

# Easy English NEWS



May 2018

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

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Teachers Walk Out!

The year 2008 was a bad year for the U.S. economy. Banks \_\_\_\_\_. Businesses failed. People lost their \_\_\_\_\_. Many people lost their homes. It was a very \_\_\_\_\_ time. States \_\_\_\_\_ back on spending money for schools and other services. Twenty-nine \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet returned the funding for education.

Teachers in those states haven't had a pay raise in 10 \_\_\_\_\_. Classes have become larger. There's no money to buy new textbooks or computers. Some teachers have to pay for \_\_\_\_\_ out of their own pockets. Some school buildings need repairs. Some heating systems are \_\_\_\_\_. Teachers and students are cold in the winter.

Teachers in West Virginia were tired of these bad working conditions. They asked for a \_\_\_\_\_. They asked for money for textbooks and supplies. Their state legislators voted to give them a 1%-2% raise. *This is not enough* said the teachers. They were angry. They \_\_\_\_\_ to walk out.

### WORD BANK

years	broken	decided	jobs	supplies
failed	states	difficult	raise	cut

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

## Shopping for Clothes

### What's your size?

Shopping for clothes in the United States can \_\_\_\_\_ newcomers. It can sometimes confuse \_\_\_\_\_, too! There isn't just \_\_\_\_\_ system for sizes.

There are *many* systems.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of a garment is printed on a label. The label may be printed or \_\_\_\_\_ on the garment. The size may also be on a tag on the garment. Try on a \_\_\_\_\_ before you buy it. Most clothing stores have \_\_\_\_\_

rooms where you can try on clothes.

You will need to learn the U.S. sizes for you and your children for shoes, socks, jeans, slacks, shirts, sweaters, jackets, \_\_\_\_\_, hats, gloves, belts, dresses, and underwear.

Some clothing is marked S, M, or L (\_\_\_\_\_, *medium*, or *large*). There are also XS (extra small), XL (extra large), 2XL, and 3XL sizes. However, a *medium* in one brand of clothing may be \_\_\_\_\_ than a *large* in a different brand.

### WORD BANK

dressing	one	sewn	bigger	size
small	confuse	Americans	coats	garment

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

## ***Cinco de Mayo***

*Cinco de Mayo* means “\_\_\_\_\_ of May.” This date is important to \_\_\_\_\_ Americans in the United States. It celebrates a \_\_\_\_\_ for liberty.

In 1862, \_\_\_\_\_ Napoleon III of France invaded Mexico. The \_\_\_\_\_ army was well-armed and well-trained. They marched through Mexico and won \_\_\_\_\_ battle. Then the French army \_\_\_\_\_ the little town of Puebla. After five days, a small Mexican force defeated the French \_\_\_\_\_. That stopped the Emperor’s plans to own Mexico.

People celebrate *Cinco de Mayo* with *fiestas*, street festivals, cultural events, food, music, \_\_\_\_\_, and fireworks. Men and women dress in \_\_\_\_\_ Mexican clothes. Musicians play happy Mexican music.

### **WORD BANK**

Mexican	soldiers	French	attacked	fifth
victory	every	traditional	dancing	Emperor

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

## Ramadan

Ramadan is a \_\_\_\_\_ month for Muslims. This year, Ramadan in the U.S. begins the \_\_\_\_\_ of May 15.

During Ramadan, Muslims over age 12 fast during the daylight \_\_\_\_\_. They eat \_\_\_\_\_ early in the morning, before the sun is up. They do not eat again until the sun goes \_\_\_\_\_. Fasting helps Muslims learn self-discipline and \_\_\_\_\_ for hungry people. Young children, sick people, pregnant women, and travelers do not have to \_\_\_\_\_.

Muslims read the Koran each day during \_\_\_\_\_. They go to mosques for \_\_\_\_\_. Muslims give money to their mosques and give food to \_\_\_\_\_ families.

### WORD BANK

holy	sympathy	breakfast	evening	fast
down	hours	prayers	Ramadan	poor

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

## Filipinos in the United States

About 3.5 \_\_\_\_\_ Filipinos live in the United States today. They are the fourth largest immigrant group that has come to the U.S. \_\_\_\_\_. (The largest groups are the Mexicans, Indians, and Chinese.) Most Filipino Americans live in the \_\_\_\_\_ states, but many also live in New Jersey and New York City.

### The Philippine Islands

Many different ethnic groups lived on the more than 7,600 Philippine \_\_\_\_\_ in the western \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean. Spain made them part of the Spanish Empire in 1565, and \_\_\_\_\_ them into one country. Spain held the Philippines as a \_\_\_\_\_ until 1898.

### Spanish influences

The 300 years as part of the \_\_\_\_\_ Empire left a mark on the Philippines. There are many Spanish words in the \_\_\_\_\_ languages. The Spanish converted most of the population to their Catholic \_\_\_\_\_.

### WORD BANK

Pacific	million	Islands	religion	colony
western	Spanish	united	recently	local

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

## 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.	walk out	strike	pay raise	protest
2.	money	funds	fines	salary
3.	garment	clothing	slacks	label
4.	toddlers	junior	misses	petite
5.	infant	husky	toddler	baby
6.	Selective Service	Armed Forces	unknowns	military
7.	DNA	Koran	mosque	Ramadan
8.	heir	honest	hour	history
9.	spouse	step parent	marriage	great grandmother
10.	Tagalog	Chinese	English	Spanish
11.	leave a mark	influence	defeat	have an effect
12.	advantage	immigrant	U.S. National	citizen

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

## I. Teachers Walk Out!

1. In what year did many banks and businesses fail? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many states have not yet returned to full funding for education? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Teacher strikes in most states are illegal. YES NO
4. In which state did 34,000 school workers walk out on February 22? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How much of a raise did legislators give them? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who ordered Jersey City teachers to go back to school after a one-day strike? \_\_\_\_\_
7. In what state were there some schools with only enough money for four days a week of classes? \_\_\_\_\_
8. On what day did teachers in that state walk out? \_\_\_\_\_
9. On what day did teachers in Kentucky walk out? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How much of a raise were Arizona teachers asking for? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## I. Teachers Walk Out! (continued)

11. In which state will the union ask for a vote to strike by January 2019? \_\_\_\_\_

12. How much less are teachers in that state making than they made 20 years ago? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What Latin term means “in the place of a parent?” \_\_\_\_\_

14. How many hours a week does the average experienced teacher work? \_\_\_\_\_

15. What does the average cost for a four-year college program?

\_\_\_\_\_

16. What’s the average starting pay for a teacher in the U.S.? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Is this more or less than the starting pay for other college graduates?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. What percent of new teachers leave teaching after five years? \_\_\_\_\_

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

## II. What's Your Size?

1. The size of a garment is printed on a \_\_\_\_\_ or on a tag attached to the garment.
2. The size XL means \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A man wears a \_\_\_\_\_ shirt with a suit and a tie.
4. The length of a man's pants from the crotch to the cuff is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Dresses that are sized 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13 are for \_\_\_\_\_ (teens and slim women.)
6. Short women might wear \_\_\_\_\_ sized clothing.
7. A garment that can stretch might be marked "One size fits \_\_\_\_\_."
8. Which child is older, a toddler or an infant? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What numbers are used for Misses dress sizes? \_\_\_\_\_.
10. *Plus*, *husky*, or *XL* sizes are for people who need \_\_\_\_\_ sizes.

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

### III. Events in May

1. May is \_\_\_\_\_ and Pacific-Islander Heritage Month.
2. About how many Asian Americans live in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
3. About how many Pacific-Island Americans live in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What great Chinese teacher had a strong influence on Asian culture?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Sushi, tofu, and teriyaki are foods from \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What day is *Cinco de Mayo*? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What French emperor invaded Mexico? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where did a small force of Mexicans defeat the French army? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What race is the “most exciting two minutes in sports?” \_\_\_\_\_
10. How old are the horses that run in that race? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What day is Armed Forces Day? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What are five branches of the Armed Forces? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

### III. Events in May (continued)

13. In 2015, how many women were in the Armed Forces on active duty in the United States?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. Who is the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Does the U.S. draft young men into the Armed Forces? YES NO

16. At what age must all young men register with the Selective Service System? \_\_\_\_\_

17. When is Memorial Day? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Where is a burial place for some of the soldiers who fought in America's wars?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. What place honors soldiers whose bodies were never found? \_\_\_\_\_

20. The honor guard for this place patrols \_\_\_ hours a day, \_\_\_ days a week, \_\_\_ days a year.

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

## IV. Filipinos in the United States

1. What country made the Philippine Islands its colony in 1565? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many islands are part of the Philippines? \_\_\_\_\_
3. To what religion did Filipinos convert? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In what year did the U.S. defeat Spain in a war? \_\_\_\_\_
5. For how many years were the Philippines an American colony? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In what language were the schools taught after 1900? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What country attacked the Philippines in 1941? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many Filipinos fought alongside American soldiers in that war? \_\_\_\_\_
9. When American soldiers returned to the United States, what did some of them bring with them? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What are the two official languages of the Philippines?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

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

#### IV. Filipinos in the United States (continued)

11. When American workers went on strike, who did employers use as strike breakers?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What advantage did Filipinos have over other Asian immigrants?

\_\_\_\_\_

13. When was the Civil Rights Movement in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

14. In what year was a new law passed that opened immigration to people from South

America and Asia? \_\_\_\_\_

15. What profession did many Filipinos enter in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Filipinos value *pakikisama*. This is the ability to \_\_\_\_\_.

17. The first Filipino governor of any state was \_\_\_\_\_.

18. What educational movement did Rodolfo S. Bernardo, a school principal in Ohio, lead?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. Who were two Filipinos who won Pulitzer Prizes for journalism?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

20. Who helped start the United Farm Workers of America? \_\_\_\_\_

## Critical-Thinking and Creative-Thinking Questions

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

1. Interview two beginning teachers and two older teachers. Ask their opinions on the teacher strikes. Ask why they became teachers. Ask what parts of teaching are difficult? What parts are rewarding? Did they ever take part in a teacher strike? Are their answers similar to the article on *Teachers Walk Out*?
2. These are some occupations in a society: *Teacher, doctor, president, farmer, soldier, computer programmer, singer, basketball player, accountant, police officer, salesperson, engineer*. Number them 1,2,3, etc in the order that you think they are important. What are your reasons? Which occupations should get the highest pay? Go online to find out what education, skills, and talent are needed for these occupations. What are the top salaries in each of these occupations?
3. How are the sizing customs for clothing in your home country different from those in the U.S.?
4. Many people are addicted to cell phones, TV, Facebook, computers, the internet, and video games. Interview five people to find out how much time they spend on these “screens.” Ask if they will (or did) avoid them during Screen-Free week. How difficult was it? What did they do instead? How did that feel?
5. There are many days to show appreciation to certain people: *Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Grandparents Day, Valentines Day, Teacher Appreciation Day, Administrative Professionals Day, Bosses Day, Armed Forces Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day...* What other people do you think deserve appreciation? How could people show their appreciation to them? How would you start a movement to show appreciation to those people?
6. Traditions and opinions for holidays, worker roles, family behavior, education, politics, and many other things are different in the U.S. from your home country. Have you acquired new ways of thinking and doing things, or do you still have the same opinions and customs as you had in your home country? How have you changed since coming to the U.S.?

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



**I. Teachers Walk Out!**

1. 2008
2. 29
3. YES
4. West Virginia
5. 5%
6. a judge
7. Oklahoma
8. April 2
9. April 2
10. 20% raise
11. Colorado
12. 15%
13. in loco parentis
14. 44-50
15. \$60,000 to \$140,000
16. \$30,377
17. less
18. 50%

**II. What's Your Size?**

1. label
2. extra large
3. dress
4. inseam
5. juniors
6. petite
7. all
8. toddler
9. 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14 (even numbers)
10. larger/bigger

**III. Events in May**

1. Asian-American
2. 21 million
3. 1.2 million
4. Confucius
5. Japan

6. May 5
7. Napoleon III
8. Puebla
9. the Kentucky Derby
10. three years old
11. May 19 (third Saturday in May)
12. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard.
13. 201,000
14. the U.S. President (President Trump)
15. NO
16. 18-25
17. Last Monday of May (May 28)
18. Arlington National Cemetery
19. Tomb of the Unknowns
20. 24, 7, 365

**IV. Filipinos in the United States**

1. Spain
2. more than 7,600
3. Catholicism
4. 1898
5. 48 (1898-1946)
6. English
7. Japan
8. 250,000
9. Filipina "war brides"
10. English and Tagalog
11. Filipinos
12. spoke English
13. 1960s
14. 1965
15. health care
16. get along with others
17. Benjamin J. Cayetano
18. character education
19. Byron Acohido and Alex Tizon
20. Philip Vera Cruz