

# **Easy English NEWS**



**March 2018**

## **Cloze Exercises, Short-Answer Tests, and Critical-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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## A Deal for the Dreamers?

Anyone can be a dreamer, but this word has a \_\_\_\_\_ meaning these days:

“DREAMERS” are certain young people who are in \_\_\_\_\_ of being deported.

These are the 1.8 million \_\_\_\_\_ who came to the U.S. as children. Their parents brought them with them when they \_\_\_\_\_ the U.S. illegally.

All illegal immigrants are at risk. The \_\_\_\_\_ says they may not be here. They can be \_\_\_\_\_ to their home countries. But in the case of the DREAMERS, it’s a \_\_\_\_\_ different. These young people grew up in \_\_\_\_\_.

They don’t know anything about their home country. Some came here as infants. Some don’t speak the \_\_\_\_\_ of their home country. Some have no family there. What would happen to them if they could not \_\_\_\_\_ here?

### WORD BANK

law	America	immigrants	danger	stay
deported	special	language	little	entered

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

## Reading Nutrition Facts

You can make good \_\_\_\_\_ of foods when you know:

- The nutrients your \_\_\_\_\_ needs.
- How much of each nutrient you \_\_\_\_\_ each day.
- How much of each \_\_\_\_\_ is in the food you buy.

Each person is different. This article is about the nutrients that the \_\_\_\_\_ person needs.

An average adult of 150 pounds needs 2,000 \_\_\_\_\_ from food each day. People who are very \_\_\_\_\_ need more calories. People who are less active need \_\_\_\_\_ calories. If you eat more calories than your body can \_\_\_\_\_, you will gain weight.

Our bodies need five kinds of nutrients: protein, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, and minerals. We also need \_\_\_\_\_ and fiber.

### WORD BANK

need	average	active	burn	body
choices	water	calories	nutrient	fewer

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

## Saint Patrick's Day

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day. \_\_\_\_\_ immigrants brought this joyful holiday with them when they came to America. There are more Irish people in \_\_\_\_\_ than in Ireland! More than 12% of Americans are of Irish \_\_\_\_\_.

The Irish and many other Americans have a lot of fun on St. Patrick's Day. They \_\_\_\_\_ Irish songs. They tell stories about leprechauns and pots of \_\_\_\_\_ . They wear \_\_\_\_\_ clothes. They eat green cakes and \_\_\_\_\_. They drink green beer. A traditional food on this day is corned beef and \_\_\_\_\_.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ in many cities. The \_\_\_\_\_ Saint Patrick's Day parades are in New York City and Boston, Massachusetts.

### WORD BANK

gold	America	parades	cookies	Irish
cabbage	green	biggest	descent	sing

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

## Passover

Passover begins the \_\_\_\_\_ of March 31 this year. (Jewish  
\_\_\_\_\_ begin at sundown.)

Jews have special traditions for the \_\_\_\_\_ days of Passover. For these eight  
days, Jews do not eat \_\_\_\_\_ bread, cake, or anything made with leavening.

They eat matzoh \_\_\_\_\_ of regular bread. They buy food that is “kosher for  
\_\_\_\_\_.”

On the first two nights of Passover, Jews have a special \_\_\_\_\_ called  
a *seder*. Families read the story of the Jews’ \_\_\_\_\_ from slavery in  
Egypt 3,200 years ago. “Passover” was the time that the Angel of Death entered the homes  
of the \_\_\_\_\_, and killed their first-born sons. The Angel of Death  
\_\_\_\_\_ over the homes of the Jews, so their children lived.

### WORD BANK

Passover	escape	holidays	passed	instead
ordinary	evening	Egyptians	eight	dinner

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

## “Mother” Jones

A \_\_\_\_\_ years ago, workers in the U.S. worked in very poor conditions. There was no \_\_\_\_\_ wage. There was no limit on how many \_\_\_\_\_ they had to work.

Mary Harris Jones was one of the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ of the labor movement. She gave thousands of workers a \_\_\_\_\_. She was extremely brave. She faced violence and \_\_\_\_\_. She was \_\_\_\_\_ many times.

### **Ireland to Canada to the U.S.**

Mary Harris was born in Cork County, Ireland around 1830. Her family left Ireland during the \_\_\_\_\_ famine in the 1840s. They \_\_\_\_\_ to Canada. Soon she moved to Chicago, Illinois and then to Memphis, Tennessee. Mary worked as a \_\_\_\_\_ and as a dressmaker.

### **WORD BANK**

minimum	tragedy	potato	teacher	hundred
heroes	immigrated	voice	arrested	hours

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

## Income tax time

Americans must \_\_\_\_\_ their income taxes for 2017 by April 15, 2018. Most people file a tax return \_\_\_\_\_ April 15. They want to get a \_\_\_\_\_ . They use a special tax return \_\_\_\_\_ called the “ten-forty” (1040).

### Who must pay income taxes?

Everyone who works as an \_\_\_\_\_ pays taxes during the year. The employer withholds taxes from paychecks and sends that money to the Internal \_\_\_\_\_ Service (IRS).

If your employer did not withhold \_\_\_\_\_ money, you must pay the \_\_\_\_\_ you owe by April 15. If your employer \_\_\_\_\_ too much money, you can get a refund.

Not \_\_\_\_\_ has to file an income tax return.

### WORD BANK

Revenue	taxes	everyone	refund	before
form	enough	employee	withheld	pay

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.

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
1.	citizen	immigrant	DACA	DREAMER
2.	minor	child	infant	adult
3.	no path to citizenship	end chain migration	build border wall	end visa lottery
4.	act	legislation	amnesty	law
5.	grandparent	husband	wife	spouse
6.	calorie	protein	carbohydrate	fats
7.	whole grains	sugar	vegetables	fruits
8.	green cookies	St. Patrick	leprechaun	pot of gold
9.	Form W-2	Form 1040	income tax	penalty
10.	salary	loan	tips	wages
11.	minimum wage	union	time-and-a-half	overtime
12.	epidemic	strike	protest	march

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

## I. A Deal for the DREAMERS?

1. How many DREAMERS are there? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who brought these people here? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How old were they when they came?    0-16 years old    17-30 years old
4. In what year did some members of Congress introduce the *Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors* Act into Congress? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Was that law ever passed?    YES    NO
6. Which president created the DACA program? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who threatened to sue President Trump if he didn't end DACA by September 5, 2017?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. When did President Trump end the program? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What part of government now has to make a permanent solution for DACA kids?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

## I. A Deal for the DREAMERS? (continued)

10. How much money does President Trump want for building a wall at the border with Mexico? \_\_\_\_\_

11. If a DACA immigrant has committed a felony, can he or she stay in the United States?

YES NO

12. Which state has the largest number of people affected by DACA?

\_\_\_\_\_

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

## II. Events in March

1. March is \_\_\_\_\_ History Month.
2. “*March comes in like a* \_\_\_\_\_
3. *and goes out like a* \_\_\_\_\_.”
4. Who wrote “The Cat in the Hat,” and many other children’s books? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who converted the Irish to Christianity? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What color do many Irish people wear on March 17? \_\_\_\_\_
7. On what day must we turn our clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Saving Time?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What day does spring begin? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is another name for the first day of spring? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What games for disabled athletes will be played from March 9 to 18? \_\_\_\_\_
11. On what sad holiday do Christians think about Jesus’s death? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What is the name of the special dinner Jews have during Passover? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. “Mother” Jones

1. Where was Mary Harris born? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why were people dying of hunger in Ireland in the 1840s? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What two jobs did Mary Harris have first in America? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What disease killed Mary Jones’s husband and children? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What destroyed Mary Jones’s home, shop, and possessions? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What secret organization tried to get better conditions for workers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What would an employer do to a worker if he or she joined a union?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Who was the “most dangerous woman in America”? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How many textile workers went on strike in Kensington, Pennsylvania in the  
spring of 1903? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many of them were children? \_\_\_\_\_

### III. "Mother" Jones (continued)

11. To what city did Mary Jones and a group of children and workers march?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. How long did it take them to get there? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What president signed the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. The Fair Labor Standards Act created a shorter work week in many industries.

How long was it? \_\_\_\_\_ hours per week.

15. The Fair Labor Standards Act created a minimum wage. How much was it?

\_\_\_\_\_ per hour.

16. The Fair Labor Standards Act said that children under 16

CAN / CANNOT work during school hours.

17. What is the federal minimum wage today? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## IV. Income Tax Time

1. What form might an employer give to employees so they can file a tax return? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the simplest tax return form called? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who withholds money for taxes to send to the government? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What government agency is in charge of collecting taxes? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Can a person get a refund if he or she doesn't file a tax return? YES NO
6. If an employer did not withhold enough money, will the employee owe taxes? YES NO
7. A single person under age 65 must file a tax return if he or she  
earned \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or more in 2017.
8. Which of these two ways to file a tax return will get a faster refund? BY MAIL BY E-FILING
9. Does the IRS ever call people to talk about their taxes? YES NO
10. What is the penalty for giving false information on a tax return? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is a plan to save money for one's old age called? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What money does the government give to low-income workers who file a tax return?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

## V. Reading Nutrition Facts

1. How many calories does the average adult of 150 pounds need per day? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does a person need more calories or fewer calories if he or she is very active? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What happens if a person eats more calories than his or her body burns?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How much protein does a 150-pound adult need per day? At least \_\_\_\_\_ grams.
5. Olive oil, peanut oil, and flax seed oil are all \_\_\_\_\_ fats.
6. Chicken, meat, beans, nuts, yogurt, and peanut butter are all good sources of  
\_\_\_\_\_.
7. What mineral helps build bones and teeth? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What helps move food through the digestive tract? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What nutrient helps build and repair muscles? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What nutrient is important for the brain and nervous system? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Empty-calorie foods DO / DO NOT have many useful nutrients in them.

## Critical-Thinking and Creative-Thinking Questions

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

1. Why does a country need borders? Why does a country need laws about who may enter the country? If a country has laws about who may enter, what should it do about people who enter illegally? What's more important: a law, or compassion for a person who comes here to work to feed his or her family?
2. What are some other definitions of "dreamer"? Are you a dreamer? What are your dreams? How can or will you make your dreams come true?
3. Interview five Americans and five immigrants. Ask: *What is your opinion about the DREAMERS?* Are there differences in answers between men and women? Between Americans and immigrants? Between younger and older? Report to the class.
4. What changes would be in the lives of DACA people if they are allowed to stay in the U.S. legally? What changes would happen for the U.S.? What would change if they could also have a path to citizenship?
5. Why don't some people want to give amnesty to any illegal immigrant?
6. Should the parents of the DACA children be deported? Should they have the right to a path to citizenship?
7. Interview five women under 25 and five women over 50. Ask: *What career did you want (or do you want) when you went to school? What made you decide on the job you have now? Does being a woman have anything to do with your job choice?* Report to the class on any differences in careers or reasons between the younger and the older women you spoke to.
8. Some countries want to end the practice of changing the clock forward in the spring and back in the fall. What are their reasons? Ask ten Americans if they would want to end daylight saving time and their reasons.
9. Most people do not like to pay income taxes. Imagine other ways for a government to get money to provide services for the nation.

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



**I. A Deal for the DREAMERS?**

1. 1.8 million
2. their parents
3. 0-16 years old
4. 2001
5. NO
6. President Obama
7. ten states
8. September 5, 2017
9. Congress
10. \$35 billion
11. NO
12. California

**II. Events in March**

1. Women's
2. lion
3. lamb
4. Dr. Seuss
5. St. Patrick
6. green
7. March 11
8. March 20
9. vernal equinox
10. Paralympics
11. Good Friday
12. seder

**III. "Mother" Jones**

1. Cork County, Ireland
2. the potato famine
3. teacher and dressmaker
4. yellow fever
5. The Great Chicago Fire
6. the Knights of Labor
7. fire the worker
8. Mary Jones
9. 46,000
10. 10,000

11. New York City
12. four weeks
13. Franklin D. Roosevelt
14. 44
15. 25 cents
16. cannot
17. \$7.25 per hour

**IV. Income Tax Time**

1. W-2 Form or 1099 Form
2. Form 1040 EZ
3. an employer
4. IRS
5. NO
6. YES
7. \$10,000
8. BY E-FILING
9. NO
10. \$5,000
11. retirement plan
12. earned income credit

**V. Reading Nutrition Facts**

1. 2,000
2. more calories
3. they gain weight
4. 54 grams
5. unsaturated
6. protein
7. calcium
8. fiber
9. protein
10. fat
11. DO NOT