

Easy English NEWS



February 2018

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

To the Teacher

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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 might be more than one possible answer in each group of words.

- 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 2018 Winter Olympics

A _____ place for the Olympics?

Every four years, the Olympic _____ are in a different part of the world. This year, the _____ Olympics will be in PyeongChang [PYAWNG chang], South Korea.

It's a time for the _____ athletes in the world to compete. There will be 17 days of events from _____ 9 to February 25.

PyeongChang is just 50 miles south of the _____ Korean border. Is it dangerous to have the Olympics so _____ to North Korea? Many people think so.

The Olympic Committee _____ PyeongChang to host the 2018 Olympic Games in 2011. That was _____ North Korea's president Kim Jong-Un began his missile tests and threats towards the United States.

(Be sure to say Pyeong*Chang* so you won't confuse it with Pyongyang, the _____ of North Korea!)

WORD BANK

best	chose	North	Winter	before
close	Games	dangerous	capital	February

Name _____ Date _____

What's Inside?

Newcomers to the United States often make _____ in the supermarket. This is because it's hard to _____ the labels on cans, jars, and packages.

The front of a package usually has this information:

- brand _____
- description
- product inside the package
- _____

There may be a picture to _____ you see what you are buying. But _____ there isn't. The top or bottom of the _____ or container may have an expiration date or "best by" date.

This is a _____ from a jar of M&B Beans. It has directions for cooking. It tells the cook to put _____ beans in the refrigerator. It has a warning about the seal on the jar. It has _____ information.

WORD BANK

weight	nutritional	understand	sometimes	help
name	leftover	label	mistake	can

Name _____ Date _____

George Washington

George Washington's _____ is February 22. He was born in 1732.

George Washington was the commander-in-chief in the American _____ of Independence against Britain. He helped _____ the Constitution of the United States. He became the first _____. People _____ him for his intelligence, courage, and honesty. He is often called "the Father of His Country."

People told many _____ about George Washington. One story was in many schoolbooks: When George Washington was a _____ boy, his father gave him an ax for his birthday. George practiced chopping with the ax. He _____ down his father's favorite cherry tree. When George's father saw his tree on the _____, he was angry. He asked, "Who chopped down my _____ tree?"

WORD BANK

war	stories	cherry	write	young
ground	birthday	president	chopped	admired

Name _____ Date _____

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809. His family was very _____.

They lived in a log _____. Lincoln's _____ died when he was young.

Later, Lincoln became a lawyer. He wanted to help make fair _____. People called him "Honest Abe."

In 1846, voters in Illinois _____ Lincoln to Congress as a representative. In 1860, Americans elected him _____ of the United States.

After Lincoln's election, eleven southern _____ seceded from the Union. This started the Civil War between the North and the _____.

One terrible _____ was in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in 1863. Many soldiers died in this battle. They were buried there. Later that year, President Lincoln made a short _____ at Gettysburg.

WORD BANK

president

South

cabin

elected

poor

battle

laws

states

speech

mother

Name _____ Date _____

Chinese New Year

The _____ Lunar Year will begin on February 16. The *Year of the Rooster* will end. The *Year of the* _____ begins.

Lunar New Year is a very _____ holiday for Chinese people and many other Asians. They pay all their _____ before the new year. They clean their house completely. They hope to _____ away bad luck. They make room for good _____ to come in. They decorate doors and _____. They buy new clothes.

All the members of the family get together on New Year's _____. They have a feast.

The most popular food is *jiaozi*. These are _____ or fried dumplings. The word *jiaozi* has another _____: *good wishes for a big family*.

WORD BANK

sweep	Chinese	Eve	debts	luck
important	windows	meaning	Dog	boiled

Name _____ Date _____

Death Valley

Death Valley, California is a _____ of extremes. It is one of the _____ places in the world. Summer temperatures can reach 120 _____ Fahrenheit. When the sun goes down, it gets very cold. It is the driest place in North _____. It has an average rainfall of less than 2 _____ per year. It is 282 feet _____ sea level. (At one time, it actually was under a sea.) It is the largest national park in the U.S. outside of Alaska. Death Valley _____ Park has more than three _____ acres of land.

Death Valley is also a very beautiful place. After a _____, it blooms with flowers. There are beautiful sand dunes, canyons, and rock formations. Snow-covered mountains _____ Death Valley.

WORD BANK

land	inches	border	hottest	rainfall
degrees	million	below	America	National

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.	athlete	shadow	compete	Olympics
2.	ski jumping	figure skating	half-pipe	security
3.	South Korea	PyeongChang	Washington, D.C.	Pyongyang
4.	medal	bronze	silver	gold
5.	peaceful protest	segregation	boycott	sit-in
6.	reading tests	amendment	Ku Klux Klan	poll tax
7.	Amelia Boynton	Martin Luther King, Jr.	John Lewis	Lyndon Johnson
8.	warmhearted	coldhearted	loving	generous
9.	can	jar	package	label
10.	bar code	ingredients	expiration date	net weight
11.	Mardi Gras	Fat Tuesday	Ash Wednesday	Carnival
12.	truth	fake news	satire	rumor

Name _____ Date _____

I. The 2018 Winter Olympics

1. The 2018 Winter Olympic Games will be in PyeongChang.

In what country is that? _____

2. How many days will the Olympics be? _____ When will it start? _____

3. How many different medal events will there be? _____

4. When did the Olympic Committee make the decision for the place for 2018? _____

5. What is the capital of North Korea? _____

6. How many miles from North Korea will the Olympics be? _____

7. How many athletes will be in the 2018 Winter Olympics? _____

8. How many different countries will send athletes to the Olympics? _____

9. How many athletes will go from the United States? _____

10. What country's team was banned from the 2018 Olympics because of cheating?

11. On what television network can you watch the Winter Olympics? _____

Name _____ Date _____

I. The 2018 Winter Olympics (continued)

12. Who is the U.S. and international figure skating champion? _____

13. Two athletes from North Korea might be in the Olympics. In what sport will they compete? _____

14. What speed skater immigrated to the U.S. from Ghana? _____

15. What Olympic event will Chloe Kim compete in? _____

16. In what country does the Olympic torch begin? _____

17. How many different runners will carry it to PyeongChang? _____

18. What kind of runner is “Hubo?” _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Events in February

1. February is _____-American History Month.
2. According to an old superstition, what does a groundhog look for on February 2?

3. The Super Bowl is a championship game in what sport? _____
4. What day in February is for sweethearts and people you love? _____
5. What is the last day of *Carnival*? _____
6. What is the first day of Lent? _____
7. How long is Lent? _____
8. What holiday is the third Monday in February? _____
9. Who was the first president of the United States? _____
10. He is often called “the _____ of his country.”
11. Whose face is on these coins and bills?
 - a. penny _____
 - b. quarter _____
 - c. one dollar bill _____
 - d. five dollar bill _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Events in February (continued)

12. What year was Abraham Lincoln elected president of the United States? _____

13. What war started right after he became president? _____

14. Where did Lincoln give a speech that became famous? _____

15. On what money can you see Lincoln's face? _____

16. What documents do employers give out at the end of January? _____

17. When are the Paralympic Games? _____

18. February 16 is very important for many Asian because it is the Lunar
_____.

19. What is the most popular food on this day? _____

III. What's Inside?

1. What does the abbreviation lb stand for? _____
2. If a seal is broken on a jar of food, should you buy it? YES NO
3. A package of hotdogs says "Sell by 1/15/2018." Should you buy it? YES NO
4. Match these words with samples from a package label:
 - a. ingredients
 - b. weight
 - c. expiration date
 - d. nutritional information
 - e. warning

_____ 1) 18 oz.

_____ 2) calories, fat, sugar, protein

_____ 3) sell by 2/25/2018

_____ 4) do not purchase if seal is broken

_____ 5) water, beans, molasses, pork

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Death Valley

1. How hot can Death Valley get in the summer? _____
2. Does it stay hot after the sun goes down? YES NO
3. How much rain does Death Valley receive each year, on average? _____
4. What happens in Death Valley after a rainfall? _____
5. How many kinds of plants live in Death Valley? _____
6. How many kinds of reptiles live in Death Valley? _____
7. What happened to many people who tried to walk or ride across this desert?

8. How can you cross Death Valley today?

9. What mountains are along the west side of Death Valley?

10. When is best time to visit Death Valley?
_____ through _____

Name _____ Date _____

V. Selma, Alabama and “Bloody Sunday”

1. When did the Civil War end? _____
2. Which amendment gave black men the right to vote? _____
3. Who protected the black men’s right to vote after the Civil War? _____
4. What terrorist organization kept black people from voting? _____
5. What tax did black people have to pay in order to vote? _____
6. What kind of test did they have to take? _____
7. Did white men have to pay the tax or take a test to vote? YES NO
8. What activist group started a plan to register black people in Selma, Alabama?

9. How far was the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama? _____
10. Who led the first march? _____

Name _____ Date _____

V. Selma, Alabama and “Bloody Sunday” (continued)

11. Who stopped the marchers at the bridge across the Alabama River?

12. What day became known as “Bloody Sunday?” _____

13. Where was James Reeb from? _____

14. Who killed him? _____

15. Who was president at the time of these marches? _____

16. Who protected the marchers on the third march? _____

17. How many people marched into Montgomery, Alabama in the third march?

18. When did Congress pass a national voting rights act? _____

19. Today, many states require a government-issued photo ID in order to vote. What groups of people might have difficulty getting such an ID? _____

Critical-Thinking and Creative-Thinking Questions

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

1. The Olympic motto is *Higher, Faster, Stronger*. In which Olympic sports do athletes try to go higher? Faster? Stronger? Where in your life do you want to be higher? Faster? Stronger?
2. What is a good motto for your English class? What would be a good motto for yourself?
3. The white tiger is the mascot for PyeongChang Olympics. The eagle is the national bird for the United States. What would be a good mascot for you? For your class? Explain why.
4. Interview ten people in your class or your school. Ask if they will watch (or did watch) the 2018 Winter Olympics. Ask why or why not. What did you learn from their answers? Report to the class.
5. Interview ten people outside of your class. Ask if they have seen fake news on TV or in emails they've received. How did they know it was fake? Are they sure it was fake? Did they pass it on? Report to the class.
6. Write a satire of a current news event or a "fake news" story.
7. Work with two or three other people. Imagine you are the leaders of a country that has just gotten its freedom from another country. You want the new country to be a democracy, and you are setting up a Constitution. Who will have the right to vote in your new country? How will you prepare people to have this responsibility? Will you leave anyone out? For what reason?
8. Research: Native Americans were born in the United States. Did the 14th Amendment grant them citizenship? Did the 15th Amendment give them the right to vote? If not, when did those happen? Can all American Indians aged 18 and over vote now? Report to the class.
9. In the U.S., there are some groups that don't have the right to vote: People under the age of 18, people in prison, people who have been convicted of a felony, immigrants who are not citizens, people who have been judged mentally incompetent. Imagine you want to help people in one of these groups to get the right to vote. How would you do it?
10. Create a list of sayings with the word "Love" in them. Interview people to get more English sayings. Examples: *He's the love of my life. Love is blind.*

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



I. The 2018 Winter Olympics

1. South Korea
2. 17 days, February 9
3. 102
4. 2011
5. Pyongyang
6. 50 miles
7. more than 2,800
8. 89
9. 240
10. Russia
11. NBC
12. Nathan Chen
13. figure skating
14. Maame Biney
15. snowboarding halfpipe
16. Greece
17. 7,500
18. a robot

II. Events in February

1. African
2. its shadow
3. football
4. Valentine's Day
5. Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday
6. Ash Wednesday
7. 40 days
8. Presidents Day
9. George Washington
10. father
11. a. Abraham Lincoln b. George Washington
c. George Washington d. Abraham Lincoln
12. 1860
13. the Civil War
14. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
15. five dollar bill and penny
16. W-2 forms and 1099 forms
17. March 8 to March 18
18. New Year
19. jiaozi

III. What's Inside?

1. pound
2. NO
3. NO
4. 1) b 2) d 3) c 4) e 5) a

IV. Death Valley

1. 120 degrees Fahrenheit
2. NO
3. less than 2 inches per year
4. flowers bloom
5. more than 1,000
6. 36
7. they died from heat and thirst
8. in an air-conditioned car
9. Panamint Mountains
10. from November through April

V. Selma, Alabama and "Bloody Sunday"

1. 1865
2. 15th Amendment
3. the U.S. Army
4. the Ku Klux Klan
5. poll tax
6. reading test
7. NO
8. Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)
9. 54 miles
10. Amelia Boynton and John Lewis
11. Alabama state police
12. March 7, 1965
13. Boston, Massachusetts
14. the KKK
15. Lyndon Johnson
16. the Alabama State Guard
17. 25,000
18. summer of 1965
19. older people, poor people, black people