



Dear Colleague:

With all the troubles going on in the world, it's a good thing November makes us remember to be thankful for the blessings we usually take for granted and that our students come to this country for. We at *Easy English NEWS* are thankful for ESL teachers who work hard to bring communication skills to hundreds of thousands of newcomers. Thank you for the work you do.

We hope you are using the 16 pages of cloze exercises and short answer tests for each month's *Easy English NEWS* at our website, ElizabethClaire.com. These will be posted by the 25th of the previous month.

Elizabeth Claire

The climate is changing! (pages 1 and 10)

It's pretty clear the climate is changing in many places...and almost clear that its human activity that's causing it. The changes from fossil fuels to solar, wind, geothermal, etc. power are good ideas in any case. Whether the prediction of 12 years left of the planet earth is accurate, I'm not sure...at least 42 other IPCC predictions about the climate have not come to pass. (i.e. no more snow; New York under water by 2012, Arctic free of ice by 2013, etc.) I had originally included a bit about Greta Thunberg in the article with a link to her TED talk, and her UN talk...but after reading that a teenager had committed suicide after hearing her, because the world seemed so hopeless, I thought *Easy English NEWS* should not add to the anxiety, so took her out. So...it's partly in everyone's hands to be conscious of how we heat, travel, and eat. Life is still good and the human race shall figure it out and survive and adapt. If you feel this article is too scary for your younger readers, please skip it. For older students, talk about ways they use fossil fuels or other sources of energy, and how things will change when there are electric cars, solar generators, windmills, and other means of obtaining power. Stress the changing kinds of jobs that will open up in the future, and the jobs that will be phased out (coal mining, oil drilling, gas stations).

What is impeachment? (pages 1 and 9)

Well, I was hoping it wouldn't come to this: Having to explain impeachment to our students...Watching news each day on several channels, seeing two sides each in their own universe, not seeing anyone's point of view but their own. Over the years, I have managed to see many sides of the political goings on, the promises made and not kept, and am sadly amused that our leaders are not all geniuses and loving as we might wish them to be. I have to remind readers that *Easy English NEWS* has no reporters in Washington D.C. or anywhere else, we don't have access to the truth, and our articles are written about 3 weeks before you get the papers in your classrooms. We are ESL teachers, researching facts and double checking them if we can, and are mainly concerned with presenting language and vocabulary needed to talk about the passing scene. We do our utmost to avoid bias and urge teachers and students to reserve judgement about who's right and who's wrong. There's just so much we don't know behind the scenes. **Preparation:** follow the news so you'll have the most current version of facts...on more than one news outlet preferably. Ask questions such as *Who is the president of the United States? How long is a president elected for? Who is the leader in your home country? How did he get that position? Have you heard the word impeachment in the news? What do you think it means?* Let's find out. Read the article carefully, one paragraph at a time, stopping to verify comprehension with questions.

Events in November (pages 2 and 3)

Elicit special days this month from your students: tests, field trips, assemblies, birthdays, anniversaries, etc., Have students write these on the appropriate dates on the calendar.

American Indian Heritage Month. Bring in books, videos, music and crafts of American Indians, especially of the tribes native to your state or part of the country. The term *Native American* was invented by non-Indians, with the intention of reducing prejudice. However, the name *American Indian* is used more often and by the U.S. government. If one knows the name

of a person's tribe or Indian nation, that name is the preferred word to use. Each group has its own culture, language, and traditions.

Día de los Muertos. Have Mexican students who celebrate this holiday tell the class about their customs, or invite someone in to talk to your class. Talk about the need people may have to continue relations with family members who have passed away and how this holiday meets that need with the whole community sharing in the experience. Catholics have a day of prayer (All Souls' Day) at this time, but many Americans do not have a communal way to express this ongoing need for remembering the dead.

Daylight Saving Time ends. Remind students to change their clocks Saturday night, November 2, before they go to bed or Sunday morning, November 3, after they wake up. Ask students: *How will you use your extra hour?*

Election Day. This is an "off year" election, but important for local offices. Find out who the local candidates are and what the local issues are. Review with the class what they already know about the state and local leaders and find out where the local polling places are. If your students are U.S. citizens, find out if they are registered to vote. If they aren't, help them to fill out voter registration cards. In most places it will be too late for them to vote in this election, but they will be prepared to vote in the next one.

Black Friday and Cyber Monday. The term "Black Friday" refers to a store's way of accounting. Profits are recorded in black ink, losses in red ink. For the first ten months of the year, many stores operate "in the red." Around the end of November, their accounts go "in the black." Having sales at that time helps, too.

Some students may want to shop on Black Friday. TVs and other electronics may be discounted hundreds of dollars for the first few people in the store. Students should be prepared for big crowds, heavy traffic, and disappointments. Many people line up long before the stores open. Some stores now open as early as 5 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Other students may prefer to shop online. There are usually

good bargains on store websites on Cyber Monday.

Veterans Day. Talk about a country's need for defense. Discuss the differences between a draft and a volunteer army. **IMPORTANT:** Point out that *all* young men, from age 18 to 25, both citizens and non-citizens, must register with the Selective Service System. They can get forms at any Post Office, or register online at www.sss.gov if they have a Social Security number. This is not a draft, but is a way for the government to know who is available in case of a national emergency. **A permanent resident can lose the right to become a citizen if he has not registered with Selective Service.** Ask questions such as: *What is a veteran? Has your country fought in any wars? Tell about them. Why do Americans honor their veterans on this day? Do people honor veterans in your home country? How?*

Thanksgiving. Ask students questions such as: *Were you here in November last year? Did you eat a Thanksgiving dinner? Do you plan to have a Thanksgiving dinner this year? What food will you have at that event? What are you thankful for in your life?* Have students work in groups of four or five. Ask students to each tell something they are thankful for and have them continue around the circle. Repeats are allowed.

This is your page (page 4)

After reading the stories, have students share their own experiences of a similar nature. Ask questions such as: *Are there any words in English that are hard for you to remember? Are there any traditions in your home country about family and friends who have passed away? Do you have a hood over the stove in your kitchen? What is the purpose of the hood? How do you keep from getting sick? What do you do when you are sick? What is the school system like in your home country?*

The Great American Smokeout (page 5)

The Great American Smokeout is a day to help encourage current smokers to put down the cigarettes and go "smoke free". In recent months there has been a lot in the news about vaping. It was thought to be a safer alternative to smoking and a good way to help smokers quit. The problem now is that hundreds of young people have died from vaping, possibly from the chemicals added to the e-cigarettes. E-cigarette makers had been marketing to children with delicious flavors. Many teens have already become addicted to nicotine. There is increased risk of harm for people

buying these products on the internet or from irreputable sellers. **Procedures:** Talk to students about smoking. Ask questions like: *Do you know people who smoke? Is it a popular activity in your culture? Many older people started smoking before they knew all the risks. Why do teens start smoking today? What are some ways that you could help someone stop smoking?*

This can be a personal topic if you have students who smoke. They may be ashamed of their habit. They may like that they smoke and not want to quit. Ask if they will participate in The Great American Smokeout. Why or why not? What plan would they make? What support would they want?

Your Health: The Human Lifespan (page 5)

Objectives: Students will be able to tell four reasons why people live longer today than in ancient Rome. They will be able to tell three reasons why many Americans have become obese and explain the dangers of obesity. Students will be able to tell six things they can do to live a healthy life. **Procedures:** It's common for newcomers to gain weight while living in the U.S. Have students compare what they ate in their home countries vs. what they eat in the U.S. Have students list the food that they ate in the past 24 hours. *How does this list match what Dr. Ali suggests? What foods can build good health?*

Jobs in Health Care (page 6)

This is the second in a series of articles about various fields of employment. **Preparation:** Bring in a copy of *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (from the guidance counselor or library) **Objectives:** Students will learn vocabulary about health care occupations, will know how to use the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* online or in the guidance office, and will be able to tell some of the requirements for health care jobs that might appeal to them. Students will be able to explain how longer education can turn into higher salaries... but realize that giving up 4, 8, or 12 years without an income, in studying and paying for tuition is the early cost. Have students learn the names of a variety of specialists including others not mentioned. Ask students which of the occupations they have come in contact with or know someone who has that occupation. Have students interview anyone who is in the health care field and report to the class.

Heroes and History: American Indians (page 7)

Objectives: Students will be able to

explain how the native people came to be called Indians. They will be able to tell how European diseases affected the Indian population and what that allowed for Europeans. They will be able to tell ways that Indians helped the first people who came from Europe and six ways that Europeans were unfair to Indians. Students will be able to tell how Navajo Indians helped the U.S. in World War II. Students will be able to tell what rights Indians have today. They'll be able to explain some of the purposes of a powwow.

Procedures: Bring in artifacts, photos, and pictures of Indian crafts and culture. Ask the media specialist at your school for any videos about Indians. If your students are from Central or South America, ask questions such as: *Are there Indians in your home country? What was the relationship between Europeans and Indians in the past? What is the relationship among the various people today?* Point out that these people, though we call them all Indians, were and are as different from each other as English and Spanish. They had different languages, different cultures, different ways of living, different appearance. On a wall map, point out that the American Indians lived all over North America. The Northeastern Woodlands Indians farmed and lived in semi-permanent homes. Central Plains Indians hunted for food and were nomadic, following the buffalo through the seasons, and had homes (*tipis*) they could set up and take down quickly. Southwestern Indians farmed and built permanent homes of adobe (*pueblos*). Indians in the Northwest fished and hunted.

ANSWERS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. b | 16. F (three) |
| 2. a | 17. T |
| 3. d | 18. F (fastest) |
| 4. c | 19. F (jobs) |
| 5. a | 20. T |
| 6. d | 21. J climate) |
| 7. c | 22. E (median) |
| 8. a | 23. G (resign) |
| 9. d | 24. A (lifespan) |
| 10. c | 25. I (vehicle) |
| 11. F (American) | 26. D (anonymous) |
| 12. F (Mexican) | 27. B (podiatrist) |
| 13. F (veterans) | 28. F (preside) |
| 14. F (Thanksgiving) | 29. H (code) |
| 15. T | 30. C (bribery) |

November 2019 Quiz I

Choose the best answer. Write its letter on the line in front of the number.

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| <p>_____ 1. Carbon dioxide comes from</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) trees. b) burning coal, oil, gas, and wood. c) activists. d) methane.</p> <p>_____ 2. The years 2014 to 2019 have been</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) the five hottest years so far. b) the years with the most snow. c) the years with most rain. d) the years with the least rain.</p> <p>_____ 3. The scientists of the IPCC say that if we all work together,</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) the earth will warm at least 3 degrees by 2050. b) we can have more coal power plants. c) we can help the sea level to rise. d) we can reduce carbon emissions within the next 12 years.</p> <p>_____ 4. China, the United States, and India are</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) countries that pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. b) the warmest countries in the world. c) the largest greenhouse gas emitters in the world. d) are pre-industrial countries.</p> <p>_____ 5. At the Climate Action Summit, how many nations pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions to zero?</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) 77 b) 189 c) 3 d) 192</p> | <p>_____ 6. _____ wrote the Constitution of the United States</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) Donald Trump b) Nancy Pelosi c) Mike Pence. d) The Founding Fathers</p> <p>_____ 7. _____ has the “sole power of impeachment.”</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) the Senate b) the Supreme Court c) the House of Representatives d) the Constitution.</p> <p>_____ 8. Which of these actions is <u>not</u> a cause for impeachment?</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) making speeches b) taking bribes c) committing treason d) high crimes</p> <p>_____ 9. The jury for the impeachment of a president is _____</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) the Supreme Court. b) the American people. c) Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer. d) the U.S. Senate.</p> <p>_____ 10. A “whistleblower” said that</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) President Trump took a bribe. b) President Trump committed treason. c) President Trump asked the president of Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden. d) President Trump asked a foreign government to help elect Joe Biden.</p> |
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Quiz II. From Here and There

True or False? Write “T” for true, and “F” for false. If the sentence is *false*, make it *true*. Write a word to replace the underlined word.

- _____ 11. November is Asian Indian Heritage month.

- _____ 12. *Día de los Muertos* is a Jewish-American holiday.

- _____ 13. Americans honor the Pilgrims on Veterans Day.

- _____ 14. Turkey is a traditional food for All Souls’ Day.

- _____ 15. Samoset and Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn, beans, and squash.

- _____ 16. The first Thanksgiving in Plymouth lasted six days.

- _____ 17. Diseases such as smallpox killed 90% of the Indians in the Americas.

- _____ 18. Health care is the slowest growing field of employment in the U.S.

- _____ 19. The *Occupational Outlook Handbook* is a place to look for information about impeachment.

- _____ 20. The U.S. government recognizes 573 American Indian tribes and nations.

Quiz III. Building Vocabulary

Write the best word to complete each sentence. Write the letter of that word on the line in front of the number.

Word List

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| A. lifespan | F. preside |
| B. podiatrist | G. resigned |
| C. bribery | H. code |
| D. anonymous | I. vehicle |
| E. median | J. climate |

- _____ 21. Melting glaciers are a sign of _____ change.
- _____ 22. The _____ salary for dentists in the U.S. is \$156,000.
- _____ 23. President Richard Nixon _____ so he wouldn’t be impeached.
- _____ 24. The average human _____ in the U.S. is 78.7 years.
- _____ 25. A truck is one kind of _____.
- _____ 26. The authors of the document were _____. They did not sign their names.
- _____ 27. A _____ is a foot doctor.
- _____ 28. The Chief Justice will _____ over the impeachment trial in the Senate.
- _____ 29. Navajo Indians used their language as a secret _____ in World War II.
- _____ 30. Giving money to someone to do an illegal favor is _____.