

Easy English NEWS



November 2017

Cloze Exercises, Short-Answer Tests, and Critical-Thinking Questions

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

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Critical-Thinking and Creative-Thinking Questions

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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.
- 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 the decision.
- 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 _____

The U.S. and North Korea

Recently, the news from North Korea has _____ the world. North Koreans tested two nuclear bombs _____ summer. They tested more than _____ intercontinental ballistic missiles. On September 1, they tested another bomb.

The leader of _____ Korea, Kim Jong-Un, has threatened to bomb the United _____. President Donald Trump has threatened to destroy North Korea if they bomb us or _____ of our allies.

What does Kim Jong-Un want?

Kim says his nuclear _____ are for self-defense. He says they will prevent South Korea _____ invading North Korea. Kim _____ to unite South and North Korea. He wants the U.S. to stop _____ South Korea.

WORD BANK

any	weapons	last	nineteen	wants
alarmed	helping	States	from	North

Name _____ Date _____

Shopping for Groceries

Produce

There are special _____ for the amounts of produce that we buy. Some fruits and vegetables are _____ by the pound.

We can buy one or _____ pounds of cherries, apples, _____, grapes, bananas, potatoes, tomatoes, peas, green beans, or onions.

Prices for some kinds of produce may be for _____ one. For example, pineapples _____ be \$3.99 each.

When we buy a _____, squash, or cabbage, we might buy just one. However, we may pay for it by the pound.

You can buy a three or five pound _____ of potatoes. Or you might buy only a _____ potatoes. There will be a scale so you can _____ them.

WORD BANK

may	priced	weigh	watermelon	more
pears	sack	words	few	just

Name _____ Date _____

American-Indian Heritage Month

More than two _____ American Indians live in the United States. During November, American Indians and Alaskan Natives _____ their history and culture. The U.S. honors these descendants of the original _____ of America. Indians hold festivals, powwows, and cultural _____.

The U.S. has had many different and changing relationships with _____ Nations. For _____ hundred years, Americans _____ with Indians, learned from them, made treaties with them, and had wars with them.

In the 1800s, the U.S. government forced Indians to _____ to reservations. The government forced Indian children to go to boarding schools. Classes were in English. Indian families were not able to _____ their children the old ways of living. The children _____ much of their native language and culture.

WORD BANK

events	three	million	teach	move
traded	celebrate	lost	Indian	people

Name _____ Date _____

Irma and Maria

On September 6, _____ Irma moved through the Caribbean Sea. Irma had _____ of 185 miles per hour. Irma _____ major flooding and power outages on many Caribbean islands, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Two weeks _____, Hurricane Maria hit the islands again. The islands had not recovered from Irma. Maria made things _____ worse.

Damage in Puerto Rico

Hurricane Maria was bigger than the _____ island of Puerto Rico. Its winds were 155 miles per _____. There was nowhere for _____ to go to get away from the storm.

Three and a half million people live in _____ Rico. Nearly all of them lost electrical _____.

WORD BANK

winds	hour	power	caused	Puerto
even	people	Hurricane	entire	later

Name _____ Date _____

St. Augustine

St. Augustine is the oldest _____ in the United States. It is one of the most beautiful cities in Florida. It is warm and sunny for _____ of the year. Six million people _____ St. Augustine each year.

Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and 1,500 Spanish _____ founded St. Augustine in 1565. Spain _____ Florida and St. Augustine for 200 years. In its long history, St. Augustine belonged to Spain, _____, and the United States.

The British colonies _____ of Florida had slaves. St. _____ did not allow slavery. Slaves from British colonies ran away to St. Augustine. They were free there. In 1821, Spain sold Florida to the U.S.

In the 1880s, a _____ man named Henry Flagler built beautiful hotels in St. Augustine. He built a _____ from New York to St. Augustine.

WORD BANK

colonists	city	railroad	north	most
Britain	Augustine	visit	wealthy	ruled

Name _____ Date _____

Jamestown, Virginia

The first permanent English settlement

On May 13, 1607, one hundred four men came to Virginia from _____. They named their settlement “Jamestown” after _____ James. These men hoped to find gold and _____ rich.

The Algonquin Indians

The Algonquin Indians _____ in this area. The Algonquins had had troubles with white _____ before. They wanted the Englishmen to _____ . The Indians _____ the village often. The new settlers built a _____ wall around their village.

Captain John Smith

Life in Jamestown was difficult. Most of the Englishmen were “gentlemen.” They did not know anything about building _____ or farming. They had come to _____ for gold. When winter came, the colonists had not found gold.

WORD BANK

England	people	attacked	look	become
lived	high	King	leave	homes

Name _____ Date _____

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.	ear	head	cabbage	bunch
2.	liter	pound	quart	gallon
3.	<i>Dia de los Muertos</i>	All Souls' Day	Day of the Dead	Veterans Day
4.	cemetery	altar	grave	coffin
5.	cranberry sauce	stuffing	fish	turkey
6.	Mayflower	Pilgrim	John Smith	Plimuth
7.	election	relax	vote	choose
8.	Celsius	temperature	recipe	Fahrenheit
9.	power outages	donations	flooding	high winds
10.	Florida	Puerto Rico	Texas	New York
11.	Spain	Britain	France	U.S.
12.	John Smith	Henry Flagler	John Rolfe	Pocahontas

Name _____ Date _____

I. The U.S. and North Korea

1. Who is the president of the United States? _____
2. Who is the leader of North Korea? _____
3. North Korea's leader says his weapons are for _____.
4. Does North Korea's leader want the U.S. to help South Korea? YES NO
5. What three countries are near the Korean peninsula? _____,
_____, and _____
6. Which country ruled Korea from 1910 to 1945? _____
7. What country sent troops to North Korea after that? _____
8. What country sent troops to South Korea? _____
9. Which Korea became communist? NORTH KOREA SOUTH KOREA
10. Which Korea became capitalist? NORTH KOREA SOUTH KOREA
11. What is the dividing line between North and South Korea? _____
12. When did North and South Korea sign a truce? _____

Name _____ Date _____

I. The U.S. and North Korea (continued)

13. Did they sign a peace treaty? YES NO

14. How many American troops are in South Korea today? _____

15. How many leaders has North Korea had since 1950? _____

16. In _____ Korea, most people have a high standard of living.

17. In _____ Korea, most people are very poor.

18. Who is the current prime minister of South Korea? _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Shopping for groceries

1. Is this a fruit or a vegetable? Write FRUIT or VEGETABLE on the line after the word.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| a. carrot _____ | b. grapes _____ |
| c. pear _____ | d. broccoli _____ |
| e. cabbage _____ | f. apple _____ |
| g. banana _____ | h. onion _____ |
| i. potato _____ | j. pineapple _____ |

2. Write the best words from this list in the blanks in the following sentences. Use each word only once: **eggs, bananas, milk, peanut butter, beer, butter, frozen peas, tissues, toothpaste, paper towels, corn, potatoes, tuna fish, bread.**

When you are at the store, please pick up these things:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. a loaf of _____, | b. a gallon of _____, |
| c. a roll of _____, | d. a tube of _____, |
| e. two sticks of _____, | f. a six-pack of _____, |
| g. three ears of _____, | h. a package of _____, |
| i. a box of _____, | j. a bunch of _____, |
| k. 3 pounds of _____, | l. a can of _____, |
| m. a jar of _____, | n. and a dozen _____. |

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in November

1. What ethnic group celebrates its heritage and history during the month of November?

2. How many people of this group live in the U.S. today? _____

3. What holiday comes after All Saints' Day for many Christians? _____

4. On what day and at what time does Daylight Saving Time end? _____

5. At that time, people turn their clocks BACK AHEAD

6. What day is Election Day in the United States this year? _____

7. Which two states will choose their governors on this day?

_____ and _____

8. When was the peace treaty signed that ended World War One? _____

9. The name Armistice Day was changed to _____.

10. Where is the Tomb of the Unknowns? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in November (continued)

11. What is the Mexican holiday on November 1 and 2? _____

12. November 16 is a day to help people stop _____.

13. What holiday is the fourth Thursday of November? _____

14. The day after Thanksgiving is a day for stores to have big sales. What is this day called?

15. What group of people crossed the Atlantic Ocean on the Mayflower?

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Saint Augustine

1. St. Augustine is the _____ city in the United States.
2. How many people visit St. Augustine each year? _____
3. When did Pedro Menéndez de Avilés found St. Augustine? _____
4. What country was he from? _____
5. How long did that country rule Florida? _____
6. Tell three countries St. Augustine belonged to. _____,
_____, and _____.
7. Who built hotels and a railroad in St. Augustine? _____
8. What two cities did the railroad connect?
_____ and _____.
9. What is the name of the Spanish fort in St. Augustine?

10. What bridge connects St. Augustine with Anastasia Island? _____

Name _____ Date _____

V. Jamestown, Virginia

1. When did the first colonists come to Jamestown? _____
2. What country did they come from? _____
3. What did they want to find? _____
4. What group of people already lived there? _____
5. Who was their chief? _____
6. What was the chief's daughter's name? _____
7. Who said "If you won't work, you won't eat"? _____
8. What plant made the colony rich? _____
9. Who had to work seven years for a master to pay for passage to America?

10. What country did the first slaves come from? _____

Critical-Thinking and Creative-Thinking Questions

A. Choose questions to discuss or research in a small group and share with the class.

1. What is the difference between a communist society and a capitalist society? What explains why South Korea's standard of living is much higher than North Korea's?
2. China is North Korea's largest trading partner. It's on the Korean border. Why would China not want to join sanctions against North Korea? Why would China not want North Korea to lose a war with South Korea and its allies? How could China help stop North Korea from having nuclear weapons? What would make China want to do that?
3. Why aren't all fruits and vegetables sold simply "by the pound?"
4. Why is a child's native language important? What happens to a child that is not allowed to speak his or her own language? Does that happen at all at your school? What would you recommend to a school that does not allow students to speak their own language at recess, or during lunch, or walking to their classes?
5. People have a strong emotional need to grieve and connect with loved ones who have died. How do All Souls' Day and Day of the Dead customs help that? Are there such customs in your religion or culture?
6. What makes some people willing to go into battle and even give their lives to protect their country? How should a society honor them? Is Veterans Day enough? Is Memorial Day enough? Why or why not?
7. Compare your life with the life of the Pilgrims. Squanto showed the Pilgrims how to plant, fish, hunt, and survive. Has anyone shown you how to survive in the U.S.? Who? What things did you need to know? What do you do to show gratitude?
8. Interview three or more people who have dogs or cats as pets. Ask what purpose the pet serves in the family. Ask what the pet needs. Ask what difficulties having a pet gives them.
9. Why does a new colony like Jamestown need a strong leader? If you were a leader on a colony on Mars, what do you think your job would be like?
10. In the 1600's, selling tobacco made the colony of Virginia rich. No one connected smoking tobacco with illness for hundreds of years. What similarities can you see today where selling some products can make a person rich, but the customers may become ill after many years?

November 2017
Answers to *Easy English NEWS*
Short-Answer Tests



I. The U.S. and North Korea

1. Donald Trump
2. Kim Jong-Un
3. self-defense
4. NO
5. Japan, Russia, China
6. Japan
7. Russia
8. U.S.
9. North Korea
10. South Korea
11. 38th parallel
12. 1953
13. NO
14. 30,000
15. 3
16. South
17. North
18. Moon Jae-In

II. Buying Groceries

1. a. VEGETABLE b. FRUIT c. FRUIT
d. VEGETABLE e. VEGETABLE f. FRUIT
g. FRUIT h. VEGETABLE i. VEGETABLE
j. FRUIT
2. a. bread b. milk c. paper towels d. toothpaste
e. butter f. beer g. corn h. frozen peas i. tissues
j. bananas k. potatoes l. tuna fish m. peanut butter
n. eggs

III. Events in November

1. American Indians
2. more than two million
3. All Souls' Day
4. November 5, two A.M.
5. BACK
6. November 7

7. Virginia and New Jersey
8. November 11, 1918
9. Veterans Day
10. Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia
11. Dia de los Muertos
12. smoking
13. Thanksgiving
14. Black Friday
15. the Pilgrims

IV. Saint Augustine

1. oldest
2. six million
3. 1565
4. Spain
5. 200 years
6. Spain, Britain, United States
7. Henry Flagler
8. New York and St. Augustine
9. Castillo of (de) San Marcos
10. The Bridge of Lions

V. Jamestown, Virginia

1. May 13, 1607
2. England
3. gold
4. Algonquin Indians
5. Powhatan
6. Pocahontas
7. Captain John Smith
8. tobacco
9. indentured servants
10. Africa