CELPIP Listening Practice Test 116

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/116 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/116 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

Trouble with an Office Chair

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/116**

1. Why has the woman come to the store?

A to get a refund for her chair
B to complain about a late delivery
C to fix pieces that don't fit
D to have her chair put together

2. Why does the woman want the problem fixed soon?

A She has to go back to the office next week.
B Her current work seat is uncomfortable.
C The store's return period is almost over.
D She needs her kitchen table for her family.

3. What will the man probably do next?

A place an order with the manufacturer
B find longer screws for the armrests
C start a return for the chair
D see if parts are available nearby

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/116**

4. What does the store offer to do?

A mail her the correct armrests
B refund the first delivery charge
C replace her chair with another one
D remove the arms from a brand-new box

5. What is the woman's first concern about the offer?

A She has already thrown away the packaging.
B She thinks the new chair may have the same problem.
C She would rather wait for the right parts.
D She will not be home to receive the chair.

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/116**

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6. What does the man ask the woman to do before the delivery?

A print a copy of her receipt
B collect the wrong pieces together
C be at home for the whole of Thursday
D put the new chair together

7. What does the man give the woman?

A



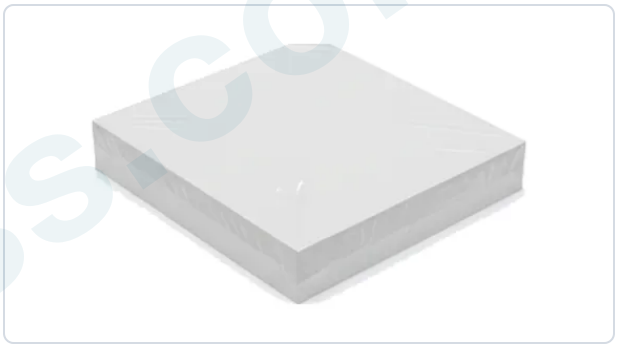
B



C



D



8. What will the woman probably do next?

A go home and wait for the driver
B pick up an item at the back of the store
C buy one of the desk lamps by the front door
D pack the armrests for the driver

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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

A Friend's New Hobby

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/116**

9. What will the man's podcast be about?

A playing video games online
B older residents' memories of the city
C a forgotten dance hall by the waterfront
D how to record and edit sound

10. Why does the man record in his closet?

A The street outside is very noisy.
B His guests feel more relaxed there.
C The clothes make his voice sound better.
D His kitchen is too small for the equipment.

11. What is the man's main worry?

A learning how to edit his recordings
B finding enough people to interview
C paying for his new microphone
D drawing enough listeners

12. Why does the man turn down the woman's offer to help?

A Someone else has done it already.
B He prefers to do every part himself.
C He cannot afford to pay a designer.
D He does not think he needs a cover.

13. Why does the woman mention her uncle Ray?

A to suggest someone who could be a guest
B to recommend a quiet place to record
C to explain how she knows the neighbourhood
D to offer advice about running a business

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Part 3: Listening for Information

A Call to a Children's Clinic

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/116**

14. Why is the man calling?

A to book weekly lessons for his daughter
B to discuss a problem at the daycare
C to arrange an evaluation for his child
D to get a referral to a family doctor

15. Why doesn't the man want to follow his doctor's advice?

A He would rather find out sooner.
B The doctor has never examined Lily.
C Lily's teacher told him not to wait.
D Lily starts school in six months.

16. What did the man expect about the assessment?

A It would be held at Lily's daycare.
B It would be free of charge.
C It would take several visits.
D It would take place online.

17. Why does the woman mention the health unit program?

A to recommend it for later sessions
B to point out a free but slower option
C to explain who pays for the visit
D to suggest it is better for young children

18. What does the woman suggest the man bring?

A a list of words Lily can say
B a note from the family doctor
C a snack for after the session
D something Lily feels attached to

19. What will the man probably do next?

A find out what his insurance covers
B fill in the form about Lily's history
C book a session for an evening
D call the family doctor back

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

A Shop Class Project

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/116**

20. The project took longer than planned mainly because

A the donated wood arrived late.
B Hiltz could only come in once a week.
C part of the work had to be redone.
D the students worked only by hand.

21. Walter Hiltz decided to help because he

A had been asked to help by the teacher.
B had a grandson in the class.
C wanted to sell his old tools.
D feared an old skill was fading.

22. The tools the students used

A had been passed from one generation to the next.
B were donated by local businesses.
C were bought with raffle money.
D were borrowed from the town wharf.

23. We can infer that Dan Mosher

A is disappointed that the boat was finished late.
B believes mistakes can be valuable lessons.
C built boats before he started teaching.
D plans to keep the boat at the school.

24. After the launch, the boat will

A be rowed across the harbour.
B be given to Walter Hiltz.
C be given away in a draw to raise money.
D be turned into a sailboat.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

A Staff Meeting at the Daycare

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/116**

25. What is the main topic of the discussion?

A changing the centre's opening hours
B a complaint from the Larsen family
C dealing with parents who come after closing
D covering staff shifts during appointments

26. Why does Kamal mention the centre in Winnipeg?

A to show that a fine may not solve the problem
B to suggest that the centre should stay open later
C to compare the wages at the two centres
D to explain why parents feel guilty

27. Why does Marlene mention her dentist appointment?

A to ask the others to cover her next shift
B to explain why she was late yesterday
C to show how late pickups affect staff
D to suggest closing earlier on some days

28. Why does Marlene object to a later closing time?

A Parents would only arrive later.
B There is no money for extra staff hours.
C The director would not agree to it.
D The highway is busiest after six.

29. What does Violet believe about the parents who are late every week?

A They are usually stuck in traffic.
B They live too far from the centre.
C They cannot afford to pay a fee.
D They rely on staff to wait.

30. What is most likely true of the director?

A She has already approved the reminder letter.
B She thinks the late fee is too low.
C She may not like hearing criticism of her rule.
D She suggested the pickup buddy idea.

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31. What can we infer about Violet at the end?

A She plans to charge one family anyway.

B She has agreed to lead the meetings.

C She will talk to the director herself.

D She now supports the pickup buddy plan.

32. What is the best subject line for Marlene's message to the director?

A Starting to charge the late fee

B Moving closing time to six-thirty

C A pickup buddy plan for commuting parents

D Two steps: a reminder, then meetings

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Mandatory Retirement

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/116**

33. The report mainly focuses on

A how older employees can stay safe on job sites.
B a fixed retirement age versus judging people one by one.
C why women often retire with smaller pensions.
D how construction firms can hold on to their best apprentices.

34. Leah Brandt's concern about Whitfield's compromise is that

A pensions would still be too small.
B apprentices would keep leaving the firm.
C the standard age would be set too low.
D workers could not decide for themselves.

35. According to Gordon Whitfield, a firm retirement age would

A give younger staff a chance to move up.
B remove workers who can no longer do the job.
C help his company attract staff from rivals.
D reduce what he pays older supervisors.

36. Why does Whitfield mention a loyal employee of forty years?

A to praise the experience of long-serving staff
B to argue that a set age spares people's dignity
C to show that older workers are often unsafe
D to explain why his apprentices leave

37. Leah Brandt would most likely agree that

A older workers should all retire at the same time.
B employers need a known date to plan ahead.
C a worker's age says little about their ability.
D pensions matter less than job performance.

38. The speaker's view of a fixed retirement age is that it is

A fair because the same rule applies to everyone.
B hard to justify for most individual workers.
C acceptable if workers can stay on each year.
D necessary to keep good apprentices.

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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: Trouble with an Office Chair

1 C to fix pieces that don't fit

2 B Her current work seat is uncomfortable.

3 D see if parts are available nearby

4 C replace her chair with another one

5 A She has already thrown away the packaging.

6 B collect the wrong pieces together

7 C Picture C

8 B pick up an item at the back of the store

Part 2: A Friend's New Hobby

9 B older residents' memories of the city

10 C The clothes make his voice sound better.

11 D drawing enough listeners

12 A Someone else has done it already.

13 A to suggest someone who could be a guest

Part 3: A Call to a Children's Clinic

14 C to arrange an evaluation for his child

15 A He would rather find out sooner.

16 D It would take place online.

17 B to point out a free but slower option

18 D something Lily feels attached to

19 A find out what his insurance covers

Part 4: A Shop Class Project

20 C part of the work had to be redone.

21 D feared an old skill was fading.

22 A had been passed from one generation to the next.

23 B believes mistakes can be valuable lessons.

24 C be given away in a draw to raise money.

Part 5: A Staff Meeting at the Daycare

25 C dealing with parents who come after closing

26 A to show that a fine may not solve the problem

27 C to show how late pickups affect staff

28 B There is no money for extra staff hours.

29 D They rely on staff to wait.

30 C She may not like hearing criticism of her rule.

31 A She plans to charge one family anyway.

32 D Two steps: a reminder, then meetings

Part 6: Mandatory Retirement

33 B a fixed retirement age versus judging people one by one.

34 D workers could not decide for themselves.

35 A give younger staff a chance to move up.

36 B to argue that a set age spares people's dignity

37 C a worker's age says little about their ability.

38 B hard to justify for most individual workers.

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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: Trouble with an Office Chair

Section 1

MAN: Hi there, what can I help you with?

WOMAN: Hi. So, I bought a chair here about two weeks ago, the grey mesh one with the adjustable arms? It was delivered on Tuesday, and, well, I've brought part of it back with me.

MAN: Okay. So you'd like to return it, then?

WOMAN: No, no, I actually love the chair. The seat's great, the back's great. It's these armrests. They're from some other model. Look, the holes don't line up with the ones under the seat, not even close.

MAN: Huh. You're right. And these screws are too short as well. Somebody at the factory must have grabbed the wrong bag.

WOMAN: So can you just order the right ones?

MAN: I can, but parts come straight from the manufacturer, and that's usually seven to ten business days.

WOMAN: Ten days? I work from home, and right now I'm sitting at my kitchen table on a wooden chair. By three o'clock my back is killing me.

MAN: I hear you. Okay, before I put in an order, let me try something. Our warehouse in the east end sometimes has extra stock. Can you give me a few minutes?

WOMAN: Sure, take your time.

Section 2

MAN: Okay, good news and, well, mostly good news. The warehouse doesn't keep loose parts, but they do have the same chair in a sealed box.

WOMAN: Oh. So they'd open it and take the arms out for me?

MAN: Not quite. They won't break up a new box. What I can do is swap your whole chair for that one.

WOMAN: Hmm. The thing is, I spent an hour putting mine together last night, and the box is already in the recycling.

MAN: That's fine, honestly. The driver brings the new one fully built and carries yours out just as it is. You won't have to lift a finger.

WOMAN: And the delivery charge? Because I paid $40 the first time.

MAN: Not this time. That one's on us.

WOMAN: Okay. Yeah, that I can live with.

Section 3

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WOMAN: So when would the driver come?

MAN: Thursday, between one and three. He'll text you when he's about half an hour away.

WOMAN: Perfect, I'm home all day anyway. Do I need to print my receipt or anything?

MAN: No, it's all on your account. Just one thing. Put those armrests and the short screws back in a bag and leave them with the chair, so he can take everything in one trip.

WOMAN: Got it. Oh, and while I'm here, those desk lamps by the door, are they on sale too? My kitchen gets so dark in the afternoon.

MAN: The lamps, no, sorry. But here, for the trouble, take one of these footrests. It actually helps your back a lot at a kitchen table.

WOMAN: Oh! You didn't have to do that. Thank you. I guess the lamp can wait, then.

MAN: My pleasure. Anything else today?

WOMAN: Actually, yes. I'm almost out of printer paper. Is that still at the back, past the—

MAN: —past the ink, yep. Aisle twelve.

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Part 2: A Friend's New Hobby

WOMAN: So what's with the giant microphone on your desk? Are you finally going to stream your video games?

MAN: Ha, no, everybody guesses that. I'm starting a podcast. Every week I'll sit down with someone who's lived in Thunder Bay for fifty years or more and just let them talk about how things used to be.

WOMAN: Oh, that's lovely. Like the old movie theatre downtown, that kind of thing?

MAN: Exactly. My grandmother told me about a dance hall by the waterfront I'd never even heard of. And I thought, if nobody records these stories, they're just going to disappear.

WOMAN: And where do you record? Your apartment's right on the main street. Isn't it loud?

MAN: Not too bad, actually. The problem is the echo. My kitchen sounds like a bathroom. So I sit in my bedroom closet. All the coats and sweaters soak up the sound.

WOMAN: In the closet? With your guest?

MAN: No, no, the guests I'll record at their place. Just my intro, I mean, and the little bits in between.

WOMAN: Oh, okay. That makes more sense. Do you need help with anything? I could design a cover picture for you.

MAN: Thanks, but my sister already made one. Honestly, the technical side doesn't worry me much. I've watched about a hundred videos on editing. What keeps me up at night is putting in all those hours and then having, like, four people listen.

WOMAN: Well, I'll be one of the four. And you know my uncle Ray? He ran the hardware store on the corner for almost forty years. He knows everybody, and he never stops talking.

MAN: Seriously? Would he do it?

WOMAN: Are you kidding? He'd love it. And if he likes it, he'll tell the whole neighbourhood. I'm seeing him on Sunday, so—

MAN: —you'll ask him? That would be amazing.

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Part 3: A Call to a Children's Clinic

WOMAN: Good morning, Lakeview Speech and Language Clinic, this is Nadia speaking.

MAN: Hi, good morning. My name's Kevin Tran. I'm calling about my daughter, Lily. She's three and a half, and I'd like to get her checked. Her speech, I mean.

WOMAN: Of course. Can you tell me a little about what you've noticed?

MAN: Well, at home we understand her fine, mostly. But her teacher at daycare pulled me aside last week. She said the other kids often can't tell what Lily's saying, and Lily's started playing on her own because of it.

WOMAN: That's really helpful to know. Has she seen a doctor about it?

MAN: Yes, our family doctor said lots of kids catch up by four and we could just wait and see. But honestly, my wife and I would rather know now than wait another six months.

WOMAN: That makes sense. So, the first step is an assessment with one of our therapists. It takes about ninety minutes, and it's mostly play, so most kids actually enjoy it.

MAN: Great. And is that done on a video call? We did a few doctor's visits that way, and—

WOMAN: Not the first one, no. The therapist needs to see her in person, how she moves her mouth, that sort of thing. Follow-up sessions can sometimes be online.

MAN: Okay, fair enough. And what does it cost?

WOMAN: The assessment is $220. A lot of work benefit plans cover part of it, so it's worth checking yours. I should also mention there's a free program through the health unit, but the wait there is about eight months right now.

MAN: Eight months. Wow. No, I think we'll go with you. When's your next opening?

WOMAN: We have Wednesday the nineteenth at nine-thirty. I can hold it for you until Friday.

MAN: That should work. My shifts are evenings that week. Is there anything we should bring?

WOMAN: I'll email you a short form about her history to fill in before the visit. And bring a favourite toy or a stuffed animal. Kids talk a lot more when they've got something familiar with them.

MAN: She'll bring her rabbit, for sure. Okay, let me call my wife's benefits company this afternoon, and I'll get back to you before Friday.

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Part 4: A Shop Class Project

NARRATOR: A group of high school students in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, watched with excitement on Saturday as a boat they built themselves slid into the harbour for the first time. The six-metre wooden rowboat took their shop class nearly two school years to finish. Teacher Dan Mosher says the idea came from an experienced retired boatbuilder, Walter Hiltz, who offered to volunteer after noticing that hardly any young people in town still knew the traditional methods. Hiltz, now eighty-one, came in twice a week to show students how to carefully shape each board by hand, using tools that once belonged to his father. The project ran well behind schedule, primarily because the class had to start the bottom of the boat over again after a measuring mistake last winter. Still, Mosher says that setback taught the students more than any textbook could. Local businesses donated most of the materials, including the wood and paint. Several hundred residents gathered at the wharf for the launch, cheering as four students rowed the boat across the harbour and back. The boat will be the prize in a community raffle next month, with every dollar supporting next year's class project, a small sailboat.

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Part 5: A Staff Meeting at the Daycare

Marlene: Okay, before the parents start showing up, can we talk about pickups? Yesterday I was here until six-forty with the Larsen twins. That's the third time this month.

Kamal: The twins again? I thought their dad changed jobs so he could get here earlier.

Marlene: No, that was the Osei family. Different family. Anyway, it's not just the Larsens. I went back through the sign-out sheets, and we've had late pickups almost every week since September.

Violet: The policy already says a dollar a minute after six. Why don't we just start charging it? We've never once actually done it.

Kamal: Because a dollar a minute isn't going to scare anyone. When I worked at a centre in Winnipeg, they started charging a late fee, and pickups got later, not earlier. Parents treated it like paying for extra babysitting. They just stopped feeling bad.

Violet: Huh. So the fee made it worse?

Kamal: Pretty much. Feeling guilty was doing more work than the fine ever did.

Marlene: Well, guilt isn't working here either. And it's not fair on whoever's closing. I had a dentist appointment yesterday that I had to cancel, and I'd waited a month for it.

Violet: What if we moved closing time to six-thirty? Late would still be late, but we'd have a cushion.

Marlene: And who pays for that extra half hour? The board already cut our hours once this year.

Kamal: Okay, what about this. Instead of punishing everyone, we find out why. Some of these parents work downtown, and the highway at five-thirty is a parking lot. If we knew which families they were, we could set them up with a pickup buddy, another parent who lives nearby.

Violet: Handing kids to other parents? The paperwork alone would take months. And honestly, the parents who are late every week aren't stuck in traffic. They just know we'll wait.

Marlene: That's a bit harsh, Violet.

Violet: Is it? The Larsens live four blocks away.

Marlene: Okay, fair point. But we can't build a whole policy around one family.

Kamal: So maybe two steps. A friendly reminder letter to everyone first, and then a sit-down meeting with any family that's late three times.

Violet: A meeting. With me, at six-forty, I suppose.

Marlene: I'll bring it to the director on Thursday. Though she's the one who wrote the dollar-a-minute rule in the first place, so I'm not sure how she'll feel hearing that it doesn't work.

Kamal: Tell her it worked beautifully on paper.

Violet: Well, either way, the Larsens are getting a bill.

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Part 6: Mandatory Retirement

NARRATOR: For much of the last century, a sixty-fifth birthday at work came with a cake, a handshake and, very often, a letter saying your job was over. Across most of Canada, that kind of forced retirement has long since been phased out as a form of age discrimination. Yet the idea refuses to fade entirely, and some employers argue they should once again be allowed to set a firm retirement age, at least in certain physically demanding lines of work.

NARRATOR: Gordon Whitfield, who runs a family construction company outside Red Deer, is among them. His argument is not that older workers lack ability; several of his best site supervisors are in their late sixties. His concern is planning. Without a known end date, he says, he cannot promise younger employees a path upward, and talented apprentices drift away to competitors where senior positions actually open up. A small company, he notes, has only so many senior roles to offer. A firm age limit, in his view, would also spare everyone a painful conversation. Telling a loyal employee of forty years that his eyesight or balance is no longer safe on a roof is, as he puts it, far more humiliating than a date on a calendar that applies to everyone equally.

NARRATOR: Employment lawyer Leah Brandt finds that reasoning understandable but, in the end, unconvincing. A birthday, she argues, tells an employer almost nothing about a particular person. Some sixty-eight-year-olds are sharper than colleagues half their age, while others need support at fifty. Brandt would rather see employers judge every worker on what they can actually do, whatever their age, through regular and transparent assessments. She also rightly raises the question of money. Many Canadians, particularly women who spent years away from paid work raising children, reach their sixties with modest pensions, and pushing them out on a fixed date could leave them struggling for decades.

NARRATOR: Whitfield has since softened his position somewhat. He now proposes a standard retirement age, with the option to keep working year by year if both sides agree. Brandt calls this a step in the right direction, though she worries that the employer would hold all the power in those yearly decisions. It is a reasonable worry, and one Whitfield has yet to answer convincingly. On balance, a number on a birth certificate seems a rather blunt tool for a decision this personal.

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