



Dear Colleague:

There have been some start up pains for downloading the Supplementary Activities (the monthly cloze exercises and short answer tests) from my website. I had hoped to charge for them to offset the time and effort of creating them. However this was a great hassle for many. I apologize for the inconvenience, and they are again free. Anyone who already paid \$10 for them will receive a refund check. You can find them by clicking the drop down menu under the word *Easy English NEWS* on the home page of my website, elizabethclaire.com

Shut Down (pages 1 and 9)

Objectives: Students will be able to explain the reasons for the government shut down, and tell some services that were stopped, and some that were not stopped. Students will be able to tell that the Affordable Health Care Act website healthcare.gov is open for business (albeit with many delays). **Preparation:** Bring in current news headlines about the end (I hope) of the shutdown. Ask students what they have heard about this in their own native language sources. Ask if it has affected them in their lives. Read the article and clarify the meanings of *budget, deadline, political parties*, and reasons each party has been steadfast in its demands. This is an exercise of seeing things from other people's point of view, so have students try to tell the reasons from both sides.

Shopping for groceries (pages 1, 10, and 11)

Objectives: Students will learn the names of many fruits and vegetables as well as the typical way they are sold: *by the bunch, by the head, by the dozen, by the carton, by the bunch, each*, etc. They'll learn the names of various containers: *jar, can, package, sack*, etc. **Procedures:** Bring in display cards or magazine pictures with fruits and vegetables (or some of the real items, or small plastic realia. Work with the structures for conversation: *I want a bunch of (carrots) and a head of (cabbage). How much are a dozen (oranges)? Milk comes in a quart or a _____.* *We can buy (potatoes) by the _____.*

Events in November (pages 2 and 3)

Elicit from your students any special days celebrated in their countries in November. Also, ask who has a birthday, anniversary, or other celebration in November. What school events will take place in November? Have students write these directly on the calendar on page 2.

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.

Aren't we supposed to say "Native American?" some people ask. The term "Native American" was invented by well-meaning non-Indians, with the intention of reducing prejudice. However, the name American Indian is used more often, and used in official documents of the U.S. government. *Native People* is more apt; the tribal name is the preferred word to use, if known. Each group had its own culture, language, traditions.

All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day

Ask any Catholic or other Christian to explain what their customs are on these days. Elicit similarities with the Day of the Dead. Explain that All Saints' Day was originally called *All Hallows' Day*, and the night before, therefore was All Hallows' Evening...Halloween.

Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead)

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 emotional need 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. Ask if students have a similar holiday in their home countries.

Daylight Saving Time ends Remind students to turn their clocks back one hour before they go to bed on Saturday night, November 2, or at 2 am Sunday morning, November 3.

Election Day Students will know where the polling place is in their districts; citizens will know the candidates and offices, and will vote if they are registered.

They will know who the current state governor is, and (for students in NJ and VA) who the candidates are for that office.

Review with the class what they already know about the state and local leaders.

Veterans Day Talk about a country's need for defense. IMPORTANT: Point out that all young men, from age 18 to 25, both citizens and non-citizens, must register with the Selective Service System at the local Post Office. This is a way for the government to know who is available in case of a national emergency. An immigrant can lose the right to later citizenship if he does not register. Ask questions prior to reading, such as: *What is a veteran? What wars has the U.S. fought in? What wars has your home country fought in? Why do Americans honor their veterans on this day?*

The Great American Smokeout Poll your students to see how many smoke or used to smoke or think about smoking in the future. Talk about the costs and risks of smoking, including second-hand smoke, and the difficulties of stopping. The Smokeout is not a time to hassle, scold, or harangue people who smoke. They are addicted, and they do have the right to stay addicted rather than face the challenges and difficulties of quitting, as long as they know the consequences. Smoking is not against the law, although it is prohibited in many public places. People decide to quit when they have information, support, cheerful activities that the class can participate in. According to the American Cancer Society, most smokers began before the age of 18.

You can find your state's specific events for the day by going to the American Cancer Society's home page, then click on Search, and type in *Smokeout* and your state's name.

November 22 The 50th anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. This anniversary has already brought out new books, TV programs, discussions and movies about the contributions of JFK, his faults, and the mystery surrounding his death. **Preparation:** Read synopses of the new books or watch two or more YouTube films pointing fingers in various directions. **Presentation:** Ask what students know

or have heard about John F. Kennedy. Describe what the Peace Corps does. Recall the words, and have students learn them or memorize them: *Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.*

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 dinner? What are you thankful for this year?*

Have students sit in a circle and take turns each saying one thing that is great about their life, going around several times and feeling the energy that comes when we think about the things we are glad for. *Examples: What's great about my life is my best friend...my shoes...a warm bed...good health...running water...lights...laughing...kisses... children...my students, sunshine, food, my wonderful ESL teacher...*

Hanukkah This is the first time in memory that Hanukkah coincides with Thanksgiving. Bring in symbols of Hanukkah: Stars of David, Menorah, candles, dreidels. Ask any Jewish students in class or a visitor to tell the story of the miracle of the lights, and have them tell how their families celebrate this holiday. At home, prepare some potato *latkes* from a packaged mix, bring into class, heat in a microwave and serve with applesauce. Make a simple *menorah* out of small candles placed in an upside down egg carton. Demonstrate how the master, or *shamus* candle is used to light the first candle on day one, two candles on day two, and so forth. (Good for practicing ordinal and cardinal numbers. Use the pattern: On the first day, *Jews (they/we) light one candle. On the second day, they light two candles,* and so forth)

This Is Your Page (page 4)

Have students relate the stories to their own lives. Ask such questions as: *How much time do you spend in your car? (Or on a bus/subway/train) each day? What is good manners in your area for getting another person's attention? Have you ever seen a fire with fire fighters in the U.S.? Tell about it.*

Ask Elizabeth (page 5)

Ask students what problems they've had with the U.S. measuring system, and continue practicing with it. Bring in scales of various sizes (for body weight, food weight, postal size) and measuring spoons, measuring cups, pint, quart, half

gallon and gallon. Have students work in groups weighing things such as themselves, their books, papers, etc. to get a feel for ounces and pounds. And measuring some substances (water, rice, etc.) in the liquid containers. Give some math practice in changing pounds to ounces, gallons to quarts, pints, and cups, etc.

**America the Beautiful
Plimoth Plantation (page 6)**

Objectives: Students will be able to tell what a living museum is, and to tell four ways how Plimoth Plantation helps people understand the Pilgrims. Point out that Plimoth was the original spelling used by the man who wrote a history of the colony, William Bradford. Elicit from students what an actor would have to learn about in order to take the role of a certain person and answer tourists' questions. If your school library has DVDs of the PBS series *Colonial House*, show enough of it to give visual appreciation for the nature of life in the early Pilgrim colony at Plymouth.

**Heroes and History: Squanto,
Friend of the Pilgrims (page 7)**

Objectives: Students will be able to tell how Squanto learned English, what happened to his village while he was gone, why he helped the Pilgrims, and how he helped them. **Procedures:** Ask students to imagine they are from a city and suddenly are in a brand new environment and they don't know how to fish, hunt, build homes, plant gardens...And didn't know the language of the people already there. *How would they learn?* The artist for the woodcuts added details that were not accurate, such as the water pump and the windows in the houses.

American Indians' worst enemies
Discuss the concept of immunity. (Some diseases can be gotten only once, then the person becomes immune to getting it again.) And on the level of a race of people. (The weakest people die of a disease and do not have children; those who had stronger immune systems had mild cases or did not get sick; their strong immune system was passed on to their descendants. Europeans had experienced smallpox and measles epidemics for many generations.

Obamacare, part 2

Objectives: Students will know the four levels of health insurance and the differences. They will know where the website is, and how to get help if they need it. **Procedures:** Review the ideas

from Obamacare, part 1 in October's issue of *Easy English NEWS*. Elicit what students already know or have experienced of the website for buying health insurance.

Be sure students understand the concepts of premium, co-insurance, co-pay, deductible, the four levels of insurance, and the essential benefits that all plans will cover. Next month we will get into the details of government subsidies for health care policies.

Scams Especially important: Immigrants are such sitting ducks for scams...Caution them against identity theft, imposters, con artists, scammers and phishers. Scams are a natural company to new regulations of such an enormous size. They are not necessarily American-based.

Even the navigators can't all be trusted, as the U.S. government did not run background checks on them, although some states might have. Caution students who are going to sign up to wait until the bugs and glitches are out, and the bad navigators are weeded out. The earliest coverage will not start until January 1.)

ANSWERS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. b | 16. F (English) |
| 2. b | 17. F (Black Friday) |
| 3. d | 18. F (smoking) |
| 4. c | 19. F (John F. Kennedy) |
| 5. c | 20. T |
| 6. b | 21. J (batter) |
| 7. a | 22. F (treaty) |
| 8. c | 23. A (epidemic) |
| 9. d | 24. G (armistice) |
| 10. c | 25. B (abbreviation) |
| 11. T | 26. H (repeal) |
| 12. F (Mexican Americans) | 27. C (bargain) |
| 13. F (Veterans Day) | 28. D (immunity) |
| 14. T | 29. E (majority) |
| 15. F (Thursday) | 30. I (powwow) |

November 2013 Quiz I

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

- _____ 1. The U.S. government shut down on October 1 because:
- a) the website **healthcare.gov** began selling insurance.
 - b) Congress did not pass a budget.
 - c) the president went on vacation.
 - d) all essential workers stayed home.
- _____ 2. The Democrats are the majority party in
- a) both the House of Representatives and the Senate.
 - b) the Senate only.
 - c) the House of Representatives only.
 - d) Neither the House of Representatives nor the Senate.
- _____ 3. The most expensive health insurance a person can buy at **healthcare.gov** is
- a) bronze.
 - b) silver.
 - c) gold.
 - d) platinum.
- _____ 4. A person who gets Medicare
- a) must buy health insurance.
 - b) must get Medicaid.
 - c) should not buy health insurance.
 - d) should buy the gold policy.
- _____ 5. It's a good idea to
- a) let a stranger help you buy your health insurance.
 - b) give your personal information to a caller from the government.
 - c) beware of scammers.
 - d) tell other people your Social Security number.
- _____ 6. We can buy a _____ of apples, pears, potatoes, onions, or cherries.
- a) six-pack
 - b) pound
 - c) gallon
 - d) head
- _____ 7. I want to buy a jar of _____
- a) peanut butter.
 - b) eggs.
 - c) carrots.
 - d) tissues.
- _____ 8. Toothpaste comes in
- a) rolls.
 - b) packages.
 - c) tubes.
 - d) cartons.
- _____ 9. There are four quarts in a
- a) bushel.
 - b) liter.
 - c) pound.
 - d) gallon.
- _____ 10. Let's get a loaf of
- a) corn.
 - b) lettuce.
 - c) bread.
 - d) bananas.

II. Events in November

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

- _____ 11. November is American Indian Heritage Month. _____
- _____ 12. *The Day of the Dead* is a holiday celebrated by Italian Americans.

- _____ 13. A day to honor men and women who served in the Armed Forces is Thanksgiving. _____
- _____ 14. In 1621, the Pilgrims celebrated their first Thanksgiving in America.

- _____ 15. Thanksgiving Day is now always the fourth Wednesday of November.

- _____ 16. Squanto was able to help the Pilgrims because he spoke Dutch.

- _____ 17. *Dia de los muertos* is a big shopping day after Thanksgiving.

- _____ 18. The Great American Smokeout is a day to help people stop cooking.

- _____ 19. November 22 is the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Squanto.

- _____ 20. This year, voters will choose governors in New Jersey and Virginia.

III. Vocabulary Match

Write the letter of the word that will make the sentence true.

Word List

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| A. epidemic | F. treaty |
| B. abbreviation | G. armistice |
| C. bargain | H. repeal |
| D. immunity | I. powwow |
| E. majority | J. batter |
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- _____ 21. A mixture of flour, eggs, butter and milk is one kind of _____.
 - _____ 22. A _____ is an agreement between nations.
 - _____ 23. Many people get sick and many die during an _____.
 - _____ 24. When soldiers put down their guns and stop fighting, there is an _____.
 - _____ 25. The _____ for quart is qt.
 - _____ 26. The House of Representatives voted to _____ the Affordable Care Act.
 - _____ 27. During a sale, a shopper may find a good _____.
 - _____ 28. American Indians did not have any _____ to smallpox, so 90% of them died of it.
 - _____ 29. The Democratic Party is in the _____ in the Senate.
 - _____ 30. Different groups of Indians may have a _____ to exchange ideas and celebrate their customs.