CELPIP Listening Practice Test 53

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/53 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/53 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

Returning a Mislabelled Cake

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/53**

1. Why did the woman come to the counter?

A to order a new birthday cake
B to report that a child got sick
C to get her money back
D to complain about a rude employee

2. What was wrong with the cake?

A Its label was inaccurate.
B It was smaller than she expected.
C It was not ready on time for the party.
D It had gone stale overnight.

3. What did the children eat at the party?

A



B



C



D



▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/53**

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4. Why can't the man find the cake on the record?

A The woman's card was declined.
B Another person paid for it.
C The bakery forgot to charge for it.
D The system is slow on weekends.

5. How does the woman feel about the store credit?

A She accepts it without enthusiasm.
B She is delighted with it.
C She thinks the amount is too low.
D She refuses to take it.

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/53**

6. Why does the man want to keep the cake?

A so that he can give her a replacement
B so that it can be examined
C because store policy requires it for refunds
D to show it to the woman's husband

7. What will probably happen to the other Friday cakes?

A They will be taken off sale.
B They will be relabelled as containing nuts.
C They will be sold at a discount.
D They will be sent to the woman's home.

8. What will the woman most likely do next?

A choose a new cake from the bakery
B go to the swimming lessons
C fill out the incident report
D contact her husband

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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

Choosing a Shelter Cat

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/53**

9. Why is the woman now able to have a cat?

A She has moved to a larger apartment.
B She has started working from home.
C Her landlord no longer asks for a deposit.
D Her building's rules have changed.

10. Why does the man warn the woman about kittens?

A They cost more to insure.
B They can cause a lot of disruption.
C They often develop expensive health problems.
D They are hard to find at shelters.

11. Why is the fee for Biscuit lower?

A He has some health problems.
B He must be the only pet.
C Older cats are rarely adopted.
D His teeth have not been cleaned.

12. What does the man imply about the woman's plan to get only one cat?

A She may change her mind later.
B She should adopt both cats now.
C Biscuit would be lonely on his own.
D She cannot afford two cats.

13. What is the man's opinion of adopting Biscuit?

A The cat is too old to adopt.
B It seems like a sensible choice.
C A kitten would be a better fit.
D The insurance would cost too much.

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Part 3: Listening for Information

Checking In at a Campground

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/53**

14. Why can't the man use his own firewood?

A Fires are banned at the moment.
B It is too damp to burn properly.
C Campers may only burn wood bought at the gate.
D It might bring in harmful pests.

15. What does the woman imply about the firewood rule?

A It was introduced only this week.
B It applies only to the east loops.
C Many campers do not know about it.
D It is not mentioned on the website.

16. What must campers do with their food?

A keep it in a cooler beside the tent
B store it away between meals
C hand it in at the booth overnight
D eat only at the beach picnic area

17. What would happen if the fire risk increased?

A Cooking would be limited to stoves.
B Fires would only be allowed in steel rings.
C The campground would close early.
D Campers would receive a partial refund.

18. Why is the Lakeview loop strict about noise?

A because many families camp there
B because a bear has been seen nearby
C to avoid disturbing some birds
D because generators are not allowed there

19. How does the man react to the firewood rule at first?

A He is relieved.
B He is confused.
C He is unconcerned.
D He is slightly annoyed.

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

A Teenager's Snow-Clearing Robot

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/53**

20. Owen built the robot mainly because

A his morning chore was interfering with school.
B his neighbour asked him to.
C he wanted to win a national science competition.
D his snowblower had broken down.

21. The first version of the robot

A was too slow to be useful.
B was designed by his grandfather.
C could not be steered by phone.
D kept falling over on ice.

22. Doris Lalonde suggests that she

A would like a robot of her own.
B enjoyed chatting with Owen.
C finds the robot too noisy.
D preferred clearing snow herself.

23. Owen intends to

A sell his design to a company.
B enter a competition in Ottawa.
C help someone else on his street.
D spend his scholarship on new parts.

24. We can infer that the engineering companies

A helped Owen build the first prototype.
B organized the competition in Ottawa.
C have already bought the design.
D see commercial potential in the robot.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

Choosing a Condo Security System

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/53**

25. What led the board to look for a new security system?

A The old keys stopped working.
B Owners voted for a guard last year.
C Deliveries were stolen from the building.
D The reserve fund had grown.

26. Why does Vanessa object to the guard?

A A guard cannot stop people at the door.
B It would drain the building's savings.
C A guard would only work at night.
D Residents would need a phone app.

27. How did the thief get into the building in March?

A by slipping in after a resident
B by buzzing a resident on the intercom
C by using a copied key
D by delivering a parcel to the lobby

28. What is Raj's main point about the cameras?

A They would cost too much to install.
B They would not record faces clearly.
C They would only work through the app.
D They would not prevent a theft.

29. Why does Raj mention his mother?

A to point out that her parcel was stolen
B to suggest that she join the board
C to show that some owners may struggle with the technology
D to explain why he lives on the fourth floor

30. What does Vanessa suggest about the owners?

A They spend a long time on minor decisions.
B Most of them would prefer a guard.
C Most of them do not own cellphones.
D They will accept what the board recommends.

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31. What is most likely true at the end of the discussion?

A The board has chosen the guard.

B The board has not settled how to present the options.

C Tara has already contacted the company.

D Raj has agreed to present a single option.

32. What is the best subject line for Tara's email to the company?

A Booking an overnight lobby guard

B Cancelling our electronic fob order

C Request for a lower price on the video intercom

D Locker alerts for residents without phones

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Self-Checkout Machines

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/53**

33. The speaker's main purpose is to

A question who really benefits from self-checkouts.
B explain how to use self-checkouts properly.
C argue that stores should rehire cashiers.
D report on rising theft in British stores.

34. According to Daniel Okafor, self-checkouts

A have led to lower prices for shoppers.
B are especially popular with older customers.
C have caused many cashiers to lose their jobs.
D offer more privacy for some purchases.

35. Lise Bergeron believes shoppers

A steal more often at the machines.
B should receive a discount for scanning.
C are doing work that stores used to pay for.
D find the machines faster than cashiers.

36. Okafor thinks that stores removing machines

A proves that Bergeron is right.
B does not mean self-checkout is finished.
C was caused by complaints from frustrated shoppers.
D will soon spread to Canadian chains.

37. Bergeron mentions honest customers being accused in order to show that

A shoplifting has fallen since the machines arrived.
B stores need more security guards.
C the machines create new problems for shoppers.
D older shoppers are more likely to steal.

38. The speaker's attitude toward self-checkout is

A enthusiastic.
B skeptical.
C indifferent.
D hostile.

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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: Returning a Mislabelled Cake

1 C to get her money back

2 A Its label was inaccurate.

3 D Picture D

4 B Another person paid for it.

5 A She accepts it without enthusiasm.

6 B so that it can be examined

7 A They will be taken off sale.

8 D contact her husband

Part 2: Choosing a Shelter Cat

9 D Her building's rules have changed.

10 B They can cause a lot of disruption.

11 C Older cats are rarely adopted.

12 A She may change her mind later.

13 B It seems like a sensible choice.

Part 3: Checking In at a Campground

14 D It might bring in harmful pests.

15 C Many campers do not know about it.

16 B store it away between meals

17 A Cooking would be limited to stoves.

18 C to avoid disturbing some birds

19 D He is slightly annoyed.

Part 4: A Teenager's Snow-Clearing Robot

20 A his morning chore was interfering with school.

21 D kept falling over on ice.

22 B enjoyed chatting with Owen.

23 C help someone else on his street.

24 D see commercial potential in the robot.

Part 5: Choosing a Condo Security System

25 C Deliveries were stolen from the building.

26 B It would drain the building's savings.

27 A by slipping in after a resident

28 D They would not prevent a theft.

29 C to show that some owners may struggle with the technology

30 A They spend a long time on minor decisions.

31 B The board has not settled how to present the options.

32 D Locker alerts for residents without phones

Part 6: Self-Checkout Machines

33 A question who really benefits from self-checkouts.

34 D offer more privacy for some purchases.

35 C are doing work that stores used to pay for.

36 B does not mean self-checkout is finished.

37 C the machines create new problems for shoppers.

38 B skeptical.

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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: Returning a Mislabelled Cake

Section 1

MAN: Good morning. What can I help you with?

WOMAN: Hi. I'd like to return this. Well, get a refund, really. I bought this cake here yesterday for my son's birthday party, and, um, have a look at the label.

MAN: Nut-free. Okay…

WOMAN: Right. Except there was a layer of almond paste in the middle. One of the boys coming over has a serious nut allergy, so we couldn't serve it. We ended up with gas station cupcakes at six o'clock. Which the kids loved, of course.

MAN: Oh no. I'm so sorry. Was anybody—

WOMAN: No, no, nobody ate any, thank goodness. But honestly, if I hadn't looked…

MAN: I understand. Do you have your receipt with you?

WOMAN: That's the thing. It was in one of the bags, and they went out with the recycling.

MAN: That's okay. If you paid by card, I can look it up.

WOMAN: Debit. Here you go.

MAN: Thanks. Just give me a moment while it searches. It's always a bit slow on weekends.

Section 2

MAN: Okay, here it is. Yesterday afternoon, at about a quarter past four. Hmm. That's strange, though.

WOMAN: What's strange?

MAN: There's no cake on here. I see milk, bananas, a bag of rice… but no cake.

WOMAN: That's impossible. I— oh. Oh, wait. My husband picked up the cake. He came in on his way home from work. I just did the groceries.

MAN: Ah. So it would be on his card, then.

WOMAN: Probably. And he's at home with the kids right now, and he's not exactly quick at answering texts…

MAN: Without the purchase on record, I can't refund it to a card. But I can give you store credit for the label price, $38. Or the bakery can make you a new one, properly nut-free, by tomorrow.

WOMAN: A cake for a party that's already over? No, thanks. Store credit's fine, I suppose. I'd much rather have the money back, though.

Section 3

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MAN: Before I do that, I need a few details for an incident report. Allergy labelling problems go straight to head office.

WOMAN: Oh. Sure. Will it take long? I've got frozen things in my cart.

MAN: Two minutes, tops. You still have the rest of the cake?

WOMAN: It's right here. We only cut one slice, so most of it's left.

MAN: Perfect, I'll hang on to it. They'll want it tested. And it was made Friday, so there could be more from that batch out on the shelf. I'll get someone to pull those right now.

WOMAN: Good. Honestly, that's what worried me most. Imagine a parent who didn't check.

MAN: Exactly. Hang on, my phone's buzzing… it's my manager. She says since you flagged this, she'll refund your husband's card in full if he brings it in. Plus a $20 gift card for your trouble.

WOMAN: Oh! Well, that's more than fair. He's dropping the kids at swimming lessons around the corner at eleven. Let me just see if he can swing by after.

MAN: Sure. I'll finish up this report in the meantime.

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Part 2: Choosing a Shelter Cat

WOMAN: So, guess where I spent Saturday afternoon. The animal shelter on Fraser Street.

MAN: No way. You? You told me last year you weren't a pet person.

WOMAN: I said I wasn't a dog person. Totally different. Anyway, my landlord finally changed the rules in our building, so cats are allowed now, as long as you pay a deposit. And with me working from home, the apartment's just so quiet all day. I've started talking to my plants.

MAN: Ha. Okay, so did you see one you liked?

WOMAN: Two, actually, and that's my problem. There's a kitten, about four months old, grey, completely adorable. And then there's this older guy, Biscuit. He's nine, and he just climbed into my lap and sat there the whole time, like he'd known me forever.

MAN: Let me guess. You're leaning toward the kitten.

WOMAN: Well, everyone says get a kitten, so it grows up with you. But—

MAN: Honestly? I'd think twice. When we got Pepper as a kitten, she climbed the curtains, chewed through every cable in the house, and woke us up at four in the morning for about a year. Cute, sure, but exhausting. And you're on video calls all day.

WOMAN: Hmm. I hadn't thought about the calls. But isn't a nine-year-old cat going to have health problems? I don't want huge vet bills a year from now.

MAN: Not necessarily. Did they say anything about his health?

WOMAN: The woman there said he's just had a full checkup, and his teeth were cleaned. Oh, and the adoption fee for older cats is only $50, compared to $175 for kittens, because hardly anybody takes them home. Which is kind of sad, actually.

MAN: Well, there you go. Fifty bucks and a lap cat. Though you should still look into pet insurance. It costs more for older cats.

WOMAN: Right. Oh, and Biscuit has to be the only pet in the home. Which is fine, obviously. I'm only getting one.

MAN: Famous last words. That's exactly what I said before Pepper's sister moved in.

WOMAN: Okay, okay. I'm going back Thursday after work. Want to come? You can tell me if I'm making a mistake.

MAN: Only if I'm allowed to say no to the kitten.

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Part 3: Checking In at a Campground

MAN: Hi there. We've got a reservation under Kowalski. Two nights.

WOMAN: Welcome to Sandy Point! Let me just find you… Kowalski, site forty-two. Oh, you're in the Lakeview loop. Lucky you. Before I hand over your permit, I have to go through a few rules. Have you camped with us before?

MAN: Not here, no. We usually go up to Algonquin.

WOMAN: Okay. First thing, and I have to ask everyone: did you bring any firewood from home?

MAN: Uh, yeah, actually. A couple of bundles in the trunk. Is that a problem?

WOMAN: I'm afraid it is. Wood from outside the area can carry insects that kill our trees, the emerald ash borer especially, so we can't let it in. You can leave it with me and we'll get rid of it, and we sell local bundles right here at the booth, $9 each.

MAN: Oh. Well, I wish the website had said something.

WOMAN: It's on there, honestly, but it's buried pretty deep. You're the fourth one today. Next thing, wildlife. There's been a black bear wandering around the east loops this week. He hasn't bothered anyone, but every bit of food, coolers, dishes, even toothpaste, has to go in your car or in the metal locker at your site unless you're right there eating. Rangers do check, and the fine's $150.

MAN: Toothpaste? Really?

WOMAN: Anything with a smell. Bears aren't fussy.

MAN: Okay. And, um, my kids were asking about the beach. Can they swim?

WOMAN: They can, but there's no lifeguard after Labour Day, so you'd be keeping an eye on them yourself. And no dogs on that beach. There's a separate dog beach past the boat launch.

MAN: No dog, so we're fine there. What about campfires? The kids are dying to make s'mores.

WOMAN: Right now, fires are allowed in the steel rings only. But it's been very dry, and if the fire risk goes up to high, there'll be a total ban, even in the rings. We'd post it on the board out by the gate, and the rangers would come round. You could still use a camp stove, though.

MAN: So, fingers crossed. And quiet hours?

WOMAN: Eleven at night to seven in the morning. Generators, music, all of it. Lakeview's especially strict because of the—

MAN: The families, yeah. I figured.

WOMAN: Actually, it's the loons. There's a nesting pair just off the point, so we keep things down. Okay, here's your permit. Hang it on your mirror. And whenever you're thinking about a fire, the board at the gate is…

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MAN: …where I look first. Got it.

Part 4: A Teenager's Snow-Clearing Robot

NARRATOR: A teenager in Sudbury, Ontario, has transformed a dreaded winter chore into an award-winning invention. Last winter, sixteen-year-old Owen Tremblay shovelled the driveway of his elderly neighbour, Doris Lalonde, every snowy morning before school, and frequently arrived late for his first class. Determined to find an alternative, he constructed a compact, battery-powered robot from salvaged components, including the motor of a discarded electric wheelchair and the blade of a broken snowblower. Operated through a smartphone application he programmed himself, the machine clears a typical driveway in roughly twenty minutes while Tremblay finishes breakfast. His first prototype, he admits, repeatedly toppled over on icy patches until his grandfather suggested replacing its wheels with wider rubber tracks. Last month, the invention captured first prize at a national science competition in Ottawa, along with a $5,000 scholarship. Several engineering companies have since contacted the family, but Tremblay insists he is in no hurry to sell the design. For now, his priority is building a second robot for another neighbour down the street. Lalonde, for her part, confesses she rather misses their morning conversations at the end of the driveway.

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Part 5: Choosing a Condo Security System

Tara: Okay, last item tonight is the security system. After everything that happened in the lobby, we promised owners we'd bring a recommendation to the annual meeting. We've got three quotes.

Raj: And they're all over the map. The cheapest is just replacing the old keys with electronic fobs, about $12,000. Then there's the video intercom with the phone app, closer to $30,000. And the security company wants to put a guard in the lobby overnight, which is around $4,000 a month.

Vanessa: A month? That's… no. That's almost fifty thousand a year, every year. Our reserve fund would be gone by spring.

Tara: Well, not quite by spring, but I take your point. Personally, I'd rule out the guard.

Raj: I'm not so sure. A guard's the only option that would actually stop somebody in the act. A fob doesn't stop anyone who just walks in behind a resident. That's exactly how that guy got the parcels in March, remember? Stood by the door holding a pizza box.

Vanessa: Okay, but the intercom has cameras. If someone follows a resident in, at least we'd have his face on video.

Raj: On video, sure. After the fact. Mrs. Kowalczyk's package is still gone, camera or no camera.

Tara: What about the parcels themselves, though? Half the problem is they just sit in the lobby all day. Couldn't we deal with that separately?

Vanessa: The intercom company does a parcel locker add-on. Couriers get a one-time code, and the resident gets a text. It's another $6,000, I think. Or was it eight?

Raj: Six. I've got the quote right here. Six, including installation.

Tara: So intercom plus lockers is thirty-six. Still well under one year of a guard.

Raj: Fine, I see the math. But a lot of our owners are retired, and I can already hear the phone calls. My own mother's on the fourth floor, and she still prints out her emails.

Vanessa: The intercom still works with a regular buzzer, doesn't it? The app's just extra.

Raj: For visitors, yes. But the lockers send a text. What if you don't have a cellphone at all?

Tara: Hmm. That, I honestly don't know. We'd better find out before the meeting.

Vanessa: Honestly, whatever we pick, the owners are going to argue about it for an hour. They spent two whole meetings on the colour of the hallway carpet.

Tara: Don't remind me. So are we presenting just the one option, or all three?

Raj: All three. If we hand them just one, they'll feel we've already decided for them.

Vanessa: Or we hand them one and skip the carpet debate all over again.

Tara: Let's… sleep on that part. I'll email the company about the text thing tomorrow.

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Part 6: Self-Checkout Machines

NARRATOR: Not long ago, the self-checkout lane was heralded as the future of shopping: no queues, no small talk, no waiting while a cashier tracked down a price. Proponents promised efficiency; critics predicted frustration. Today, these machines are ubiquitous in Canadian supermarkets, pharmacies and hardware stores. Yet a growing number of shoppers are beginning to wonder whether the convenience was ever really intended for them.

NARRATOR: Retail consultant Daniel Okafor maintains that the technology has been unfairly maligned. In his view, self-checkouts give customers something they value enormously: control. A shopper buying three items no longer has to stand behind someone with an overflowing cart, and surveys consistently suggest that younger customers prefer scanning their own groceries. Okafor also observes that certain purchases, medication, for instance, are simply more comfortable to make without a cashier looking on. As for the frequently repeated complaint about lost jobs, he contends that most cashiers have been reassigned to stocking shelves or assembling online orders rather than dismissed. He points out, moreover, that a single attendant can supervise half a dozen machines, which allows stores to keep more lanes open during the evening rush.

NARRATOR: Consumer advocate Lise Bergeron paints a rather different picture. Shoppers, she argues, have been quietly conscripted into unpaid labour: scanning, bagging, and summoning assistance every time a machine announces an unexpected item in the bagging area. Bergeron is particularly troubled by the experience of elderly customers and people with disabilities, who often find the screens bewildering, and by a rise in honest customers being wrongly accused of shoplifting after an accidental missed scan. She recounts the story of a retired schoolteacher in Winnipeg who was stopped at the exit and searched, in front of her neighbours, over a single unscanned lemon. Such incidents, Bergeron insists, are hardly isolated, and the humiliation lingers long after the misunderstanding is resolved. The savings, she adds pointedly, have seldom appeared in lower prices.

NARRATOR: Interestingly, the industry itself appears to be having second thoughts. Several large chains in Britain and the United States have removed machines, or restricted them to small baskets, after theft losses climbed. Some retailers have even reintroduced staffed express lanes, advertising them as a premium service. Okafor dismisses this as a temporary adjustment rather than a retreat. Perhaps. But when the very companies that championed self-checkout begin quietly rolling it back, shoppers might be forgiven for asking whom the machines were really designed to serve.

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