

Easy English NEWS



April 2019

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

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

**Save Our Seas!
Prisons and Jails
Earth Day
Talking About Poetry
Get Ready for Screen-free Week**

Which Word Does Not Belong?

Short-Answer Tests

**Save Our Seas!
Prisons and Jails
Events in April (2 pages)
Sea Shell and Talking About Poetry
Get Ready for Screen-free Week**

Critical-Thinking and Creative-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 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) tests" 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.

Name _____ Date _____

Save Our Seas!

_____ is Earth Month. It's a time to learn more about our
_____. We need to know how to keep it safe for all the beings that
_____ on it.

The good news

_____ year's Earth Day theme was The Oceans. The actions last year helped
the U.S. Congress to pass the Save Our Seas _____. The purpose is to stop
_____ the Earth's oceans. On October 12, 2018, _____
Donald Trump signed the Save Our Seas bill into law.

Why are oceans important?

Seventy percent of the earth is _____ with water. _____
ocean is our planet's life support system. Plankton that grows _____ the ocean
surface creates half of the oxygen that people and animals need to breathe.

WORD BANK

planet	last	President	April	bill
covered	on	polluting	the	live

Name _____ Date _____

Prisons and Jails

Americans love _____. Many people in the U.S. lose their liberty when they commit a _____. More than two million people are in _____. That's _____ of every 100 adult Americans! The United States has the _____ prison population in the world. _____ lawmakers are tough on crime. They say, Get _____ off the streets. _____ them up. To do this, the government hires more _____. The police _____ more criminals. The courts convict more criminals.

WORD BANK

criminals	one	biggest	liberty	many
police	prison	crime	lock	arrest

Name _____ Date _____

Earth Day

Earth Day is _____ 22. There will be _____ of events in 192 countries. Popular activities are street parades, clean-up parties, concerts, fairs, and _____. There are events to teach people about the _____.

Earth Day _____ to be just one day. _____ “saving the earth” has year-round activities.

The _____ of Earth Day is: “The earth belongs to all of us. We _____ all take care of it.” This year’s Earth Day theme is protecting the earth’s animals. Many of the earth’s _____ are endangered.

What’s happening to the bees?

Beekeepers in the United States and _____, say that 30% of their honey bees have been dying each year. Plus, 25% of the wild bee species in the U.S. are endangered.

WORD BANK

Europe	now	environment	April	message
species	must	tree-planting	used	thousands

Name _____ Date _____

Talking About Poetry

A _____ is a form of writing in which the poet carefully chooses each word.

A poem _____ “paints a picture” or makes a reader feel an emotion. Poets have

many ways to make the poem beautiful or _____. These are some of a poet’s

_____:

_____ is the repetition of consonant sounds. Example: Sing me a song

Imagery is _____ a picture in the reader’s mind.

Meter is the number of _____ syllables in each line of poetry.

Personification is talking about something as if it _____ a person. Example: Sing

of things _____ know so well.

Rhyme is when _____ words have the same vowel and ending sounds. For

example please and trees. Some poems rhyme; some poems do not rhyme.

WORD BANK

two

alliteration

poem

powerful

were

you

creating

tools

stressed

often

Name _____ Date _____

Get Ready for Screen-free Week

Are you _____ to TV or to your computer? Can you live without _____ a screen for a week? Do you have any _____ of your own for having fun? Get ready to find out next _____.

April 29 to _____ 5 is Screen-free Week. It's a time to turn _____ TVs, laptops, computers, and iPads. Take a break from video games, FaceBook, _____, and surfing the Web.

Why? What _____ is there in life?

There's the whole world.

Not _____ long ago, people played outside. They played board games. They read books. _____ talked to their friends and family. They sometimes just sat and thought and wondered.

WORD BANK

watching	they	Twitter	month	else
off	ideas	addicted	May	too

Name _____ Date _____

April 2019: 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. lawn	seas	oceans	ivers
2. whales	sea turtles	fish	donkeys
3. oil spills	dolphins	sewage	plastic
4. prison	court	jail	inmate
5. parole	convict	punish	arrest
6. robbery	treason	murder	arson
7. Passover	Good Friday	Seder	matzoh
8. flowers	chicks	bitter herbs	rabbis
9. Earth Day	Easter	Save Our Seas bill	April Fools' Day
10. flowers	parasites	diseases	mold
11. alliteration	pollution	personification	imagery
12. main	rain	chain	again

Name _____ Date _____

I. Save Our Seas!

1. Which month is Earth Month? _____

2. What is the name of the bill Congress passed to stop polluting the oceans?

3. What percent of the earth is covered with water? _____

4. What creates half the oxygen that people and animals need to breathe? _____

5. Which of these things pollute the ocean? Circle all answers.
a. plastic b. sewage c. oil spills d. fish e. plankton f. noise g. fertilizer

6. What is the worst kind of garbage that goes into the ocean? _____

7. Where does most plastic in the ocean come from? Circle all answers. a. toys
b. grocery bags c. sunglasses d. soda and water bottles e. yogurt and butter containers

8. What releases chemicals into the atmosphere when they burn? _____

9. What is it called when plastic is collected and used to make other products? _____

10. What can people do to clean up the oceans? Circle all answers. a. reduce energy use
b. collect seashells c. pick up litter on the beach d. feed ocean animals
e. stop using plastic bottles and straws

Name _____ Date _____

II. Prisons and jails

1. How many people are in prison in the United States? _____
2. A person who commits three serious crimes in some states must go to prison for 25 years or the rest of his or her life. This is because of laws that say “ _____ and you’re out!”
3. What does it cost to keep a person in prison for a year? _____
4. How many state prisons are there in the U.S.? _____
5. How many federal prisons are there in the U.S.? _____
6. Which prison will a person go to if he or she is convicted of these crimes: (state or federal)
 - a. murder _____
 - b. arson _____
 - c. tax evasion _____
 - d. kidnapping _____
 - e. embezzlement _____
 - f. treason _____
 - g. robbery _____
 - h. drug distribution _____
7. Most of the people in jail are: MEN WOMEN
8. What percent of prisoners are women? _____
9. What percent of prisoners cannot read or write? _____
10. How many children have a parent in prison? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in April

1. What day is April Fools' Day? _____
2. What tree branches are used in Christian churches the Sunday before Easter? _____
3. Whose life, death, and resurrection do Christians celebrate on Easter? _____
4. What book tells the story of Easter? _____
5. Name the four symbols of spring and new life. _____

6. What do children color for Easter? _____
7. Where is a famous Easter Egg Roll? _____
8. What Jewish holiday remembers the escape from Egypt? _____
9. What is the special dinner on the first 2 nights of this holiday? _____
10. What is NOT one of the special things on the table during this dinner?
a. boiled egg
b. marshmallow chicks c. lamb bone d. bitter herbs e. chocolate f. salt water
11. What day is the deadline for paying income taxes in the U.S.? _____
12. Is there a penalty for filing a late return if a person does not owe taxes? YES NO

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in April (Continued)

13. What day is Administrative Professionals Day this year? _____

14. What day is Earth Day? _____

15. What is the Earth Day theme this year? _____

16. What percent of honey bees in the U.S. and Europe have been dying each year?

17. What percent of wild bee species are endangered? _____

18. What is killing bees? Circle all answers. a. pesticides b. warmer temperatures

 c. bee keepers d. parasites e. diseases f. flowers g. mold

19. How much of the food we eat depends on bees? _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Sea Shell and Talking About Poetry

1. Who wrote the poem, *Sea Shell*? _____
2. Where did she live? _____
3. How many poems did she write and publish? _____
4. What was her book of poetry called? _____
5. What word in *Sea Shell* rhymes with “please”? _____
6. What animals from *Sea Shell* are colorful birds? _____
7. What animals from *Sea Shell* grow together to form reefs? _____

Write the letter of the best matching poetry tool on each line:

a. imagery b. alliteration c. rhyme d. rhythm

8. _____ words with the same ending sounds
9. _____ musical flow of words
10. _____ create a picture in the readers mind
11. _____ repetition of the same consonant

Name _____ Date _____

V. Get Ready for Screen-free Week

1. When is Screen-free week? _____

2. Screen-free week means turning _____ T.V.s, laptops, computers, and iPads.

3. What shouldn't you use during Screen-free week? Circle all answers. a. a book

b. video games c. board games d. Facebook e. Twitter

4. How many hours a day do children and teenagers spend looking at a screen?

5. Is watching too much T.V. as dangerous as smoking? YES NO

6. What are some things you can do with family and friends during Screen-free week?

Circle all answers.

a. go to the park b. check email c. go to the library d. download apps

e. learn new games f. bake cookies

Critical-thinking and Creative-thinking Questions

Choose one or more of the following questions to discuss with a partner or small group. Report your ideas to the class.

1. Oceans are beautiful places with many animals living in them. Why do you think a country might dump their garbage in the ocean?
2. How do you think people could stop a company from dumping garbage and waste into the ocean?
3. What are the reasons companies make things out of plastic? Would it be possible to go back to the way things were made before plastic was invented? Why or why not? How?
4. How could the United States cause other countries to stop polluting the ocean?
5. What kinds of programs do you think would help rehabilitate prisoners?
6. How many hours a day do you use screens? In what way do you think your health may be affected?
7. What outdoor games could you play with family or friends Screen-free week? What book would you like to read? Is there anything you would like to learn without using a computer?
8. What feelings do you have when you are not using your phone or computer? Does that mean using those is an addiction? Interview some teenagers and some people over 50 about using Facebook and other screen-based activities. How are their answers different?

April 2019
Answers to Easy English NEWS
Short-Answer Tests

I. Save Our Seas!

1. April
2. Save Our Seas bill
3. 70%
4. plankton
5. a, b, c, f, g
6. plastic
7. b, d, e
8. fossil fuels
9. recycling
10. a,c,e

II. Prisons and jails

1. two million
2. three strikes
3. \$24,000- \$54,000 a year
4. 1,719
5. 102
6. a. state b. state
 c. federal d. federal
 e. federal f. federal
 g. state h. federal
7. men
8. 7%
9. 40%
10. more than two million

III. Events in April

1. April 1
2. palm branches
3. Jesus Christ
4. the Bible
5. chicks, eggs, rabbits, flowers
6. eggs
7. White House lawn
8. Passover
9. Seder
10. b, e
11. April 15
12. NO
13. April 24

14. April 22
15. protecting the Earth's animals
16. 30%
17. 25%
18. a, b, d, e, g
19. 1/3; one third

IV. Sea Shell and Talking About Poetry

1. Amy Lowell
2. Massachusetts
3. 650
4. What's O'Clock
5. trees
6. parrots
7. coral
8. c
9. d
10. a
11. b

V. Get Ready for Screen-free Week

- 1 April 29 - May 5
2. off
3. b, d, e
4. 7.5 hours
5. YES
6. a, c, e, f

