are all the ways that taxpayers pay for these services? Which of these services do you think can be cut or reduced?
5. A U.S. president cannot be elected more than two times. The next president has to start learning the job from the beginning. Would it be better to allow a president to serve three or four terms, as long as people want to elect him or her? Give your reasons.
6. Some people want to stop the custom of giving out candy on Halloween. It's bad for children's health. One third of Americans are overweight or obese. Would you change this custom? Why or why not? How would someone get this custom to change?
7. Overweight young men and women cannot join the military. Should the military change its standards, or should the country do something about obesity? Give your reasons.

October 2016
Answers to Easy English NEWS
Short-Answer Tests

I. Problems for the next president

1. other countries
2. 2009
3. a. five b. four
4. YES
5. the president
6. the rest of his or her life
7. legal
8. YES
9. fracking
10. 2100
11. pay a special tax
12. around 25%
13. Black Lives Matter
14. Second Amendment
15. 300 million
16. more than 19 trillion dollars
17. ISIS
18. Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, Syria
19. 15,000

II. The parties and the candidates

1. 38%; 31%; 27%
2. a. Donald Trump and Mike Pence
b. Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine
c. Gary Johnson and Bill Weld
d. Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka
3. Republican and Libertarian
4. Republican
5. Democratic
6. Donald Trump
7. Hillary Clinton
8. Jill Stein
9. Gary Johnson
10. a. Hillary Clinton b. Jill Stein c. Donald Trump
d. Hillary Clinton e. Gary Johnson
11. Abraham Lincoln
12. Gary Johnson: www.johnsonweld.com
Hillary Clinton: www.hillaryclinton.com
Donald Trump: www.donaldjtrump.com
Jill Stein: www.jill2016.com

III. Events in October

1. October 12, 1492
2. four
3. Queen Isabella of Spain
4. Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria
5. NO
6. October

7. German Americans
8. General Friedrich Steuben
9. Rosh Hashana
10. sundown on October 2
11. ram
12. challah, apples, honey
13. Yom Kippur
14. October 24
15. English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese
16. United States, United Kingdom, France, China, Russian Federation
17. Halloween
18. Irish immigrants
19. Trick or treat!

IV. Fire prevention week

1. October 9-15
2. b, c, f, e, a, d
3. YES
4. twice a year
5. NO
6. a wet towel or blanket
7. NO
8. 911

V. Popular votes and electoral votes

1. NO
2. electors
3. 538
4. states with many people
5. 435
6. 100
7. 270
8. December 19
9. the representatives and senators in Congress
10. January 6, 2017
11. House of Representatives
12. one vote
13. a. 55 b. 38 c. 29 d. 29 e. 20 f. 20
14. Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
15. every ten years
16. electoral votes
17. Nebraska and Maine
18. 18