CELPIP Listening Practice Test 101

A free full-length CELPIP-General Listening practice test from CELPass.com: all 6 parts and 38 questions in the real test order, an answer sheet, the answer key and a score chart, and the transcripts.

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How to take this test

1. Open celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/101 to play the recordings (free, no account). Play each one once only, as in the real test.
2. Read the questions for each recording here and mark your answers on the answer sheet.
3. Check your answers with the answer key, then read the transcript for every question you missed.

Prefer to take it on screen? The same test is free online at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/101 with the recordings, marked as you go, with an estimated CLB. More free tests: celpass.com/celpip/practice-tests-pdf

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Part 1: Listening to Problem Solving

A Kitchen Countertop Order

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/101**

1. What is wrong with the countertop?

A It is deeper than the cabinets.
B Its sink opening is in the wrong spot.
C It does not reach the end of the space.
D It is a different pattern from the one he chose.

2. Why does the man mention his wife's parents?

A to explain who picked out the countertop
B to show that he needs a fast solution
C to say who is going to install the countertop
D to ask for a delivery to Winnipeg

3. What is most likely true about the mistake?

A The man gave the store the wrong measurements.
B The technician's laser measured the kitchen wall wrongly.
C The cabinets in the kitchen are an unusual size.
D Someone at the store copied a number incorrectly.

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/101**

4. Why does the man turn down the first suggestion?

A He would have to pay extra for it.
B He doubts it would hold up over time.
C The installer is not free until next week.
D He thinks it would look cheap in his kitchen.

5. What will the woman probably do next?

A order a brand-new piece from the supplier
B send an installer to the man's house
C contact another location when it opens
D give the man a full refund

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/101**

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6. What can the man choose from the store for free?

A



B



C



D



7. What will happen to the short countertop?

A It will be cut down for another customer.

B The man will drop it off at the east-end store.

C It will become a bench in the man's garage.

D It will go back on the delivery truck.

8. What does the man suggest at the end?

A His view of the store has improved.

B He plans to complain to the manager.

C He still expects to wait ten days.

D He will not shop at the store again.

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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

A New Weekend Hobby

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/101**

9. Why did the woman start birdwatching?

A Her uncle encouraged her to try it.
B Ordinary walks did not hold her interest.
C She wanted to help with a conservation project.
D Her husband was looking for a shared hobby.

10. Why does the woman mention the plastic bag?

A to complain about litter at the marsh
B to explain why the count was cancelled
C to describe the group leader's sense of humour
D to show she is still a beginner

11. What does the woman say about the volunteer group?

A They are kind when people get things wrong.
B Most of its members are young professionals.
C It relies mainly on a phone app to name birds.
D It meets at the marsh every Sunday.

12. Why did the woman buy her own binoculars?

A Her uncle asked for his pair back.
B Her husband gave her money for them.
C The pair she borrowed was uncomfortable.
D The borrowed pair was too blurry to see through.

13. What is likely true about the man at the end?

A He has decided to join the next walk.
B The early start is putting him off.
C He thinks the hobby costs too much.
D He would rather go to the marsh alone.

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Part 3: Listening for Information

A New Family Member

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/101**

14. Why is the man calling?

A to report that his dog has gone missing
B to update the details on his dog's microchip
C to complain about the rescue that he used
D to ask how to get his dog a city permit

15. What did the man wrongly believe?

A The chip in his dog was enough for the city.
B He had missed the deadline to register.
C Dogs from rescues did not need a licence.
D The rescue had already paid the city's fee for him.

16. Why does the woman tell the man to find the paperwork?

A It shows the dog's age and breed.
B It must be shown to staff at the shelter.
C It could make the licence much cheaper.
D It proves he adopted the dog legally.

17. According to the woman, what is the main benefit of the tag?

A It removes the need to renew the licence every year.
B A lost dog can be brought right back to its owner.
C It replaces the information on the microchip.
D It tells officers that the dog is friendly.

18. Why does the man mention the back fence?

A to ask whether the city repairs fences
B to complain about a neighbour down the street
C to describe where his dog likes to sleep
D to explain why the tag matters to him

19. What will the man probably do on Friday?

A collect a tag in person
B bring his dog to a service counter
C wait for a tag in the mail
D get a certificate from the vet

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

A Plow with a View

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/101**

20. The idea for the painting came from

A a city official.
B a young member of his family.
C a local school.
D people who saw the plow on social media.

21. The city allowed the painting as long as Tremblay

A painted the city's name across the blade.
B only drove the plow at night.
C let children help him paint it.
D covered the costs and did it off duty.

22. By spring, the painting will probably

A be moved to a local school.
B be repainted by the city.
C be mostly gone.
D be sold to a collector.

23. Some residents have complained that

A the city's truck should not be used for art.
B the plow wakes their children too early in the day.
C the painting is too bright to be safe.
D the city paid too much for the paint.

24. Tremblay's reaction to the attention is one of

A annoyance.
B embarrassment.
C surprise.
D pride.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

The Grade 12 Trip

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/101**

25. What does Tessa want to do at first?

A take the students where they went last year
B ask the students to vote on where they want to go
C book a hotel in downtown Toronto
D cancel this year's trip altogether

26. According to Brendan, what did the student survey show?

A Students wanted a holiday somewhere warm.
B Students enjoyed the science centre most.
C Students wanted to spend time in nature.
D Students preferred a shorter trip.

27. Why does Tessa mention the parent council?

A to suggest that parents should help plan the trip
B to complain that the council spent too much
C to show that the board must approve the trip
D to explain why a lower price appeals to her

28. What is the first problem Joyce raises about the outdoor centre?

A It may cost more than families can afford.
B The trip could come too close to exams.
C Some students might not be able to swim.
D Parents would be unable to reach their children.

29. What happens to students who fail the swim test?

A They are sent home early.
B They take extra swimming lessons in the lake.
C They watch from the lodge.
D They do activities on land instead.

30. Why does Brendan mention his cousin?

A to show the trip can help students form lasting bonds
B to explain how he heard about the outdoor centre
C to suggest his cousin could work there as a guide
D to admit that the trip may be too hard for shy students

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31. How does Joyce feel about Brendan's plan by the end?

A completely convinced

B still doubtful

C openly angry

D not interested either way

32. What is the best subject line for Tessa's email tonight?

A Cancelling our Montreal booking

B Swim test rules for our students

C Dates in early May for a grade 12 group

D Request for extra radios on our trip

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Fare or Free?

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/101**

33. The report is mainly about

A how cities can cut traffic on their roads.
B the growing expense of running buses.
C whether dropping fares is the best way to improve transit.
D why students and seniors deserve lower fares.

34. Castillo thinks that collecting fares

A can be an expensive way to raise little money.
B makes riders value the service more.
C is the fairest way to share the cost of transit.
D helps keep buses from getting too crowded.

35. Lindgren would most likely support

A dropping fares on the busiest routes first.
B adding more frequent departures on existing routes.
C charging seniors exactly the same fare as everyone else.
D letting charities run the local bus service.

36. Why does the speaker mention crowding?

A to argue that free transit will fail everywhere
B to show that Castillo has overlooked the needs of most riders
C to warn that buses are becoming unsafe
D to explain why the two experts see things differently

37. The speaker's attitude toward free transit is best described as

A dismissive.
B enthusiastic.
C open to it, but not as a first step.
D indifferent.

38. The speaker suggests that Castillo's argument is weakest when applied to

A small towns with only a few routes.
B large systems that depend heavily on riders' money.
C cities where a large number of residents live on tight budgets.
D places that already offer reduced fares.

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Answer sheet

Write the letter of your answer for each question.

1 _____	2 _____	3 _____	4 _____
5 _____	6 _____	7 _____	8 _____
9 _____	10 _____	11 _____	12 _____
13 _____	14 _____	15 _____	16 _____
17 _____	18 _____	19 _____	20 _____
21 _____	22 _____	23 _____	24 _____
25 _____	26 _____	27 _____	28 _____
29 _____	30 _____	31 _____	32 _____
33 _____	34 _____	35 _____	36 _____
37 _____	38 _____		

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Answer key

Part 1: A Kitchen Countertop Order

1 C It does not reach the end of the space.

2 B to show that he needs a fast solution

3 D Someone at the store copied a number incorrectly.

4 B He doubts it would hold up over time.

5 C contact another location when it opens

6 A Picture A

7 D It will go back on the delivery truck.

8 A His view of the store has improved.

Part 2: A New Weekend Hobby

9 B Ordinary walks did not hold her interest.

10 D to show she is still a beginner

11 A They are kind when people get things wrong.

12 C The pair she borrowed was uncomfortable.

13 B The early start is putting him off.

Part 3: A New Family Member

14 D to ask how to get his dog a city permit

15 A The chip in his dog was enough for the city.

16 C It could make the licence much cheaper.

17 B A lost dog can be brought right back to its owner.

18 D to explain why the tag matters to him

19 A collect a tag in person

Part 4: A Plow with a View

20 B a young member of his family.

21 D covered the costs and did it off duty.

22 C be mostly gone.

23 A the city's truck should not be used for art.

24 C surprise.

Part 5: The Grade 12 Trip

25 A take the students where they went last year

26 C Students wanted to spend time in nature.

27 D to explain why a lower price appeals to her

28 B The trip could come too close to exams.

29 D They do activities on land instead.

30 A to show the trip can help students form lasting bonds

31 B still doubtful

32 C Dates in early May for a grade 12 group

Part 6: Fare or Free?

33 C whether dropping fares is the best way to improve transit.

34 A can be an expensive way to raise little money.

35 B adding more frequent departures on existing routes.

36 D to explain why the two experts see things differently

37 C open to it, but not as a first step.

38 B large systems that depend heavily on riders' money.

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Your estimated CLB

Correct answers (of 38)	Estimated level
38	CLB 12
37	CLB 11
35–36	CLB 10
33–34	CLB 9
30–32	CLB 8
27–29	CLB 7
22–26	CLB 6
17–21	CLB 5
11–16	CLB 4

An estimate: CELPIP converts raw scores with a table for each test form, so the real cut-offs vary a little.

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Transcripts

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Part 1: A Kitchen Countertop Order

Section 1

WOMAN: Good morning, kitchen department. How can I help?

MAN: Hi. I picked up a countertop here on Saturday, the laminate one in the grey stone pattern. My brother-in-law came over first thing this morning to put it in, and, well… it doesn't fit.

WOMAN: Oh no. Is it the depth? Sometimes older cabinets aren't quite standard, so—

MAN: No, no, the depth's fine, and the hole for the sink lines up perfectly. It's the other way. There's a gap at the end by the stove, about ten centimetres.

WOMAN: Okay. Do you have your order number? … Here we go, Novak. Did you measure the kitchen yourself?

MAN: No, I paid for your measuring service. A fellow came out two weeks ago with one of those laser gadgets.

WOMAN: Right, let me pull up his sheet. Hmm. His sheet says two hundred and forty-eight centimetres. But the cutting ticket from our shop says two thirty-eight.

MAN: So it's not on me. Good, because my wife's parents fly in on Friday, and right now we've basically got no kitchen.

Section 2

WOMAN: Okay, quickest option: we fit a matching end piece, a little filler strip, to close the gap. Our installer could have it done this afternoon, at no charge.

MAN: A joint, though? Right next to the stove, where we put the hot pans? It's not even about how it looks. Those always lift within a year.

WOMAN: That's fair. Then the proper fix is a brand-new piece from our supplier, but that usually takes eight to ten business days—

MAN: Ten days. That's… no. Look, I don't want my money back, I want a kitchen. Is there any chance another store has one just sitting around?

WOMAN: Possibly. Our east-end store keeps a few uncut blanks, and the grey stone's a popular one. But their cutting desk doesn't open until ten, and it's quarter to now.

MAN: So I'm waiting fifteen minutes either way.

Section 3

WOMAN: Good news. The east-end store had one blank left in that pattern. They'll cut it tomorrow, and it goes out to you on Thursday. Delivery's on us.

MAN: Thursday. Cutting it close, but okay. And the short one? My brother-in-law says it'd make a great workbench in the garage.

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WOMAN: Sorry, the supplier needs it back. Our drivers will load it onto the truck when they drop off the new one.

MAN: Fair enough.

WOMAN: And one more thing. My manager's approved a little something for the trouble. You mentioned a faucet when you were in on Saturday?

MAN: Oh, we ended up buying one online. And we're keeping the old range hood, it still works fine. Actually, what we're missing is a light over the sink. That corner's pretty dark in the evenings.

WOMAN: Then pick out any pendant light in aisle twelve, up to a hundred and fifty dollars, and I'll ring it through at no cost.

MAN: You know, an hour ago I was ready to never set foot in this place again.

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Part 2: A New Weekend Hobby

MAN: Colleen! I barely recognized you without your laptop. What's with the binoculars?

WOMAN: Don't laugh. I've taken up birdwatching. My doctor told me to get outside more, and walking just for the sake of walking bored me silly. This gives me something to look for. I was down at the marsh by six this morning.

MAN: Six in the morning? On a Sunday? Who are you?

WOMAN: I know, I know. But that's when they're most active, right after sunrise. By nine it's mostly joggers and dogs. And honestly, it's the only hour of the week when nobody's sending me emails.

MAN: Huh. So what does it involve, exactly? You stand there and count ducks?

WOMAN: Sometimes, actually. There's a volunteer group that does a count every month for a conservation project, and they let beginners tag along. I'm terrible at it. Last week I spent ten minutes watching what I was sure was a hawk, and it turned out to be a plastic bag stuck in a tree.

MAN: A bag? Come on.

WOMAN: In my defence, it was very windy. Anyway, the group leader didn't even laugh. She just said everybody's done it at some point. They're a really patient bunch, mostly retired, and they know every call by heart. I'm learning more from them than from the app on my phone.

MAN: So it's a cheap hobby, at least. Binoculars and an—

WOMAN: Well… these binoculars weren't cheap. I borrowed my uncle's old pair at first, but they were so heavy my neck ached after an hour. These are half the weight. Let's just say I haven't told my husband what they cost.

MAN: Ha. Fair enough. Is it something I could try? I've been looking for an excuse to get off the couch on weekends.

WOMAN: Sure, but fair warning: the group's next walk is the second Saturday in November, and it starts at seven sharp. They don't wait for anyone.

MAN: Seven. On a Saturday. Well… I'll think about it.

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Part 3: A New Family Member

WOMAN: Good afternoon, Animal Services, licensing desk. This is Hilary speaking.

MAN: Hi. My wife and I adopted a dog last weekend, and the rescue told us we need to sort things out with the city. I just wanted to find out how that works. To be honest, I thought the microchip took care of all that.

WOMAN: Congratulations on the new dog! It's a really common mix-up. The microchip links her to you in the chip company's records, but it isn't the same thing as a city licence. You'll need both. And just so you know, we ask that new dogs be licensed within two weeks, so you're well within the window.

MAN: Okay, good. What do you need from me?

WOMAN: Your address, her name, breed, age, and whether she's been spayed. If she has, the fee drops by more than half, so it's worth digging out that paperwork. You can do the whole thing online, or come in to one of our service counters if you'd rather pay in person.

MAN: She's spayed, I'm pretty sure. The rescue did it before—actually, wait, let me check. … Yes, there's a certificate from the vet right here. Great. And is this a one-time thing?

WOMAN: No, it's renewed every year, and we'll send you a reminder. She'll also get a metal tag to wear on her collar, which is honestly the most useful part. If she ever gets loose and someone finds her, the tag number means our officers can drive her straight home instead of taking her to the shelter. A lot of people don't realize that.

MAN: Oh, that's good to know, because she's a bit of an escape artist. She's already squeezed under our back fence once. We spent an hour searching the neighbourhood before a woman down the street called us.

WOMAN: Then I'd get that tag on her as soon as you can. If you apply online, it's mailed out within about a week. If you come to a counter, we hand it to you on the spot.

MAN: Hmm. I'm off on Friday, so I'll probably just come in. Do you need to see the dog?

WOMAN: Ha, no, she can stay home. Just bring the certificate and some ID. Oh, and one more thing. If you're over sixty-five, there's a further discount.

MAN: I wish. I've got another twenty years to go before that.

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Part 4: A Plow with a View

NARRATOR: A snowplow in Saguenay, Quebec, has become an unlikely local celebrity this winter, thanks to the man behind the wheel. Municipal employee Gilles Tremblay spent his summer evenings painting the truck's enormous steel blade with a scene of the fjord, complete with whales, pine trees and a bright orange sunset. He says the idea came from his granddaughter, who once told him the plows looked grumpy and frightening. The city approved the colourful project on one condition: Tremblay had to buy the paint himself and do the work on his own time. He agreed without hesitation. Since the first snowfall in November, residents have been sharing photographs of the plow online, and some parents in the neighbourhood now set their alarms so their children can watch it go by. A local school has even invited Tremblay to talk to students about his creation. Not everyone is impressed. A few residents have questioned whether a decorated truck is the right use of city equipment, although officials point out that it cost taxpayers nothing. Tremblay, who has driven plows for twenty-two years, says he never expected anyone to notice. The paint will not last forever, he adds. By spring, salt and gravel will have worn most of it away. He is already sketching next year's design.

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Part 5: The Grade 12 Trip

Tessa: Right, the office needs our destination by Friday so they can book the buses. Last year's Montreal trip went fine, so honestly, I'm inclined to just do it again. Three days, the science centre, a hockey game, done.

Brendan: It went fine for us. Did you read the student survey, though? Most of them said Montreal felt like a school day in a different city. What they kept asking for was something outdoors. A couple even wrote, anything but another museum.

Joyce: They're seventeen. If you'd asked me at seventeen, I'd have said a beach in Mexico.

Brendan: Fair, but hear me out. There's an outdoor education centre about four hours north. Canoeing, a ropes course, cabins by the lake. They host graduating classes all spring, and it actually works out cheaper per student than a hotel downtown.

Tessa: Cheaper is good. Last year two families couldn't pay, and the parent council quietly covered them. I don't want to lean on them again.

Joyce: My worry isn't the money, it's the timing. The only week they'd have room is probably late May, and that's right before final exams. Half my calculus class is already panicking about university admissions.

Brendan: Which is exactly why they need three days without a phone signal.

Joyce: Without a signal? Their parents will love that.

Tessa: Actually, that's a real issue. The board's rules say we need a way to reach every group at all times. If there's no coverage up there—

Brendan: There's a landline at the main lodge, and the staff carry radios. I checked.

Joyce: You've really done your homework on this one.

Brendan: I went there as a kid. Best week of high school. My cousin… sorry, never mind.

Tessa: No, go on.

Brendan: My cousin was painfully shy, barely spoke to anyone. After that week he had friends he still sees twenty years later. You don't get that from a hockey game.

Joyce: Okay, I'm touched, but I'd still want to know about swimming. Not every kid in grade twelve can swim, and I'm not putting a non-swimmer in a canoe.

Brendan: They do a swim test on the first morning. Anyone who doesn't pass stays on the ropes course and the hiking trails.

Tessa: Hmm. So the real question is whether the board will sign off on it, and whether we can get dates earlier in May.

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Joyce: And whether the kids who wanted Montreal will sulk the whole time.

Brendan: Some of them, sure. I'd still rather take that chance.

Tessa: I'll write to the centre tonight about the first week of May. If they can't do it, we're back to Montreal, and nobody argues.

Joyce: I'll believe it when I see their calendar.

Part 6: Fare or Free?

NARRATOR: Few municipal debates generate quite as much heat as the question of whether buses and trains should be free. The idea has an undeniable appeal: no fare boxes, no fumbling for change, and no penalty for the people who can least afford to travel. Yet beneath that simplicity lies a genuinely difficult question about what public transit is for, and who ought to pay for it.

NARRATOR: Among the most persuasive advocates is Miriam Castillo, an urban planner who has advised several mid-sized Canadian cities. Castillo contends that fares are an inefficient way to fund a service the whole community relies on. Collecting them requires machines, inspectors and administrative staff, and in smaller systems those costs can swallow a sizable share of what riders actually hand over. Remove the fare, she argues, and buses board faster, routes run more reliably, and people who drive short distances might reconsider. For residents on tight budgets, the difference between a free ride and a modest fare can decide whether a job interview or a medical appointment is within reach. Her case is strongest in modest systems, where fares never covered much to begin with; in a large city, where riders pay a far bigger share, the arithmetic looks rather different.

NARRATOR: That is precisely the point pressed by transportation economist Howard Lindgren. In his view, what keeps people off buses is rarely the price; it is the wait. A free bus that arrives every forty minutes, he observes, is still a poor substitute for a car. With a limited budget, he would rather pay for more vehicles, longer hours and safer stops than abolish a fare most regular riders already tolerate. He also warns that once fares disappear, politicians may come to regard transit as a charitable handout rather than an essential service, and quietly starve it of investment. Fairness matters, of course, and reduced fares for students, seniors and low-income riders, he suggests, deliver much of it at a fraction of the expense.

NARRATOR: The two positions are considerably closer than the headlines imply. Castillo draws largely on small systems, where crowding is rare; Lindgren has in mind overcrowded routes that a sudden rush of new riders could overwhelm. Perhaps the wiser course is not one answer for every city but a sequence: first make the service worth riding, then make it cheaper, and only then ask whether the fare should vanish altogether. A free ride, after all, is only valuable if it gets you somewhere on time.

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