

**October 2018**

# ***Easy English NEWS***

## **Cloze Exercises and Tests**

### **To the Teacher**

#### **Cloze Exercises**

**Midterm Elections**  
**Don't Break the Law**  
**Halloween**  
**Lockdown**  
**Salem Witch Trials**

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

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

**Midterm Elections**  
**Don't Break the Law!**  
**Events in October**  
**The Salem Witch Trials**  
**Can We Keep Schools Safe?**

#### **Creative-thinking and Critical-Thinking Questions**

#### **Answers**

## To the Teacher

Thank you for purchasing the supplementary tests for *Easy English NEWS* for September 2018 to June 2018. I'm hoping it will save you many hours of work each month and will help expand your students' reading skills, vocabulary, and retention of important information.

You can get each month's edition of tests by going to the website, logging in to your account and finding the current test for the month by the first of the month. Your one-time payment will entitle you to all of the month's tests during the school year as they are available. If you start your subscription to *Easy English NEWS* later in the year, or end your subscription before June, you can still get the full year's supply of tests...many are useful with or without *Easy English NEWS*.

There are dozens of ways to use the tests included in this supplementary packet. Experiment to see which methods work best for your classes, or you can alternate ways you use them to provide more variety in lessons. Some techniques will be better for students with less command of English, and others appropriate for those with greater fluency.

### 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. They are taken directly from articles in the paper so students can check their own or others' work by referring back to the article. 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.

For advanced students: Cover up the word box at the bottom of the page before duplicating the cloze exercises. Students can work individually, or in pairs or small groups.

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 think about the four words in each row, and decide how three of the words go together while a fourth one does not fit in the category. The answers to this are not necessarily firm, so it shouldn't be regarded as a written test. It's best to have students circle their choices, and then discuss them in class. 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 \_\_\_\_\_. 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 pretests 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.

©Elizabeth Claire, *Easy English NEWS*.

*Teachers may photocopy these pages for use with their own classes. All other rights reserved.*

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

## I. Midterm Elections

Tuesday, \_\_\_\_\_ 6 is Election Day. American voters will elect a new

\_\_\_\_\_. The 2018 elections are called \_\_\_\_\_

elections. That's because \_\_\_\_\_ Trump is half-way through his four-year term.

### What are the issues in the election?

People have strong \_\_\_\_\_ on many problems in the United States.

Ideas that are conservative are called \_\_\_\_\_ Wing. Ideas that are

\_\_\_\_\_ are called Left Wing. Some examples:

*Should the U.S. build a wall at the border with \_\_\_\_\_?*

*Right \_\_\_\_\_: yes. Left Wing: no.*

*Should the U.S. let \_\_\_\_\_ who wants to live and work in the U.S. come here?*

*Right Wing: no. Left Wing: yes.*

### WORD BANK

Congress

November

President

anyone

Mexico

opinions

midterm

Right

Wing

liberal

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

## Don't Break the Law!

The U.S. is “a \_\_\_\_\_ of laws.” That means that even the lawmakers, the police, and the president are supposed to \_\_\_\_\_ the laws.

There are thousands of national laws. Each \_\_\_\_\_ has thousands of laws, too. Cities, towns, and counties all have laws. Each \_\_\_\_\_ there are hundreds of new laws!

There are \_\_\_\_\_ for breaking a law. There may be a fine or time in \_\_\_\_\_ . An \_\_\_\_\_ has *extra* punishments. He or she may lose the chance to become a \_\_\_\_\_. After time in jail, the government can \_\_\_\_\_ an immigrant.

### What are some important laws in the United States?

Many laws in the United States are based on Judeo-Christian laws:

- You may not \_\_\_\_\_ or hurt other people.

### WORD BANK

punishments	citizen	deport	nation	year
murder	jail	obey	immigrant	state

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

## Halloween

“Trick or \_\_\_\_\_!” is the happy shout of children on Halloween. They go to neighbors’ homes in \_\_\_\_\_ and masks. The children hold out bags, plastic jack-o’-\_\_\_\_\_, and pillow cases. They hope they will get \_\_\_\_\_ or money.

October 31, Halloween, is the \_\_\_\_\_ for funny costumes.

Children \_\_\_\_\_ this holiday. They can dress as a president, a \_\_\_\_\_, a devil, a vampire, a famous person, a princess, a cowboy, a robot, a pumpkin, or just about anything they can \_\_\_\_\_! Adults can dress up and enjoy this holiday, too.

Some people \_\_\_\_\_ costumes. Some people make their own costumes.

You can see many symbols of Halloween during \_\_\_\_\_: witches, ghosts, skeletons, and cemeteries. Jack-o’-lanterns, owls, black cats, devils, and scarecrows are common, too.

### WORD BANK

lanterns	October	imagine	love	candy
treat	costumes	buy	witch	holiday

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

## A Lockdown Drill

### Here's what happens:

An \_\_\_\_\_ sounds in every room of the school. Any  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the hall move quickly and safely to the  
\_\_\_\_\_ classroom. A teacher or student \_\_\_\_\_

the classroom door from the inside. The teacher and students use desks and chairs to  
\_\_\_\_\_ the door. They lock the \_\_\_\_\_

and close the blinds. They turn off the \_\_\_\_\_. All students move to a  
\_\_\_\_\_ area in the classroom. They keep silent.

First responders from the \_\_\_\_\_ department come into the halls during the  
drill. They bang on the doors and make noise.

Teacher and students wait for the **All** \_\_\_\_\_ notice before they get back to  
their lessons. Schools have these drills twice or more each year.

### WORD BANK

windows	nearest	lights	police	clear
alarm	students	locks	barricade	safe

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

## Salem Witch Trials

### The accusers

Two young girls in Salem began to act in \_\_\_\_\_ ways. They screamed, threw things, and crawled under \_\_\_\_\_. They had convulsions. Doctors could not find the \_\_\_\_\_.

The girls said that \_\_\_\_\_ were causing their pain. The girls \_\_\_\_\_ women they didn't like: Sarah Good, Sarah Osborne, and \_\_\_\_\_, a West Indian slave.

### In court

Salem authorities \_\_\_\_\_ these three women and put them in jail. The women said they were \_\_\_\_\_. But in court, the \_\_\_\_\_ did not believe them. They believed the accusers. The judges demanded that the three women \_\_\_\_\_.

### WORD BANK

confess	witches	Tituba	arrested	innocent
strange	furniture	accused	cause	judges

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

## October 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. representative	president	candidate	senator
2. conservative	right wing	liberal	Republican
3. jail sentence	punishment	fine	felony
4. Spain	the Indies	Japan	China
5. Santa Maria	Queen Elizabeth	Nina	Pinta
6. Mexico	Costa Rica	Brazil	Guatemala
7. ghost	skeleton	treat	vampire
8. UNESCO	USPS	WHO	UNICEF
9. large	medium	well-done	rare
10. accuse	defend	support	protect
11. employer	citizen	landlord	judge
12. lips	tongue	teeth	voice

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

## ***Easy English NEWS* Short-Answer Tests, October 2018**

### **I. Mid-term Elections**

1. What day is Election Day in the U.S. this year? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many representatives are in the House of Representatives? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long is a Senator's term? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Is President Trump running for reelection? YES NO
5. Which state has the most representatives? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which political party is more conservative: Republicans Democrats Socialists?
7. How old must a citizen be in order to vote? \_\_\_\_\_
8. If you registered to vote and you have moved, must you register again? YES NO
9. Can a person who is in jail for a felony vote in the Mid-term election? YES NO
10. How can a person vote if he or she will be away from home on Election Day?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

## II. Don't Break the Law!

1. Must the police and the president obey the law? YES NO
  
2. Can an immigrant lose the chance to become a citizen if he or she breaks the law?
  
3. On what system of laws are are many laws in the United States based? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. How many husbands or wives may a person have in the U.S. at one time? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Does the government tell people what religion they may have? YES NO
  
5. May anyone criticize the government? YES NO
  
6. May newspapers print any stories they wish? YES NO
  
7. May a person start his or her own business? YES NO
  
8. May the police search a person's house without a warrant from a judge? YES NO
  
9. May the police keep a person in jail without a hearing before a judge? YES NO
  
10. Must schools let girls and boys study the same subjects? YES NO

## II. Don't Break the Law! (continued)

11. May an employer discriminate against women or older workers? YES NO

12. May a landlord discriminate against people because of their race? YES NO

13. Which of these are against the law? (circle them)

a. treason    b. criticizing the president    c. paying taxes    d. changing one's religion

e. destroying things that belong to others    f. murder    g. having two wives

h. suing someone    i. searching a house with a warrant    j. having an attorney

k. having a class in school for boys only    l. discriminating against older people at work

m. coming into the United States without a visa    n. speaking freely on any topic

o. starting your own business    p. telling a lie to the government

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

### III. Events in October

1. On what day in 1492 did Christopher Columbus discover America? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. What nationality was Columbus? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What country did Queen Isabela lead? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What things did merchants bring back from India, China, and Japan? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. What did Columbus name the people who lived on the islands he discovered?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Hispanic heritage month is September \_\_\_\_\_ to October \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. When was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights created? \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it says that everyone has the right to  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  
9. What do children say when they go to their neighbor's house on Halloween? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
10. Who brought the holiday of Halloween to the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_.

## IV. The Salem Witch Trials

1. In what country were 200,000 people killed as witches between 1484 to 1750? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Where was the worst witch hunt in America? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what year did it start? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who were the first three women accused of being witches? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Who was the first to confess to being a witch \_\_\_\_\_

6. How many people in Salem accused others of being witches?

7. How many people had been accused? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Who signed petitions to try to save the accused people? \_\_\_\_\_

9.. How many people did the village of Salem hang in 1692? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Who wrote about the witch trials? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What governor changed the law about witch trials? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## V. Can We Keep Schools Safe?

1. Which of these actions might be part of a lockdown at a school? (Circle them.)

- a. Sound an alarm in every room.
- b. Students in the halls quickly go to their own classroom.
- c. Keep all classroom doors open.
- d. Students barricade the classroom door.
- e. Turn on the lights.
- f. Students move to the center of the classroom.

2. Which of these people are usually called “first responders?”

- a. fire fighters
- b. teachers
- c. police officers
- d. active shooters
- e. students
- f. emergency medical people

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

## Creative-Thinking and Critical-Thinking Questions

1. How do you explain that Americans have such different opinions about government from each other?
2. Members of Congress are elected for a term of two years. They have to start campaigning (and raising money) soon after they are elected in order to be elected again. Ask five citizens their opinion of this system.
3. A president's term is four years. Is that long enough for a president to accomplish anything? Explain. Should a president's term be longer? Should a president be allowed to have more than two terms? Ask five citizens their opinion on this system.
4. Is it fair for a state like Wyoming with very few people to have the same power in the Senate as New York or California with many people? Explain.
5. There are so many laws that a person might break a law without knowing about it. How would you make sure that people understand all the laws they need to know?
6. Do you think a person has the right to choose his or her own occupation? Or should parents choose for the person? Or should the government choose a person's occupation?
7. Was Christopher Columbus great? Why or why not?
8. If Columbus had not arrived in America, how do you think the world would be different today?
9. How does a "heritage month" help Americans learn to respect each other?
10. In what ways is the Holiday of Day of the Dead similar to Halloween?
11. How would you keep schools safe from shooters?
12. If you lived in Salem in 1692, do you think you would have believed in witches? What would you do if your neighbors accused you of being a witch?

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

**I. Mid-term Elections**

1. Tuesday, November 6
2. 435
3. 6 years
4. NO
5. California
6. Republican
7. 18 years old
8. YES
9. NO
10. by absentee ballot

**II. Don't Break the Law!**

1. YES
2. Judeo-Christian principles
3. one
4. NO
5. YES
6. YES
7. YES
8. NO
9. NO
10. YES
11. NO
12. NO
13. a, e, f, g, i, k, l, m, p

**III. Events in October**

1. October 12
2. Italian
3. Spain
4. spices, silk, medicines
5. Indians
6. 15, 15
7. 1948
8. life, liberty, safety
9. Trick or Treat
10. Irish immigrants

**IV. The Salem Witch Trials**

1. England
2. Salem, Massachusetts
3. 1692
4. Sarah Good, Sarah Osborne, Tituba
5. Tituba
6. 70
7. 63
8. Families
9. 19
10. Cotton Mather
11. William Phip

**V. Can We Keep Schools Safe?**

1. a, d
2. a, c, e