

**October 2015**

## ***Easy English NEWS***

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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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Where Can These People Go?

### Fleeing from war

Men, women, and children are fleeing from \_\_\_\_\_ in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. They are desperate. They are \_\_\_\_\_ for safety in Europe.

The first refugees fled to Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan. These \_\_\_\_\_ are overwhelmed. They cannot take in any more \_\_\_\_\_.

Eritrea, Nigeria, and Somalia are also \_\_\_\_\_. Refugees from these countries have fled to Spain and Italy.

### Other migrants

Large numbers of people are leaving their own countries because there are no \_\_\_\_\_. They are looking for a \_\_\_\_\_ way of life.

Many refugees and migrants have died trying to \_\_\_\_\_ safety. The ones who arrive alive need \_\_\_\_\_ and water; they are exhausted.

This \_\_\_\_\_, more than 380,000 people have entered Europe.

### WORD BANK

war-torn	jobs	better	food	looking
refugees	year	wars	countries	reach

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

## Sending Mail

The fastest and most popular way to send a letter or \_\_\_\_\_ today is by email or text message. Many people pay their \_\_\_\_\_ on-line. However, when you want to send a check, a birthday card, or a paper \_\_\_\_\_, you might use the United States Postal Service (USPS).

The Postal Service \_\_\_\_\_ mail to homes, businesses, and Post Office boxes in the U.S. Letter carriers bring mail every day except Sundays and federal \_\_\_\_\_. To help your letter \_\_\_\_\_ get your mail to you, tape your name on or inside your mail box. If you get \_\_\_\_\_ and change your name, tape the new name there, too.

Post Offices are usually \_\_\_\_\_ 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Some Post Offices are open a half day on \_\_\_\_\_.

### Mailing a letter

You can mail a letter at any Post Office or in a blue \_\_\_\_\_ mailbox. Also, your letter carrier can pick up letters from your home or business.

### WORD BANK

Saturday	married	open	bills	USPS
message	document	delivers	carrier	holidays

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

## Halloween

October 31 is Halloween. This popular holiday came to the United States with \_\_\_\_\_ immigrants.

Children enjoy this \_\_\_\_\_. They wear costumes and \_\_\_\_\_.

They go to neighbors' homes and knock on \_\_\_\_\_. When the door is opened, the children say "\_\_\_\_\_ or Treat!" Usually the \_\_\_\_\_ gives them candy, money, or some other treat.

Some elementary schools have a \_\_\_\_\_ in the afternoon and a parade around the school playground. Parents come to take \_\_\_\_\_ of the parade of children.

Some \_\_\_\_\_ have Halloween parties with costumes, too.

People dress as ghosts, witches, skeletons, black cats, vampires, movie stars, presidents, pumpkins, princesses, and aliens from outer space. A person can dress up as anyone or anything on this day. It's a day for \_\_\_\_\_ and creativity.

### WORD BANK

adults	photos	party	neighbor	Trick
Irish	doors	masks	imagination	holiday

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

## Who Discovered America?

The oldest signs of \_\_\_\_\_ in North America are from 15,000 BCE. How did those people get here? No one \_\_\_\_\_.

In the last Ice \_\_\_\_\_, 11,500 years ago, the sea level was very low. There was \_\_\_\_\_ between Asia and Alaska. Hunters from Asia crossed into America, following \_\_\_\_\_. They stayed, and after thousands of years, their \_\_\_\_\_ lived all over North and South America.

Who was the first European to find America?

Was it the Irish \_\_\_\_\_, Saint Brendan? Irish stories say that Brendan sailed across the \_\_\_\_\_ around the year 540 CE. He returned to \_\_\_\_\_ seven years later. He told stories of a wonderful land he had seen. No one made another trip after him. But perhaps \_\_\_\_\_ knew of the stories.

### WORD BANK

animals	sailor	Ireland	knows	Age
Columbus	Atlantic	humans	land	descendants

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

## The Boston Tea Party

The “Boston Tea Party” of 1773 was an important \_\_\_\_\_ in American history.

Here’s how it started:

**Taxation \_\_\_\_\_ representation**

Great Britain had many \_\_\_\_\_ in North America. When Britain needed \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1760s, it decided to tax the people in its colonies.

The colonists in \_\_\_\_\_ did not have any representatives in Britain. In thirteen of the British colonies, the people protested against the new \_\_\_\_\_. They said, “No taxation without representation.” British \_\_\_\_\_ removed all but one tax, the tax on \_\_\_\_\_.

The colonists did not want to pay that tax, \_\_\_\_\_. They didn’t want to pay *any* taxes that they hadn’t voted for themselves.

On November 28, 1773, a ship arrived in \_\_\_\_\_ Harbor. It was loaded with boxes of tea.

### WORD BANK

taxes	tea	Parliament	event	colonies
without	Boston	either	money	America

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

## October 2015: 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.	refugee	migrant	smuggler	Minuteman
2.	asylum	voyage	protection	safety
3.	Slovakia	Germany	Hungary	Bulgaria
4.	António Guterres	Pope Francis	Majid Ali	President Obama
5.	USPS	destination	letter carrier	Post Office
6.	First Class	forever stamp	Priority Mail	Federal Express
7.	Columbus	Bjarey Herjolfsson	Leif Erikson	Saint Brendan
8.	jack-o'-lantern	ghost	skeleton	cider
9.	UNHCR	UNICEF	USA	UNESCO
10.	library	renew	book	refill
11.	bacteria	virus	parasites	fever
12.	fish	sugar	eggs	chicken

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

## I. Where Can These People Go?

1. From what countries are desperate people fleeing wars? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. To which countries did the first refugees from those countries go to? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How many people had entered Europe by the time the October *Easy English NEWS* went to press? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many people had drowned trying to go by boat? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What religion are most of the migrants and refugees? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who is the leader of the UN Refugee Agency? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What country put up razor-wire fence to keep out migrants? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which country has already allowed two million refugees from Syria? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Who is the leader of the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What country will build a fence on its border with Turkey? \_\_\_\_\_
11. How many refugees did Germany promise to accept? \_\_\_\_\_
12. International law says that another country must protect \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Other countries do not have to protect \_\_\_\_\_ who come for jobs, but are not in danger in their home countries.

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

## II. Sending Mail

1. What organization delivers mail to homes, businesses and Post Office boxes? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What color are the USPS mailboxes? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How much is a stamp for a First Class letter one ounce or less? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How much must you add for each extra ounce up to 3.5 ounces? \_\_\_\_\_
5. A first class stamp that you can use even when the price goes up is a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The numbers that go after your city and state in your address is a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The cost of a Priority Mail envelope is \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When you want to send mail to arrive the next day, use Priority Mail \_\_\_\_\_.
9. What does a First Class letter to a foreign country cost? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How long will the USPS forward your First Class mail if you move to a new address?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Where can you mail a package over 13 ounces that has regular stamps on it?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in October

1. On what day and year did Columbus reach America? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many voyages did Columbus make to America? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who gave Columbus money for ships and sailors? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What national group organizes the Columbus Day parades? \_\_\_\_\_
5. When was the last Ice Age? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What Irish sailor may have discovered America in the year 540 CE? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What Viking sailed to see the land that Bjarney Herjolfsson had told about?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What was the name of the Viking settlement in America? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Did Columbus know he had discovered a new world? YES NO
10. What Italian explorer wrote about a new world in his letters? \_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in October (continued)

11. What day is Child Health Day? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What holiday is on October 31? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What can people make from a pumpkin? \_\_\_\_\_

14. On what day is the birthday of the United Nations? \_\_\_\_\_

15. What are the six official languages of the United Nations?

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

## IV. Your Health: Our Immune System

1. What are five things in the environment that can make us ill?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What works overtime to heal us when we are sick or hurt? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Drinking clear water, tea, soup or vegetable juice helps to clean out \_\_\_\_\_  
that have entered your body.

4. In what kind of environment do immune cells work best in? \_\_\_\_\_

5. In what kind of environment do cancer cells and harmful microbes do well in?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Anger, fear, and stress create what kind of conditions in our body? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. A living thing that cannot make its own food is a \_\_\_\_\_.

8. When a person coughs, sneezes, or has a rash from touching or breathing something in the  
environment, he or she may have an \_\_\_\_\_.

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

## V. Olympic National Park

1. In what state is Olympic National Park? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many acres are in the park? \_\_\_\_\_
3. On what ocean are there beaches in the park? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are five things people can do at Olympic National Park?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What large relative of deer are protected at Olympic National park? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many inches of rain does the Olympic Rain Forest receive each year? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Where does the water in the Elwha River come from? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## VI. The Boston Tea Party

1. How many colonies protested against the taxes that Great Britain placed on sales in America?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was King of England at the time? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did the colonists in America have any representatives in British Parliament? YES NO
4. Who was one of the leaders from the “Sons of Liberty?” \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who was the British governor of Massachusetts? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many boxes of tea did the Sons of Liberty dump into the Boston Harbor? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who did the king punish for this event? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What did he close to all ships? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What did colonists call the king’s punishments? \_\_\_\_\_
10. In what city did leaders meet to talk about it? \_\_\_\_\_
11. On what day did the British general order soldiers to find Sam Adams and other American leaders and destroy their ammunition? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## VI. The Boston Tea Party (continued)

12. What was the first town that the British soldiers marched to? \_\_\_\_\_

13. How many British soldiers were there? \_\_\_\_\_

14. How many American Minutemen met them in that town? \_\_\_\_\_

15. How many Americans were killed in that battle? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Who fired the first shot? \_\_\_\_\_

17. On what day did Americans declare their Independence? \_\_\_\_\_

18. On what day was the last important battle of the War for Independence? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

19. Where was that? \_\_\_\_\_

20. What treaty gave the American colonies their independence from Great Britain? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**October 2015**  
**Answers to Easy English NEWS**  
**Short-Answer Tests**

**I. Where Can These People Go?**

1. Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Nigeria, and Somalia.
2. Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Spain, Italy, and Greece.
3. 380,000
4. 2,800
5. Muslim
6. Antonio Guterres
7. Hungary
8. Turkey
9. Pope Francis
10. Bulgaria
11. 800,000
12. refugees
13. migrants

**II. Sending Mail**

1. United States Postal Service
2. blue
3. 49 cents
4. 22 cents
5. Forever Stamp
6. ZIP code
7. \$5.75
8. Express
9. \$1.20
10. 12 months
11. at the Post Office

**III. Events in October**

1. October 12, 1492
2. four
3. Queen Isabella of Spain
4. Italian Americans
5. 11,500 years ago
6. Saint Brendan
7. Leif Eriksson
8. Vinland
9. NO
10. Amerigo Vespucci
11. October 5
12. Halloween
13. a jack-o'-lantern

14. October 24
15. English, Chinese, French, Arabic, Russian, Spanish

**IV. Your Health**

1. bacteria, viruses, mold, parasites, toxins, fungi
2. immune system
3. toxins
4. alkaline
5. acidic
6. acidic conditions
7. parasite
8. allergy

**V. Olympic National Park**

1. Washington
2. nearly a million
3. Pacific
4. hike, camp, fish, ski, see wild animals
5. elk
6. 144.
7. melting ice and snow

**VI. The Boston Tea Party**

1. Thirteen
2. King George III
3. NO
4. Samuel Adams
5. Governor Hutchinson
6. 342
7. All of Massachusetts
8. Boston Harbor
9. the Intolerable Acts
10. Philadelphia
11. April 18, 1775
12. Lexington
13. 700
14. 70
15. eight
16. No one knows
17. July 4, 1776
18. October 19 1781
19. Yorktown, Virginia
20. Treaty of Paris (of 1783)