November 2018

Easy English NEWS

Cloze Exercises and Short-Answer Tests

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

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Which Word Does Not Belong?

Short-Answer Tests

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Creative-Thinking and Critical-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, Short-Answer Tests, and Critical-Thinking and Creative-Thinking questions* 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 what works best for your classes. 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 newspaper.

• 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 may be more than one correct 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 sentence patterns such as:

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 are an opportunity for 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. Students can work in pairs or groups to come up with the answers after having read the article.

• Students can take "open newspaper" written tests.

• Students can use the Answers 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.

Name_____ Date _____

Two Monsters: Florence and MIchael

Hurricane Michael

Hurricane Michael formed in the _____ of Mexico in early October. It quickly grew

to a _____ 4 storm. It had _____ of 155 miles per hour.

People in the Panhandle of _____ had only two days' warning. Many people did not

_____ before the storm hit.

Hurricane Michael made landfall at Mexico Beach, Florida on October 10. Hurricane

winds smashed _____ of homes. Winds blew off roofs; they blew down

huge _____. Trees fell on homes and on power lines. There was no

_____ power for a half million homes. Trees blocked many roads. Winds blew a

train off its tracks. A storm _____ 12 feet high flooded Mexico Beach.

Hurricane Michael was the third _____ storm ever to hit the United States. "It

looked like an atomic bomb had hit," said one person. President Trump declared Florida a major

disaster area. It will take many months to clean up and rebuild.

WORD BANK				
worst	electric	trees	hundreds	Gulf
Category	surge	evavuate	Florida	winds

Name_____ Date _____

American Indian Heritage Month

Many millions of people lived in North America before the time of _____. There

were many different nations of these first _____. Each nation had its own language

and its own way of living. There were many tribes within each nation. There were hundreds of different

_____. When Columbus arrived, he thought he was in the _____. He

called the people Indians.

Some American Indians did not have _____ homes. They moved their tipis to

follow the animals they _____, such as bison. Other groups of Indians were

_____ or lived by fishing. They _____ in permanent homes.

The end of a way of life

When people from _____ came, deadly diseases came with them. Within a hundred

years, smallpox, influenza, measles, and other _____ killed 90% of American Indians.

WORD BANK				
language	Indies	farmers	lived	Columbus
Americans	permanent	diseases	Europe	hunted

Name_____ Date _____

Thanksgiving

The fourth _____ of November is Thanksgiving. This _____ it

is November 22. This is a national holiday to give _____ for all the things we have:

family, health, country, freedom, education, home, food, and the _____ of others.

The "first Thanksgiving" was in 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Only fifty-three Pilgrims from

_____ had lived through their first winter in America. They invited their Indian

friends to a _____. The Pilgrims gave thanks for their lives and for the food they had

grown for the _____. They gave thanks for the help that they got from the Indians.

American families like to be _____ on Thanksgiving. Airports, trains, and roads are

very _____ on the days before and after Thanksgiving.

Traditional Thanksgiving foods are _____, stuffing, sweet potatoes, corn, squash,

beans, and cranberry sauce. Favorite desserts are apple pie and pumpkin pie. Americans often add their

own family's favorite foods to the dinner.

WORD BANK				
England	Thursday	year	feast	together
winter	crowded	turkey	kindness	thanks

Name_____ Date _____

Jim Thorpe, America's Greatest Athlete

Bright Path

Jim Thorpe was born May 22, 1887, on an Indian _____ in Oklahoma. His mother

named him *Wa-Tho-Huk,* which means *Bright Path*. The family were _____ of the

Sak and Fox Nation. Like other Indians on the reservation, they were very _____.

Jim's father wanted his _____ to get an education. He was sure that was

the only way they could _____ out of poverty. However, as a child, Jim

_____ living at the boarding school for Indians. The government school's

idea was: In order to make a _____ out of the Indian, you have to take the

Indian out of the man. Students could not _____ their native language. They

_____ not keep their Indian hair styles or clothing. They could not play Indian

games.

Jim often ran away from school. It was 20 _____ from his home. Each time, his

father beat him and made him return to school.

WORD BANK				
speak	rise	hated	man	could
reservation	poor	children	miles	members

Name_____ Date _____

A New Supreme Court Justice

The Supreme Court is the _____ court in the United States. Decisions by the nine

justices on the Court become, with the _____, the **"Law of the Land."**

A justice of the Supreme Court has the job for _____. A new justice can affect the

_____ of America for 20 or more years.

President Trump _____ Brett Kavanaugh. Kavanaugh had been

a _____ on the second highest court. He had many years of

_____. He was a conservative judge.

Liberal Democrats do not want five _____ justices on the Supreme Court. They

fear that Kavanaugh would _____ with other conservative justices to change a 1973

Supreme Court decision. That decision said that _____ have the right to have an

abortion.

The FBI did a background check on Judge Kavanaugh. They did not find anything wrong.

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│                          WORD BANK                                     │
│                                                                        │
│   future          highest     Constitution     life        appointed  │
│                                                                        │
│   conservative    women       vote             experience  judge      │
│                                                                        │
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Name_____ Date _____

How Do Americans Vote?

Election Day is November 6. _____ go to polling places in schools and other public

buildings. In many states, the _____ open at 7 a.m. They close at 7 or 8 p.m.

In some _____, people can vote before November 6. People who will be

away from home on Election Day can mail in an _____ ballot. People who

have a _____ may also mail in an absentee ballot. In Oregon, *all* voters

_____ in their ballots.

The District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.), Puerto Rico, and some U.S. territories send

_____ **to** the House of _____. These delegates may speak, but they

may not vote.

People can learn some of the election _____ on TV a short time after the polls close.

TV news programs use the color _____ to show that a Republican has won a state or

district. They use the color *blue* to show the states or districts that Democrats have won.

WORD BANK				
absentee	mail	results	voters	polls
Representatives	states	red	disability	delegates

Name_____ Date _____

November 2018: Which Word Does Not Belong?

Three words in each row across 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. tornado	hurricane	disaster	windstorm
2. flood	rainfall	high winds	storm surge
3. federal	county	state	level
4. representative	Congress	senator	president
5. committee	public hearing	bill	ballot
6. conservative	liberal	Democrat	left wing
7. spaghetti	turkey	sweet potatoes	stuffing
8. Kavanaugh	judge	appoint	justice
9. volunteer	Pilgrims	Indians	Thanksgiving
10. small pox	disease	influenza	measles
11. cemetery	All Souls' Day	All Saints' Day	grave
12. hurdles	humiliation	220-yard dash	high jump

Name _____ Date _____

I. Two Monsters: Florence and Michael

1. Over what body of water did Hurricane Michael form? _____

2. Where did it make landfall? _____

3. What day did it make landfall? _____

4. How fast were Hurricane Michael's winds when it made landfall at Mexico Beach, Florida?

   _____

5. How high was the storm surge? _____

6. Where did Hurricane Florence form? _____

7. Where did it make landfall? _____

8. When did it make landfall? _____

9. How many inches of rain fell in Elizabethtown, North Carolina? _____

10. How many states did Florence affect? _____

11. What government agency brought water, food, cots, and other supplies? _____

12. What are two organizations that set up shelters and volunteers? _____

   _____

Two Monsters: Florence and Michael (continued)

12. Which of the two hurricanes did these things? Write *Florence* or *Michael* or *Both*

a. Brought rain to 13 states _____

b. Had winds of 155 miles per hour _____

c. Moved very slowly _____

d. Was the third worst storm in U.S. history _____

e. President Trump declared the states a major disaster area. _____

f. Knocked out electric power _____

g. People had only two days' warning. _____

h. Grew to a Category 4 hurricane. _____

i. Salvation Army and the Red Cross set up shelters. _____

j. Knocked out electric power to *Easy English NEWS* offices. _____

k. FEMA had prepared for _____

l. Its flood waters killed millions of farm animals. _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Who Makes the Laws?

1. How many levels of government are there in the United States? _____

2. Laws about immigration are _____ laws.

3. What document tells how the national government can make laws? _____

4. What are the two parts of Congress? _____ and

   _____

5. What is the building where the Congress meets? _____

6. Washington, D.C. is the _____ of the United States.

7. After both houses of Congress pass a bill, who has to approve it? _____

8. If he doesn't approve of a law, what can he do? _____

9. Can Congress still pass a law if it is vetoed? YES NO

10. What percent of Congress is needed to pass a law over a president's veto? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in November

1. What holiday is on November 1? _____

2. Where do many Christians go on All Souls' Day? _____

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

4. *El Dia de los Muertos* is a holiday for _____

5. What does *El Dia de los Muertos* mean? _____

6. What percentage of Indians died within 100 years after Europeans arrived? _____

7. Indians had no _____ to small pox, measles, and influenza.

8. How many Indians live in the United States today? _____

9. How many different Indian nations does the U.S. government recognize? _____

10. Which states have the highest population of Indians? _____

    _____

11. When is Veterans Day? _____

III. Events in November (continued)

12. When is Thanksgiving? _____

13. When was the first Thanksgiving? _____

14. Who did the Pilgrims invite to their feast? _____

15. What are some traditional foods for Thanksgiving?

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Laws to Protect Children

1. Children between ages 6 and 16 must be in school during school hours. YES NO

2. A state may take children away from parents who abuse them. YES   NO

3. Children under the age of 18 may work at dangerous jobs. YES NO

4. People under the age of 18 may buy cigarettes. YES   NO

5. Parents are responsible for teenagers' parties in their home. YES NO

6. Schools may make rules about children's clothing, actions, and speech while they are in

   school. YES   NO

Name _____ Date _____

V. How Do Americans Vote?

1. What day is Election Day in the United States? _____

2. When a voter will be out of town on election day, how can he or she vote? _____

       _____

2. Can delegates from Puerto Rico vote in Congress?   YES   NO

3. What colors on a TV map show which political party has won a district or a state?

      Republicans _____   Democrats _____

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

5. How many representatives are up for election this year? _____

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

7. How many senators are up for election this year? _____

8. How many states are in the United States? _____

9. How many state governors are up for election this year? _____

10. When will the 116th Congress take office? _____

Name _____ Date _____

VI. Jim Thorpe, America's Greatest Athlete

1. When was Jim Thorpe born? _____

2. Where was he born? _____

3. What did his mother name him? _____

4. What does that name mean? _____

5. What kind of school did Jim Thorpe go to? _____

6. What school did Jim Thorpe go to when he was 16? _____

7. Who was the famous coach who trained Jim Thorpe? _____

8. In what year did Jim Thorpe go to the Olympics? _____

9. How many events are in a pentathlon? _____ in a decathlon? _____

10. What did King Gustav V say to Jim Thorpe after he won the decathlon?

    _____

11. Who disqualified Jim Thorpe and took back his medals? _____

12. A town is named after Jim Thorpe. In what state is it? _____

13. Which president declared April 16, 1973 as "Jim Thorpe Day?" _____

Creative-Thinking and Critical-Thinking Questions

Work with a small group or work alone. Choose one or more questions to research, discuss, and report to the class.

1. In the following events, tell what you would take with you if you had to evacuate your home.

a. The next house is on fire. You have five minutes to get out.

b. A hurricane is coming; the mayor has told everyone to evacuate by 9 a.m. tomorrow.

c. The river is rising, and your house will be flooded in three hours.

2. A hurricane may be coming in your direction. What do you need to know before deciding if you should evacuate your home? Where would you go?

3. You are going to have a Thanksgiving dinner at your house. Who will you invite, and why? What will you prepare? What's on your shopping list? What will you ask your guests to bring?

4. If you had to thank people in history for the things you enjoy now, who would they be, and what are you going to thank them for? (Example: Thank Thomas Edison for inventing the electric light.)

5. How would you help a friend or family member to give up smoking or other addiction?

6. Create sentences using words that end with consonant clusters. Practice reading the sentences and have others read them. Here are some sample words to get you started: *Frank, think, wink, sink, sank, stink, patient, went, sent, agent, department, movement, frequent, innocent, desk, mask, task, lent, went, attempt, clasp, gasp, crisp, breakfast, psychologist, terrorist, fast, trust, guest, assist, best, just, east, kept, wept, slept, adopt, shrimp, lamp, champ, jump, damp, camp, perfect, protect, extinct, elect, direct, act, fact, lift, left, soft, attempt, prompt.*

7. The Olympics has events that were useful in war a long time ago: running, throwing, jumping over, etc. Create contests and events for people to compete in that are useful today for peaceful activities.

8. Work in a group. Your group is going to start a new country on a small island. You are the leaders who will set up laws for the people in your country. Think of laws that will help make a good society. Vote on the laws. Make list of the laws that the group agrees on. Explain your laws and the reasons for them to the class. Was it easy or difficult to get your group to agree to the laws?

November 2018
Answers to Easy English NEWS
Short-Answer Tests

I. Two Monsters: Florence and Michael

1. Gulf of Mexico
2. Mexico Beach, Florida
3. October 10
4. 155 miles per hour
5. 12 feet
6. Atlantic Ocean
7. Wrightsville, North Carolina
8. September 14
9. 36 inches
10. 13
11. FEMA
12. a. Florence b. Michael c. Florence d. Michael
    e. Both   f. Both   g. Michael h. Michael
    i. Both   j. Michael k. Both   l. Florence

II. Who makes the laws?

1. Four
2. federal
3. the Constitution
4. Senate and House of Representatives
5. the Capitol
6. capital
7. the president
8. veto it
9. YES
10. 2/3

III. Events in November

1. All Saints' Day
2. to cemeteries
3. November 6
4. Mexican Americans
5. Day of the Dead
6. 90%
7. immunity
8. 6.6 million
9. 567
10. California, Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, New York
11. November 11
12. November 22 (Fourth Thursday of November)
13. 1621
14. the Indians
15. turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, corn, apple pie,
    pumpkin pie

IV. Laws you need to know

1. YES
2. YES
3. NO
4. NO
5. YES
6. YES

V. How Do Americans Vote?

1. November 6
2. absentee ballot
3. NO
4. red, blue
5. 435
6. 435
7. 100
8. 36
9. 50
10. 36
11. January 3, 2019

VI. Jim Thorpe, America's Greatest Athlete

1. May 22, 1887
2. on an Indian reservation in Oklahoma
3. Wa-tho-huk
4. Bright Path
5. boarding school for Indians
6. Carlisle Indian school
7. Pop Warner
8. 1912
9. 5, 10
10. "You, Sir, are the greatest athlete in the world."
11. Olympic Committee
12. Pennsylvania
13. President Richard Nixon