

Easy English NEWS



June 2018

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 bank 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 might be more than one possible answer in each group of words.

- 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 students' retention of the information.

Name _____ Date _____

Here Come the Self-Driving Cars!

Last year, there were almost six million car _____ in the United States.

Forty thousand people _____ in those crashes. Ninety percent of those

crashes were _____ by the cars' drivers. Road crashes cost the U.S. \$230.6

_____ per year.

Will self-driving cars _____ lives?

Many people hope so. Self-driving cars won't speed. They won't text or talk on a cell

_____. They won't get distracted. They will never be _____

by the sun, and never get tired. They won't drive _____ or be impaired by drugs or

medications.

How do self-driving cars work?

Human _____ use their eyes and ears. They learn from their training and

their experience. They use their intelligence to drive a car safely. Humans know how other drivers

_____ on the road.

WORD BANK

died	phone	behave	drunk	crashes
billion	drivers	caused	blinded	save

Name _____ Date _____

Places to Buy Clothes

There are many places to buy clothes. Shopping _____ have stores for women's clothing, men's clothing, and children's clothing. There are shops for _____ large sizes, such as Big and Tall shops for men, or Lane Bryant, Catherine, or Torrid stores for women. There are shops for expectant _____ and for high-fashion clothing. Some stores sell only shoes or only sports _____.

A department store sells clothing and shoes for the _____ family. It also sells many other things.

Do you want a bargain? A factory outlet sells new clothing at _____ prices.

A consignment shop sells used clothing in good _____. A thrift shop sells _____ clothing at very low prices. You can find great bargains at these shops or at a garage sale. A \$90 coat may _____ only \$5. (Look at it carefully for rips, holes, or stains. Try it on to make sure it _____. You cannot return it.)

WORD BANK

low	extra	donated	clothing	cost
fits	mothers	malls	condition	whole

Name _____ Date _____

July 4, 1776

Before 1776, there were _____ colonies on the east coast of North America. These colonies belonged to Great Britain (_____).

In the 1760s and '70s, Britain put new taxes on things that the _____ used every day. Britain made _____ that took away some of the colonists' freedoms. However, colonists could not send representatives to the _____ Parliament. They had no way to change things.

In 1775, leaders from each colony met in Philadelphia, _____ to talk about these problems. They said, "Taxation _____ representation is wrong." They began to fight for their "rights as Englishmen."

In 1776, leaders met in Philadelphia a _____ time. This time they voted to fight for complete _____. One of the leaders was Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson wrote a document called the _____ of Independence.

WORD BANK

England	Pennsylvania	second	British	colonists
laws	thirteen	independence	Declaration	without

Name _____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

One hundred twenty years ago, there were no _____ conditioners. Rich people knew what to do. They went to their _____ homes near the sea. Some of the _____ people in America spent their summers at Mount Desert Island. This island is off the _____ of Maine. The ocean is cold there, about 59° Fahrenheit. The wind _____ from the ocean to the land. This makes natural air conditioning.

In 1901, three of the owners gave their land to the _____ people. Mount Desert Island became part of a National _____ in 1929. Now anyone can enjoy cool days there in the summer.

Acadia National Park has 47,000 acres of great beauty. It is the second most popular national park in the country. More than two million _____ come each year.

There are many activities at Acadia. You can hike, bike, or ride a _____ on many beautiful trails. You can _____ a canoe or a kayak. You can swim in the ocean at a sandy beach.

WORD BANK

blows	Park	horse	paddle	air
summer	visitors	coast	American	richest

Name _____ Date _____

An American “tall tale”: Paul Bunyan

Before the days of _____ and television, people entertained each other by telling stories. One kind of _____ is a “tall tale.” A tall tale is a story full of _____. In a tall tale, the hero is much larger, stronger, wiser, or braver than _____ people. The hero’s actions are amazing...and impossible.

One famous American tall-tale hero was Paul Bunyan.

Paul Bunyan

The men who cut trees in the North _____ were big, strong men. At night, in the winter, they told funny stories about the biggest and strongest _____ of them all: Paul Bunyan. Even the name was funny. *Bunyan* _____ like *bunion*. A bunion is a large painful bump on a person’s big _____.

The loggers said that Paul Bunyan was born in Bangor, _____. He was such a big baby, his parents didn’t know what to do. His first bed was in a _____ wagon.

WORD BANK

story	Maine	radio	sounds	Woods
logger	ordinary	lumber	exaggerations	toe

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.	autonomous car	electric car	self-driving car	robot
2.	computer	radar	LIDAR	fleet
3.	obstacle	pedestrian	driver	bicyclist
4.	lane	GPS system	intersection	road
5.	factory outlet	thrift shop	garage sale	catalogue
6.	price tag	refund	cashier	receipt
7.	laundry	tall tale	exaggeration	Paul Bunyan
8.	logger	tank	lumber	trees
9.	island	pool	ocean	river
10.	hike	swim	wildlife	kayak
11.	fishermen	artists	creatures	rangers
12.	whale	canoe	lobster	seagull

Name _____ Date _____

I. Here Come the Self-Driving Cars!

1. Which actions will self-driving cars do without a driver?

- a. speed b. stop at stop signs c. avoid obstacles d. go through red lights
e. change lanes f. get to a destination g. text h. talk on a cell phone

2. Which two car manufacturers are the most advanced in developing a self-driving car?

_____ and _____

3. Some new cars have _____ in the sides and back of the vehicle to show a driver what is nearby.

4. What two companies are planning to have fleets of self-driving autos?

_____ and _____

5. Some people worry that a _____ could take control of a self-driving car's computers.

6. How much money will the computers and sensors for self-driving cars cost?

Between _____ and _____.

7. According to car makers, by what year will half of all the cars on the road be self-driving? _____

Name _____ Date _____

II. Places to Buy Clothes

1. What kind of store sells clothing for men, women and children, plus many other things?

2. Tell three places that have clothing at very low prices. _____

3. Name three ways to shop for clothing at home. _____

4. What do most stores ask for when you return clothing that doesn't fit?

5. Where in the store can you take items to return? _____

6. If a store gives you a store credit, where can you spend it? _____

7. What kind of receipt does not tell the price of the item? _____

8. " _____ " means you cannot return anything.

III. Events in June and July

1. What document shows that a person has graduated from a high school or college?

2. The person with the highest grades of a graduating class is called the

_____.

3. The person with the second highest grades who makes a welcoming speech is the

_____.

4. What special day is June 14? _____

5. When a person says the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, where do they put their right hand?

6. Should citizens of other countries say the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance? YES NO

7. Should you stand up or sit down when people say the Pledge? _____

8. What words come after:

“And to the Republic _____, _____, _____”

9. What day is Father’s Day? _____

10. What day does summer begin? _____

Name _____ Date _____

III. Events in June and July (continued)

11. What two people are getting married? The _____ and _____
12. When does the month of Ramadan end in 2018? _____
13. What holiday do Muslims celebrate at the end of Ramadan? _____
14. What is another name for the Fourth of July? _____
15. In what year did American leaders sign the Declaration of Independence? _____
16. Who did the thirteen colonies belong to before 1776? _____
17. In what city was the Declaration of Independence signed? _____
18. Colonists said that “_____ without representation” was wrong.
19. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? _____
20. What U.S. President issued the Emancipation Proclamation? _____

Name _____ Date _____

IV. Acadia National Park

1. In what state is Acadia National Park? _____
2. What is the temperature of the water during the summer? _____
3. In what year did Acadia become a national park? _____
4. How many visitors come to Acadia National Park each year? _____
5. Who explains the park's history and nature to visitors? _____
6. What village is on Mount Desert Island? _____
7. When is a good time to watch the waves crash at Thunder Hole? _____
8. What creature do many fishermen in Bar Harbor catch? _____

Name _____ Date _____

V. An American “tall tale”: Paul Bunyan

1. What is a painful sore on a big toe? _____
2. Where was Paul Bunyan born? _____
3. What was Paul Bunyan’s first bed? _____
4. What did Paul wear when he was one week old? _____
5. Paul’s family needed more room for Paul. To what state did they move?

6. What did Paul’s footprints make in that state? _____
7. What were the names of the seven loggers that Paul worked with? _____

8. What color was the snow one very cold winter? _____
9. What did Paul name his baby ox? _____
10. What did the ox eat before breakfast? _____
11. When Paul Bunyan’s water tank sprang a leak, what river did it become?

Critical-Thinking and Creative-Thinking Questions

A. Choose questions to discuss or research in a small group and share with the class.

1. Would you be afraid to be among the first people to ride in a car without a driver? Why or why not? Ask ten people of different ages the same question. Report to the class.
2. Imagine a city in the year 2030 with a fleet of driverless cars. How do you think streets, jobs, schools, and life would be different?
3. Imagine you own a driverless car built by Tesla. Your car crashed into another driverless car. The other car had gone through a stop sign without stopping. That car was built by Waymo and is owned by someone else. The crash damaged both cars and they could not operate anymore. Who do you think would be responsible to pay for the damages? You? The manufacturer of your car? The owner of the other car? The manufacturer of the other car? Why?
4. Interview ten people of different ages, genders, and nationalities. Ask what good luck charms people have in their culture. Ask if they own any good luck charms. Ask if they believe they are really lucky.
5. Visit a thrift store or garage sale and look for prices for: a man's suit, a woman's party dress, a pair of pretty shoes, a necklace, a pair of jeans. What is the condition of these garments? Are they: Like new? Good? OK? Bad? Why do you think someone gave them away or is selling them?
6. Interview six people of different ages who were born in the United States. Ask them to explain the meaning of the Fourth of July. Ask: *Who did Americans fight to get their independence? Why did they want to be free from that country? When did that happen?* What conclusion can you make about Americans' knowledge of their country's history?
7. The invention of air conditioning affected the development of the United States in the 20th century. What effect do you think air conditioning had on movie theaters, department stores, offices, and workers in those offices? What effect did air conditioning have on where Americans live? What effect did it have on people's health? What effect did it have on the millionaires who spent their summers on Mount Desert Island?

June 2018
Answers to *Easy English NEWS*
Short-Answer Tests



I. Here Come the Self-Driving Cars!

1. b, c, e, f
2. Tesla and Waymo
3. cameras
4. Uber and Waymo
5. hacker
6. Between \$70,000 and \$150,000
7. 2030

14. Independence Day
15. 1776
16. Great Britain (England)
17. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
18. taxation
19. Thomas Jefferson
20. Abraham Lincoln

II. Places to Buy Clothes

1. department store
2. factory outlet, consignment shop,
thrift shop, garage sale
3. by phone, on the Internet, with a mail catalogue
4. the sales receipt (and with the price tag still on
the item)
5. customer service desk
6. in that store
7. gift receipt
8. All sales are final

IV. Acadia National Park

1. Maine
2. 59 degrees Fahrenheit
3. 1929
4. more than two million
5. park rangers
6. Bar Harbor
7. high tide
8. lobster

III. Events in June and July

1. diploma
2. valedictorian
3. salutatorian
4. Flag Day
5. over his or her heart
6. NO
7. stand up
8. for which it stands
9. third Sunday in June (June 17)
10. June 21
11. bride and groom
12. June 14
13. Eid al-Fitr

V. Paul Bunyan

1. bunion
2. Bangor, Maine
3. lumber wagon
4. his father's clothes
5. Minnesota
6. 10,000 lakes
7. Elmer, Elmer, Elmer, Elmer, Elmer,
Elmer, and Elmer
8. blue
9. Babe
10. 30 bales of hay
11. Mississippi River