

**December 2018**

## ***Easy English NEWS***

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

#### **To the Teacher**

#### **Cloze Exercises**

Knock Knock: Can We Come In?  
The Police and the Law  
Wright Brothers Day  
Three Little Words  
Are You Ready for Ice and Snow?  
Bill of Rights

#### **Which Word Does not Belong?**

#### **Short-Answer Tests**

Knock Knock: Can We Come In?  
The Police and the Law  
Events in December  
Are You Ready for Winter?  
Winter Driving Safety  
The Bill of Rights

#### **Answers**

## To the Teacher

Thank you for downloading the free supplementary tests for *Easy English NEWS*. I hope it 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) test" 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Knock Knock: Can We Come In?

Part of the trouble started in Honduras, in Central \_\_\_\_\_. For years, there were no jobs, and there were many \_\_\_\_\_ people. Criminal gangs beat, killed, kidnapped, and \_\_\_\_\_ people. The government of Honduras didn't help. People wished for a better and \_\_\_\_\_ life. They dreamed of going to the United States.

It was \_\_\_\_\_ to go alone. It cost thousands of \_\_\_\_\_ to hire a *coyote*.

In October, there was news on Facebook: One hundred sixty Hondurans were going in a \_\_\_\_\_ to the United States. They were going to ask for \_\_\_\_\_.

People \_\_\_\_\_ it would be safe to travel in a caravan with other people. They could all help and \_\_\_\_\_ each other.

No one had to pay *coyotes*.

### WORD BANK

thought	America	asylum	protect	caravan
dangerous	poor	robbed	safer	dollars

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

## The Police and the Law

Local police

Each \_\_\_\_\_ has a police department. Large cities have many neighborhood police stations ( \_\_\_\_\_ ). Police officers move around the city by foot, in police cars, or on bicycles, motorcycles, or \_\_\_\_\_.

In the U.S., police officers are usually \_\_\_\_\_ to the public. They are helpful to the community. Parents teach their children to \_\_\_\_\_ the police. The police are the first people we call when there is an \_\_\_\_\_.

What do police officers do?

Police \_\_\_\_\_ go quickly to car accidents, fires, or other emergencies. They \_\_\_\_\_ people from danger. They find \_\_\_\_\_ children. They give first aid and often save lives. They may help deliver \_\_\_\_\_.

### WORD BANK

rescue	babies	officers	lost	community
friendly	respect	precincts	horses	emergency

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

## Wright Brothers Day

There are special programs each year on \_\_\_\_\_ 17 to celebrate the Wright Brothers' famous \_\_\_\_\_.

On the morning of December 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright took turns in their new flying \_\_\_\_\_ . Orville was the \_\_\_\_\_ for the first flight. It lasted just 12 \_\_\_\_\_.

On the \_\_\_\_\_ flight, Wilbur stayed in the \_\_\_\_\_ for 59 seconds. The plane \_\_\_\_\_ 852 feet. That day, the Wright \_\_\_\_\_ became the first people to fly a heavier-than-air machine under the complete \_\_\_\_\_ of the pilot.

### WORD BANK

machine	December	control	traveled	air
pilot	seconds	fourth	brothers	invention

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

## Three Little Words

The little words, *a*, *an*, and *the*, are a \_\_\_\_\_ for many new speakers of English. English has many rules for these \_\_\_\_\_. There are also many \_\_\_\_\_ to the rules.

When you see or hear *a*, *an*, or *the*, you know that a \_\_\_\_\_ will soon follow in the sentence. The articles are sometimes called “noun markers.”

Spanish rules for articles are \_\_\_\_\_ from rules in English. That gives Spanish \_\_\_\_\_ some problems with them.

Articles are a bigger problem for speakers of Russian, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. Their \_\_\_\_\_ do not have articles. Speakers of these languages at first may leave out articles \_\_\_\_\_. Then, after they learn a few rules about articles, they \_\_\_\_\_. They may use *too many* articles.

It takes time to learn the rules for these little words. But don't worry. In most cases, people can understand you very well \_\_\_\_\_ them.

### WORD BANK

languages	overcorrect	articles	exceptions	problem
without	speakers	completely	different	noun

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

## Are You Ready for Ice and Snow?

Are you from a \_\_\_\_\_ country? If so, you'll be surprised at the weather in the \_\_\_\_\_ parts of the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ can go down to thirty, twenty, ten, zero, or even below zero degrees \_\_\_\_\_. When the wind blows, it feels even colder. Weather \_\_\_\_\_ tell the day's temperature. They also tell the wind chill \_\_\_\_\_.

For winter weather, you'll need a jacket or coat, a warm hat that \_\_\_\_\_ your ears, and a scarf to cover your neck. You'll need gloves for your hands. For your feet, you'll need warm socks and warm, \_\_\_\_\_ boots to prevent frostbite.

\_\_\_\_\_ is when blood freezes in a person's toes, nose, ears, or fingers. This is a dangerous \_\_\_\_\_ and can cause permanent damage.

### WORD BANK

waterproof	condition	covers	factor	frostbite
fahrenheit	northern	temperatures	reporters	warm

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

## The Bill of Rights

December 15 is Bill of \_\_\_\_\_ Day.

A \_\_\_\_\_ for the United States was adopted on September 17, 1787.

The Constitution made the new national \_\_\_\_\_ strong. Some people thought that it would be too strong. Americans wanted the Constitution to \_\_\_\_\_ their rights.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Constitution added ten amendments to the Constitution on December 15, 1791. These ten \_\_\_\_\_ are called the Bill of Rights. Some of these rights are:

- Freedom of \_\_\_\_\_
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of the press
- Freedom of assembly
- Freedom to petition the government

The Bill of Rights also says that:

- People have the right to bear \_\_\_\_\_.
- Police may not \_\_\_\_\_ a person without a good reason. The police may not search a person's home without a \_\_\_\_\_.

### WORD BANK

rights	search	amendments	speech	protect
writers	warrant	government	Constitution	arms

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

## December 2018: 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.	migrant	refugee	criminal	immigrant
2.	community	town	city	police
3.	protect	rescue	harm	save
4.	winter	Christmas	Kwanzaa	New Year's Eve
5.	dreidel	menorah	statue	Hanukkah
6.	midnight	Auld Lang Syne	Times Square	Merry Christmas
7.	brakes	fluid	windshield	exhaust pipe
8.	scraper	jumper cables	reflectors	mechanic
8.	a	or	an	the
10.	press	religion	speech	right
11.	heater	furnace	detector	stove
12.	wool	ice	snow	frost

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

## I. Knock Knock: Can We Come In?

1. Where did the caravan of migrants start? \_\_\_\_\_
2. From what other countries did people join the caravan? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where did they want to go? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did they want to ask for? \_\_\_\_\_
5. To enter the U.S. legally, the migrants must show that they were persecuted for any of which reasons? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who helped the migrants along the way? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What kind of help does the U.S. give to refugees? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which of these people might be accepted as refugees?
  - a. parents of an immigrant in the U.S.
  - b. poor people who want a job
  - c. all women and children
  - d. people who can walk 20 to 30 miles a day
  - e. people whose government persecuted them for their religious beliefs
  - f. people whose government can't protect them from criminal gangs
9. At what kind of place must refugees enter the U.S.? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## I. Knock Knock: Can We Come In? (continued)

10. How many people are waiting to come into the U.S. legally? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Who wondered that there might be criminals, terrorists or people with disease in the caravan?  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. How many migrants accepted asylum in Mexico? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Who sent U.S. troops to the border to face the caravan? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## II. The Police and the Law

1. Use the words in this word box to complete the following sentences:

lost	traffic	crime	accidents	drugs	
lives	alcohol	911	babies	danger	411

a. Police officers quickly go to car \_\_\_\_\_, fires, and other emergencies.

b. Police officers rescue people from \_\_\_\_\_. c. They find \_\_\_\_\_ children.

d. They often save \_\_\_\_\_. e. They may help deliver \_\_\_\_\_.

f. Police control and direct \_\_\_\_\_.

g. People call the police when someone commits a \_\_\_\_\_.

h. Police officers go to schools to teach students about \_\_\_\_\_.

i. Police check car drivers who are under the influence of \_\_\_\_\_.

j. The number to call in case of an emergency is \_\_\_\_\_.

k. To learn the non-emergency phone number of your local police, call \_\_\_\_\_.

2. What do these initials of police agencies stand for? a. ICE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ b. FBI \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ c. USCIS \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which police agency protects the President of the U.S.? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in December

1. For how many days do Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What do Jewish families light on the Menorah? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When did the miracle of the lights happen? \_\_\_\_\_ years ago.
4. What empire was Judea a part of? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What virus causes AIDS? \_\_\_\_\_
6. When is World AIDS Day? \_\_\_\_\_
7. In what state is Pearl Harbor? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What country bombed American ships at Pearl Harbor? \_\_\_\_\_
9. On what day did that happen? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What happened the next day? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What were the names of the two Wright brothers? \_\_\_\_\_
12. On what day did they fly a heavier-than-air machine? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Who was the first pilot? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in December (continued)

14. How long did the first pilot fly? \_\_\_\_\_
15. How long was the fourth flight? \_\_\_\_\_ How far did it go? \_\_\_\_\_
16. On what day does winter begin? \_\_\_\_\_
17. On what day is Christmas? \_\_\_\_\_
18. What animals pull Santa Claus's sleigh on Christmas Eve? \_\_\_\_\_
19. What do many people say to each other near the end of December? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
20. What is a seven-day celebration for African Americans? \_\_\_\_\_
21. When did this holiday begin? \_\_\_\_\_
22. What are the favorite colors for this holiday? \_\_\_\_\_
23. What happens on December 31? \_\_\_\_\_
24. Where is a famous place in New York City for a party to "watch the ball drop" at  
midnight? \_\_\_\_\_
25. What song do many people sing at midnight? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## IV. Three Little Words

1. *A*, *an*, and *the* are articles. Another word for them is \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The indefinite articles are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The definite article is \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Write *a* or *an* before these words or phrases:

a. \_\_\_\_\_ egg      b. \_\_\_\_\_ hard boiled egg      c. \_\_\_\_\_ old woman      d. \_\_\_\_\_ man

5. Write *a*, *an*, or *the* in these sentences:

a. Last night, on the way to my friend's house, I saw \_\_\_\_\_ little white dog.

b. \_\_\_\_\_ dog looked like it was lost.

c. I called \_\_\_\_\_ dog over to me. I saw \_\_\_\_\_ orange collar on its neck.

d. There was \_\_\_\_\_ tag on \_\_\_\_\_ collar.

e. \_\_\_\_\_ tag had \_\_\_\_\_ phone number on it.

f. I took \_\_\_\_\_ dog home with me. I called \_\_\_\_\_ phone number on \_\_\_\_\_ tag.

g. \_\_\_\_\_ old woman answered. I told her that I had found her dog.

h. \_\_\_\_\_ woman was very happy to hear that. She came to my house to get her dog.

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

## V. Are You Ready for Ice and Snow?

1. The wind chill factor makes the temperature feel: WARMER COLDER
  
2. When blood freezes in a person's ears, toes, or fingers it is called \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. What materials hold body heat well? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What is a serious loss of body heat called? \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Circle YES or NO?
  - a. Call the gas company or oil company to inspect and clean your furnace. YES NO
  
  - b. Always leave a room when there is a kerosene heater on. YES NO
  
  - c. You need a carbon monoxide detector if you have a gas stove. YES NO
  
  - d. Homeowners must clean snow from the sidewalk in front of their house. YES NO
  
  - e. People who are overweight or in poor health should shovel snow quickly. YES NO

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

## VI. Winter Driving Safety

1. A car's radiator needs \_\_\_\_\_ in the winter.
  
2. Tell ten things to keep in a car in the winter. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. You are driving in snow. There is a car in front of you. How many seconds should there be between your car and that car? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. YES or NO?
  - a. Clean the snow off the roof and hood of your car. YES NO
  
  - b. Use Cruise Control when you drive on icy roads. YES NO
  
  - c. If your car is stuck in snow, step hard on the gas pedal to get out. YES NO
  
  - d. Always warm up your car in the garage. YES NO
  
  - e. Before you go onto a main road, practice driving on a side street. YES NO
  
  - f. When roads are icy, be sure to accelerate quickly. YES NO
  
  - g. If you don't need to go out by car when it is snowing, stay home. YES NO

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

## VII. The Bill of Rights

1. On what day was the Constitution of the United States adopted? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the first ten amendments to the Constitution called? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What are five rights in the first amendment? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do people have the right to have a lawyer if they are accused of a crime? YES NO

5. Must a person answer questions by the police if they are arrested? YES NO

6. What do the police need from a judge if they want to search a person's house?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do Americans have the right to carry a gun? YES NO

8. Does an accused person have the right to a speedy public trial? YES NO

9. May the government punish a person in a cruel way? YES NO

10. May the government have a second trial for a person who was found not guilty in a first trial? YES NO

**December 2018**  
**Answers to Easy English NEWS**  
**Short-Answer Tests**

**I. Knock Knock: Can We Come In?**

1. Honduras
2. el Salvador, Guatemala
3. to the U.S.
4. asylum
5. race, religion, ethnic group, political ideas
6. Mexicans
7. shelter, food, help find a job
8. e, f
9. Port of entry
10. 5 million
11. President Trump
12. about 3,000
13. President Trump

**II. The Police and the Law**

1. a. accidents      b. danger  
c. lost              d. lives  
e. babies            f. traffic  
g. crime             h. drugs  
i. alcohol            j. 911  
k. 411
2. a. Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
b. Federal Bureau of Investigation  
c. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
3. the Secret Service

**III. Events in December**

1. eight
2. candles
3. 2200
4. Greek
5. HIV
6. December 1
7. Hawaii
8. Japan
9. December 7, 1941
10. the U.S. declared war on Japan
11. Orville and Wilbur
12. December 17, 1903
13. Orville
14. twelve seconds
15. 59 seconds; 852 feet
16. December 21
17. December 25
18. reindeer
19. Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays

20. Kwaanza
21. 1966
22. red, green, black
23. New Year's Eve
24. Times Square
25. Auld Lang Syne

**IV. Three Little Words**

1. noun markers
2. a and an
3. the
4. an egg, a hard-boiled egg, an old woman, a man
5. a. a                      b. The                      c. the, an  
d. a, the                  e. the, a                      f. the, the, the  
g. An                      h. The

**V. Are you Ready for Ice and Snow?**

1. colder
2. frostbite
3. wool
4. hypothermia
5. a. YES      b. NO      c. YES  
d. YES      e. NO

**VI. Winter Driving Safety**

1. antifreeze
2. snow brush, ice scraper, a small shovel, jumper cables, blanket, flashlight, reflectors, food, water, kitty litter or sand, sun glasses, cell phone.
3. eight
4. a. YES      b. NO      c. NO  
d. NO      e. YES      f. NO  
g. YES

**VII. The Bill of Rights**

1. December 17, 1787
2. the Bill of Rights
3. speech, religion, petition the government, assembly, press
4. YES      5. NO
6. a warrant      7. YES
8. YES      9. NO
10. NO