

# Easy English NEWS



March 2019

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

To the Teacher

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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 box 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 is not necessarily one firm 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 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 the retention of the information.

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

## Hold on to Your Money!

A scam is a way to \_\_\_\_\_ people into giving money or personal information.

There are hundreds of \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of scams. Some scam artists tell their

\_\_\_\_\_ directly to a person. Other scam artists call by \_\_\_\_\_.

Scam artists reach millions of \_\_\_\_\_ by email.

Many Internet \_\_\_\_\_ artists work from other countries.

\_\_\_\_\_ police cannot find them or stop them. Reports say that scammers

and phishers stole \$16 \_\_\_\_\_ from Americans in 2016. But no one knows

for sure how much more \_\_\_\_\_ people lost to scams. Many people are

\_\_\_\_\_ to report that they were tricked.

### WORD BANK

embarrassed

telephone

stories

American

trick

billion

different

people

money

scam

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

## Trial by Jury

A person who is accused of a crime has many \_\_\_\_\_:

- He or she is presumed \_\_\_\_\_ until proven guilty.
- The accused person is entitled to a speedy \_\_\_\_\_ with an impartial

jury.

- If the person does not have an attorney, the \_\_\_\_\_ will appoint one.

- The accused person has the right to question the witnesses who \_\_\_\_\_

against him or her.

- A trial is public. \_\_\_\_\_ may go to see a trial.

### The prosecutor

The government's \_\_\_\_\_ is called a prosecutor.

The prosecutor must prove two things to the \_\_\_\_\_:

1. that there was a \_\_\_\_\_
2. that the accused \_\_\_\_\_ was the one who did it.

### WORD BANK

innocent	rights	testify	crime	government
attorney	trial	person	jury	anyone

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

## Daylight Saving Time Begins

Daylight Saving Time (DST) \_\_\_\_\_ the second Sunday of March.

\_\_\_\_\_ in the morning on March 10, 2 a.m. becomes 3 a.m. Many people

turn the \_\_\_\_\_ ahead before they go to sleep on Saturday night.

Each time zone in the U.S. changes to Daylight Saving Time at its \_\_\_\_\_

2 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10 will have only 23 \_\_\_\_\_.

Many people will lose an hour of \_\_\_\_\_ . They may be

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday morning. Drive \_\_\_\_\_

carefully. \_\_\_\_\_ are more accidents that day.

### WORD BANK

there	tired	hours	own	early
extra	sleep	March	clock	begins

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

## St. Patrick's Day

Many \_\_\_\_\_ came to the U.S. from Ireland. They brought their favorite \_\_\_\_\_ with them. They invite Americans who are not \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate these holidays, too.

One of the holidays is Saint Patrick's \_\_\_\_\_. St. \_\_\_\_\_ is the patron saint of Ireland. He brought \_\_\_\_\_ to the Irish people in the fifth century.

St. Patrick's Day is \_\_\_\_\_ 17. The holiday is very \_\_\_\_\_. There are many parades. Irish people wear \_\_\_\_\_. This shows their \_\_\_\_\_ in being Irish.

Other people wear green, too, to be "Irish for a day."

### WORD BANK

Patrick	green	March	Christianity	immigrants
Irish	pride	holidays	Day	joyful

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

## Paying Income Tax in the U.S.

Once a year, \_\_\_\_\_ must report their income to the government.

They do this by \_\_\_\_\_ an income tax return. (Note: A tax  
\_\_\_\_\_ is not the same as a tax refund. A return is the document  
you use to \_\_\_\_\_ your income on.) The deadline for filing  
a tax return is \_\_\_\_\_ 15. A refund is money you may get

### Why withhold?

\_\_\_\_\_ pay period, employers withhold \_\_\_\_\_  
from a worker's pay. The employer sends this money to the Internal \_\_\_\_\_  
Service (IRS). This is so a worker won't have to \_\_\_\_\_ all the taxes at  
once at the end of the year.

### WORD BANK

pay	each	back	report	filing
Revenue	taxes	April	return	Americans

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

## First Ladies of the United States

When a \_\_\_\_\_ is elected, his wife becomes the first lady. Sometimes a sister, daughter, niece, or friend may \_\_\_\_\_ as first lady.

The first lady's job is \_\_\_\_\_. She receives no \_\_\_\_\_ . Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ her to be a role model. \_\_\_\_\_ has no privacy. She manages the \_\_\_\_\_ House staff. She chooses \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ art for the rooms, plans parties, and greets guests. She \_\_\_\_\_ to political events with the President. \_\_\_\_\_ she goes to events in place of the president.

### WORD BANK

pay	goes	White	difficult	sometimes
she	expects	act	president	furniture

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

## March 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.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
1. scam	trick	click	victim
2. young people	police officers	immigrants	old people
3. phone number	birth date	Social Security number	credit card number
4. victim	high pay	free vacation	lottery winner
5. attorney	prosecutor	defendant	punishment
6. witness	scam artist	jury	judge
7. take the stand	testify	cross examine	deliberate
8. March 17	March 20	vernal equinox	spring
9. St. Patrick	green clothing	corned beef and cabbage	Mardi Gras
10. shamrock	cherry blossom	pot of gold	leprechaun
11. baby	rain	scissors	they
12. Melania Trump	Susan B. Anthony	Eleanor Roosevelt	Betty Ford

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

## I. Hold on to Your Money!

1. A scam artist always tells the truth. YES NO
  
2. Which of these ways do scam artists use to trick people? Circle all that are true.  
a. in person    b. by telephone    c. by car    d. by email    e. by letter
  
3. How much money did scammers steal from Americans in 2016? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Which groups of people are most often the victims of scams? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Will the IRS ever call you on the telephone or send you an email? YES NO
  
6. You've just sold your old car to a stranger. What kind of payment should you accept?  
a. credit card    b. debit card    c. check    d. cash
  
7. You received a letter that you have won \$10,000 in a lottery. They said you have to send in  
the taxes on it first. Can this be true? YES NO
  
8. If it's too good to be true, \_\_\_\_\_.
  
9. If you pay someone in the government, you can get a green card quickly. YES NO
  
10. A person who tries to get people's credit card or personal information on the Internet is  
called a \_\_\_\_\_.

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

## II. Trial by Jury

1. A person who is arrested is presumed guilty. YES NO
  
2. Who can appoint an attorney for an accused person if he or she doesn't have one?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. What is the government's attorney called? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. In court, what is the person on trial called? \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Who does a defense attorney cross examine? \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Must an accused person answer questions in court about a crime? YES NO
  
7. Who makes rules for the trial and the courtroom? \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. Who explains the law to the jury? \_\_\_\_\_
  
9. What do jurors do when they deliberate? Circle all that apply. a. give their opinions  
b. decide if the defendant is guilty or not guilty c. take a nap d. watch tv  
e. talk about evidence
  
10. Who reads the jury's verdict? \_\_\_\_\_
  
11. Who tells the punishment for a guilty person? \_\_\_\_\_
  
12. What happens if a defendant is not guilty? He or she can \_\_\_\_\_.

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

### III. Events in March

1. March comes in like a lion and goes out like a \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. March is \_\_\_\_\_ History Month.
  
3. What day is Read Across America Day? \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. At what time and on what day do people turn their clocks ahead for daylight saving time?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Which two states in the U.S. do not change for Daylight Saving Time?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
6. When do countries in the southern hemisphere have daylight saving time? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. Ash Wednesday is a holiday in what religion? \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. What day is St. Patrick's Day? \_\_\_\_\_
  
9. What country is this holiday from? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in March (continued)

10. What is a favorite color on St. Patrick's Day? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What plant did St. Patrick use to teach people about "one God in three parts?"

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What imaginary small person lives in the woods in Ireland, collecting gold?

\_\_\_\_\_

13. What day is the vernal equinox? \_\_\_\_\_

14. The people of what country gave a gift of 3,000 cherry trees to the people of the United

States? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Where are those cherry trees now? \_\_\_\_\_

16. When is the National Cherry Blossom festival this year? From \_\_\_\_\_ to

\_\_\_\_\_

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

## IV. Ask Elizabeth about Spelling

1. What percent of English words follow normal spelling rules? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who brought the printing press to England? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In what year did he bring the printing press to England? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What language does the word *bouquet* come from? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are five different ways to spell the sound ay. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What sound do the letters *ei* make in the words *receive* and *believe*? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What sound do the letters *gh* make in the words *laugh* and *cough*? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What sound does the *c* make in the word *ocean*? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What letter is silent in the word *people*? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What are four ways to spell the sound /f/? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## V. Paying Income Tax in the U.S.

1. Is the income tax *return* the same as an income tax *refund*? YES NO
  
2. What form has an employee's earnings for the past year? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. On what form do employers report the income of an independent contractor?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. How much is a tax payer's standard deduction? \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. A tax payer must report income from tips, rent, bank interest, business profits, pensions,  
and lottery winnings to the government. YES NO
  
6. Where can a person find the form for filing income tax returns? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. The 1040 form has additional pages called \_\_\_\_\_ to report interest  
income, itemized deductions, rental income, etc.
  
8. Where can people with low income get free help online? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
9. What does VITA stand for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

## VI. First Ladies of the United States

1. How does someone become first lady? a. She is elected    b. She volunteers  
  
c. Her husband is elected president
2. The first lady chooses furniture and art for the White House.    YES    NO
3. How many first ladies has the United States had? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Who was the first first lady to live in the White House? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which first lady planned a park along the Potomac River? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Which first lady became an ambassador to the United Nations? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which first lady talked about breast cancer in public for the first time? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which two first ladies worked with literacy in adults and children? \_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. After she was first lady, what other political jobs did Hillary Clinton have? \_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Michelle Obama wanted to help children eat healthier and exercise more.    YES    NO
11. Which first lady wants to stop cyberbullying and opioid drug abuse? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 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. Why would a person choose to scam other people, instead of having an honest job?
2. Many scammers and phishers are in other countries. What do you think the U.S. government should do about it?
3. Why do you think it is easy to scam young people or immigrants? How can people learn to recognize scams?
4. In the U.S. an accused person is considered innocent until proven guilty. In a few countries, it's the opposite: An accused person is considered guilty until proven innocent. How does that make it difficult for a defendant? Which system is better? Why?
5. What do you think is the best way to punish non-violent criminals? Time in jail? Community service? Something else?
6. In the U.S., a person accused of a crime does not have to take the stand in a trial, to answer any questions. This is a right in the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Why do you think this rule was made in the U.S. Constitution? Is this a good idea or a bad idea?
7. If you were first lady of the United States, what project would you choose? Why?
8. When a woman is elected president, her husband may be called first gentleman. Can you think of a better title for the husband of a woman president? Explain your choice.
9. First ladies have done many different kinds of projects. Do you think a "first gentleman" would have different kinds of projects? What might they be? Why?

**March 2019**  
**Answers to *Easy English NEWS***  
**Short-Answer Tests**

**I. Hold on to Your Money!**

1. NO
2. A, B, D, E
3. 16 billion dollars
4. young people and immigrants
5. NO
6. D. cash
7. NO
8. It isn't true.
9. NO
10. phisher

**II. Trial by Jury**

1. NO
2. the government or the court
3. prosecutor
4. defendant
5. witnesses
6. NO
7. the judge
8. the judge
9. A, B, E
10. the jury foreman
11. the judge
12. go free

**III. Events in March**

1. lamb
2. women's
3. March 2
4. 2 a.m. March 10
5. Arizona and Hawaii
6. October to late March
7. Christian
8. March 17
9. Ireland
10. green
11. the shamrock
12. leprechaun
13. March 20
14. Japan
15. Washington, DC
16. March 20 to April 13

**IV. Ask Elizabeth about Spelling**

1. 80%
2. William Caxton
3. 1476
4. French
5. a, a\_e, ai, e, ea, ee, ey, ei, eigh, aig, et
6. /ee/
7. /f/
8. /sh/
9. o
10. f, ff, ph, gh

**V. Paying Income Tax in the U.S.**

1. NO
2. W-2
3. 1099
4. \$12,000
5. YES
6. IRS.gov, post offices, public libraries
7. schedules
8. Turbotax, H & R Block, Liberty Tax, Tax Act
9. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

**VI. First Ladies of the United States**

1. C
2. YES
3. 53
4. Abigail Adams
5. Helen Taft
6. Eleanor Roosevelt
7. Betty Ford
8. Barbara Bush, Laura Bush
9. Senator, Secretary of State
10. YES
11. Melania Trump

