

January 2019

Easy English NEWS

Cloze Exercises and Tests

To the Teacher

Cloze Exercises

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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.
- 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) 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.

Name _____ Date _____

A New Congress Begins in January

On January 3, the 116th _____ will meet in Washington, D.C. Americans elected this Congress on _____ 6, 2018.

Many changes

There are 535 members of Congress: 100 senators and _____ representatives.

The new Congress is the most _____ in U.S. history. There are now 125 _____ . That's 23% of the _____ .

Fifty-five members of the 116th Congress are black, 40 _____ are Hispanic.

Four are _____ Americans.

Most members of Congress are _____ . There are also seven Jews, three

Muslims, three _____ , and three Hindus.

WORD BANK

members	Congress	diverse	Native	Buddhists
November	women	Christian	total	435

Name _____ Date _____

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the most important _____ of the twentieth century. He was born _____ 15, 1929. Americans celebrate his life on the third _____ of January. This year it is January 21.

Martin _____ King Jr. was a Christian _____.

He led a nationwide _____ to end segregation and to get complete _____ rights for black people.

The work was dangerous. The police _____ King for leading a bus boycott in _____. When he got out of jail, someone threw a bomb into his _____. It almost killed him and his family.

WORD BANK

Luther	movement	leaders	civil	Alabama
January	house	minister	Monday	arrested

Name _____ Date _____

The State of the Union

How is the _____ doing? What are the most important _____ we have? What does the _____ need to do?

In late January each year, the _____ of the United States tells Congress about conditions in the nation. The President's _____ is called the "State of the Union address." He tells about his _____ for the country for the year.

The _____ and the representatives meet together in the House of Representatives. The President's Cabinet, the Supreme Court _____, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff will also be there. The First Lady, Melania Trump, will be there. There will be special _____ whom the President wants to honor.

Many TV _____ will broadcast this speech.

WORD BANK

goals	President	senators	justices	country
problems	government	networks	speech	guests

Name _____ Date _____

An Eclipse of the Moon

On the night of January 20 there will be a _____ eclipse of the Moon. In a total eclipse, the earth's _____ completely covers the Moon. The Moon looks _____. It _____ light from the earth. It is an amazing sight.

There are two or three _____ eclipses each year. They happen only at times of _____ Moon. Only people "on the night side" of the earth can see a lunar _____.

People in North and _____ America can see the January 20 eclipse if the skies are clear. As the eclipse begins, you can see the round shadow of the earth _____ up part of the Moon. After about an hour and ten minutes the shadow will _____ cover the Moon.

WORD BANK

covering	total	reflects	eclipse	completely
lunar	red	South	shadow	full

Name _____ Date _____

Yosemite National Park

Yosemite [yo SEM ih tee] National Park is in _____. It is one of the most _____ places in America. More than three _____ visitors come here each year to see the high waterfalls, deep _____, huge rocks, giant trees, and lovely wild flowers. There are many squirrels, mule deer, bears, bighorn sheep, and many other _____.

Yosemite Valley was formed by a _____. When the glacier _____, it left rounded domes and huge monoliths. _____ is a huge granite monolith. It's _____ 3,000 feet high. Rock _____ come from around the world to climb *El Capitan*. They also try to climb Half Dome. Half Dome rises 4,733 feet from the valley.

WORD BANK

million	California	El Capitan	animals	glacier
climbers	melted	beautiful	valleys	nearly

Name _____ Date _____

How Did the Smartphone Get So Smart?

by Kimberly Kopfman

Two hundred years ago, it was very difficult to _____ with people who were far away. News and _____ could take weeks to get to their destinations.

The telegraph

In the 1830s, British _____ found a way to send an electrical signal over a wire. In 1838, an American, Samuel Morse created a special _____ to use.

The code used short and long electrical _____ to stand for letters of the alphabet.

The Western Union Company built _____ lines alongside railroad tracks. In 1861, the _____ reached California. A _____ could now travel across the United States instantly.

The telegraph made a _____ difference. The country was connected. But the telegraph could not send a person's _____.

WORD BANK

code	message	communicate	pulses	lines
letters	telegraph	inventors	voice	huge

Name _____ Date _____

January 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. Congress	House	Senate	president
2. Mitch McConnell	Kevin McCarthy	Mike Pence	Nancy Pelosi
3. senator	representative	congress	vice president
4. victim	theft	arson	scams
5. New Year's Day	Mummer's Parade	Christmas	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
6. protest	sit-in	address	boycott
7. Joint Chiefs of Staff	Supreme Court Justices	Gandhi	President's Cabinet
8. Nobel Peace Prize	Martin Luther King Jr.	first lady	civil rights movement
9. landline	radio	cell phone	smartphone
10. window	skunk	smoke	cigar
11. Guam	Puerto Rico	New Mexico	American Samoa
12. monolith	Capitol	<i>el Capitan</i>	half dome

Name _____ Date _____

I. A New Congress Begins in January

1. When was the 116th Congress elected? _____
2. What is the number senators in Congress? _____ Representatives? _____

Total? _____ members.
3. What two political parties have members in Congress? _____

and _____
4. Which party is in the majority in the Senate? _____
5. Which party is in the majority in the House of Representatives? _____
6. Who is still the Senate majority leader? _____
7. What party does he belong to? _____
8. Who are the first two Native American Women elected to the House of Representatives?

_____ and _____
9. Can the representative from Washington D.C. vote in Congress? YES NO
10. What woman is a leader in the House of Representatives? _____
11. What is her political party? _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Events in January

1. What Roman god is January named for? _____
2. This god had two _____ so he could see the past and the future.
3. Is New Year's Day a national holiday? YES NO
4. What group of actors and costume designers have a parade in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on New Year's Day? _____
5. A person who wants to change a bad habit might make a _____ on New Year's Day.
6. On what calendar do Eastern Orthodox date their holidays? _____
7. What date on the Gregorian calendar is Orthodox Christmas? _____
8. Do Orthodox Christians eat a lot of meat and cheese 40 days before Christmas? YES NO
9. On what day was Martin Luther King, Jr. born? _____
10. What was his occupation? _____
11. In what state did he lead a bus boycott? _____
12. What did someone throw into his house that nearly killed King and his family?

Name _____ Date _____

II. Events in January (continued)

13. What leader in India also taught non-violence? _____

14. What organization did Martin Luther King, Jr. form to fight segregation?

15. Where did 250,000 people march in the summer of 1963? _____

16. What prize did Martin Luther King, Jr. receive in 1964? _____

17. How old was King when someone assassinated him? _____

18. Who killed King? _____

19. In what year? _____

20. Where is there a memorial to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.? _____

21. Who will give a State of the Union address to Congress? _____

22. Where will people in government meet to hear the speech? _____

23. Where can you watch the speech at home? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. America the Beautiful: Yosemite National Park

1. In What state is Yosemite National Park? _____

2. How many visitors come to the park each year? _____

3. What formed Yosemite Valley? _____

4. How high is *El Capitan*? _____

5. What kind of rock is *El Capitan* made of? _____

6. What rock formation rises 4,733 feet from the valley? _____

7. What kind of deer have long ears? _____

8. On what river can people go rafting in Yosemite National Park?

9. How many miles of trails are there for hiking, backpacking, and horseback riding?

10. At the park, who teaches people about the nature and history of Yosemite Valley?

Name _____ Date _____

IV. How Did the Smartphone Get So Smart?

1. Who created a special code to use to send messages by telegraph?

2. Did Meucci get a patent for his telephone? YES NO

3. Who did get a patent for his telephone? _____

4. How many telephones were in the U.S. by 1910? _____

5. Who connected peoples' calls? _____

6. Who invented the first radio? _____

7. Who got the patent for inventing the radio? _____

8. How much did the first mobile cell phone weigh? _____

9. What company made the first smartphone? _____

10. What countries were making camera phones at the same time?

_____ and _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. How Did the Smartphone Get So Smart? (continued)

11. What was Apple's smartphone called? _____

12. Circle the things that made the smartphone different from a plain cellphone.

a. touch screen b. landline c. apps d. calendar e. email f. cost less

13. What is a GPS app useful for?

a. telling time b. getting directions while driving c. calculating numbers

14. Many people send text messages instead of talking on the phone. TRUE FALSE

15. Teenagers suffer from neck pain from looking down at their phones. TRUE FALSE

16. There is NO danger from radiation in cell phones. TRUE FALSE

17. How many people use cell phones in the world today?

Name _____ Date _____

January 2019: Creative-thinking and Critical-thinking Questions

1. Some people think it is not fair that a state with very few people such as Wyoming has the same number of senators as California with the most people. Find out why each state has two senators. Do you think its fair? Give your reasons.
2. Is it a good thing that the new Congress now has more women and more members of different races and religions? Tell why or why not.
3. Google Search: “Are you reflected in the new Congress” Click on the information about yourself to see how many members of Congress are like you; What might it mean if there are many people like you in Congress? What might it mean if there is no one like you in Congress?
4. Why does it cost so much to run for Congress? What danger is there for corruption? How can a government prevent corruption? Do you think an honest person in power might become corrupted? How? Why?
5. How does the crime of shoplifting hurt everyone?
6. How can a person protect him or herself against identify theft?

January 2019
Answers to Easy English NEWS
Short-Answer Tests

I. A New Congress Begins in January

1. November 6, 2018
2. 100, 435, 535
3. Democrats and Republicans
4. Republicans
5. Democrats
6. Mitch McConnell
7. Republican
8. Sharice Davids and Debra Haaland
9. NO
10. Nancy Pelosi
11. Democrat

II. Events in January

1. Janus
2. faces
3. YES
4. mummers
5. Resolutions
6. Julian
7. January 7
8. NO
9. January 15, 1929
10. minister
11. Alabama
12. a bomb
13. Mahatma Gandhi
14. Southern Christian Leadership Conference
15. Washington, D.C.
16. Nobel Peace Prize
17. 39 years old
18. James Earl Ray
19. 1968
20. the Mall, Washington, D.C.
21. President Donald Trump
22. House of Representatives
23. on Television

III. Yosemite National Park

1. California
2. more than 3 million
3. glacier
4. 3,000 ft high
5. granite
6. Half Dome
7. mule deer
8. Merced River
9. 800
10. park rangers

IV How Did the Smartphone Get So Smart?

1. Samuel Morse
2. NO
3. Alexander Graham Bell
4. 6 million
5. operators
6. Nikola Tesla
7. Guglielmo Marconi
8. more than 2 lbs
9. IBM
10. Japan and Korea
11. iPhone
12. a, c, e,
13. b
14. TRUE
15. TRUE
16. FALSE
17. 5 billion