CELPIP Listening Practice Test 54

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/54 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/54 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

The Noisy Washing Machine

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/54**

1. What problem does the woman describe?

A The machine will not fill with water.
B Her clothes are still dirty after the wash cycle.
C The machine does not empty completely.
D Water leaks onto the basement floor.

2. What does the man suspect at first?

A The motor has worn out.
B Something is blocking a part.
C The drum was damaged by heavy gear.
D The machine was overloaded with towels.

3. What does the woman misunderstand?

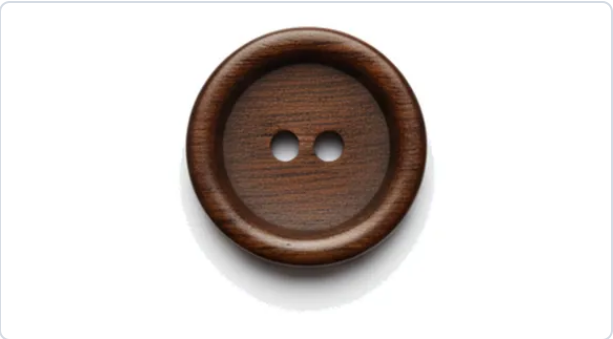
A which part might be broken
B when the noise first began
C who used the machine last
D how long the repair will take

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/54**

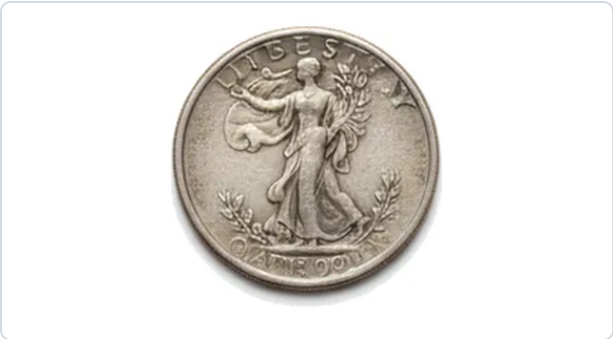
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4. What does the man find in the pump?

A



B



C



D



5. Why does the man recommend repairing the machine?

A The repair would cost less than $90.

B Its other parts are working well.

C New front-loaders are hard to find.

D The pump is still under warranty.

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/54**

6. Why does the woman need the machine soon?

A Her daughter has a hockey game.

B The warehouse closes for the holiday.

C She is busy on Wednesday.

D She is expecting guests.

7. What does the man say about today's visit?

A It is free of charge.

B It must be paid for in cash before he leaves.

C It costs the same as the new part.

D It will be charged together with the repair.

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8. What will probably happen on Thursday?

A The technician will come in the evening.

B The woman will take the morning off work.

C The office will deliver the part to her.

D Her husband will let the technician in.

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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

After the Interview

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/54**

9. How does the woman feel about her interview?

A unsure of how it went
B confident that she will be hired
C embarrassed about her salary request
D annoyed with the recruiter

10. Which question did the woman handle poorly?

A one about the warehouse system
B one about the salary she expected
C one about a past mistake
D one about managing a team of staff

11. Why does the man mention one of the team leads?

A to show that a weak answer need not cost her the job
B to suggest she ask for a higher salary in her next interview
C to recommend him for her new team
D to warn her about the director

12. Why does the woman want the new job?

A It offers a shorter commute and more responsibility.
B She does not get along with Graham.
C It pays much more than her current job.
D She wants to keep working on warehouses.

13. What does the man advise the woman to do?

A ask the recruiter about the written exercise
B wait until next week before contacting them
C tell Graham about her plans
D give a better answer in a follow-up message

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Part 3: Listening for Information

A Meal Plan with a Dietitian

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/54**

14. What has the man been doing for the past two weeks?

A eating mostly protein
B skipping his blood tests
C having dessert instead of breakfast most days
D avoiding starchy foods entirely

15. According to the woman, why does cutting out carbohydrates often fail?

A It raises blood sugar too quickly.
B Vegetables do not contain enough fibre.
C People overeat later in the day.
D Most people miss the taste of pasta.

16. Why is breakfast difficult for the man?

A His wife leaves home before he does.
B His workday often starts very early.
C He does not like oats or fruit.
D He drives a long distance to work.

17. What does the man's comment about his wife's breakfast suggest?

A His wife already follows a meal plan.
B He has never tasted it before.
C He did not think of it as healthy.
D His wife will prepare it for him.

18. What does the woman suggest about coffee?

A giving it up for a month
B drinking it only during breaks
C reducing the sugar a little at a time
D replacing it with a small bag of nuts at break

19. What will probably happen in six weeks?

A They will check whether the changes are working.
B He will start taking new medication.
C She will send him a list of recipes.
D He will move to a later shift.

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

A Lighthouse Brought Back to Life

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/54**

20. The lighthouse was taken out of service because

A storms had destroyed its windows.
B its foundation was found to be unsafe.
C the government could no longer afford it.
D technology made its keeper unnecessary.

21. In its second year, the project was threatened by

A a shortage of volunteers.
B a structural problem.
C the loss of a provincial grant.
D a disagreement over who owned the tower.

22. Most of the money for the restoration came from

A a government grant.
B visitors' admission fees.
C sales of a book.
D the retired fishermen's savings.

23. When the lighthouse reopens, its light will

A serve no practical purpose.
B guide ships along the coast again.
C be switched on only on weekends.
D be replaced by an automated beacon.

24. We can infer that Marion Doucette

A expects the lighthouse to earn large profits.
B regrets taking over the lighthouse.
C plans to publish another cookbook.
D is concerned about paying for upkeep.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

A Garden on the Roof

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/54**

25. What has the building manager done?

A agreed to pay for an engineer
B offered the middle of the roof
C given conditional permission
D banned the use of containers

26. Why does Kenji mention his brother-in-law's project?

A to recommend an engineer he knows
B to suggest a co-op in Hamilton as a model for costs
C to support Nicole's point about weight
D to show that rooftop gardens are inexpensive

27. What problem does Nicole raise about water?

A Rain barrels are not allowed on the roof.
B The building charges extra for water.
C It would have to be carried up the stairs.
D The tap on the roof is broken.

28. What does Kenji correct?

A the cost of the engineer's letter
B the number of planters on the roof
C the floor where the elevator stops
D how many households signed up

29. What is Kenji's attitude toward the rain barrels?

A He thinks they are a clever idea.
B He doubts they would solve the problem.
C He worries about what they would cost.
D He believes the manager would refuse them.

30. Why can't Mei do the watering in August?

A She works most evenings during the summer.
B She is moving to Richmond.
C She will be visiting Hamilton.
D She will be away for a family event.

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31. What does Nicole suggest near the end?

A giving each household one week of watering

B testing interest on a smaller scale

C asking the manager for more space

D growing only tomatoes this year

32. What is the best subject line for a follow-up email to the residents?

A Roof garden: some questions first

B Roof garden approved, planting starts in May

C Sign up now for your weekly watering shift

D Please send $55 for the engineer

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Making Voting Mandatory

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/54**

33. According to Andrea Kowalski, compulsory voting would make politicians

A spend less money on their campaigns.
B focus more closely on older citizens.
C pay more attention to Australia.
D respond to more groups of voters.

34. Marcus Bell mentions research from Australia in order to

A show that uninformed voters may affect results.
B prove that turnout there is falling.
C support the use of blank ballots.
D argue that online voting is secure.

35. Why does Kowalski compare voting to jury duty?

A to stress that only attendance is required
B to argue that fines should be higher
C to suggest that voters need training
D to explain why young people do not vote in elections

36. Instead of compulsory voting, Bell would prefer

A a smaller fine for people who abstain.
B better education and easier ways to vote.
C ballots listing names in random order.
D fewer elections.

37. What weakness in her own proposal does Kowalski acknowledge?

A Online voting would be far too risky to introduce across Canada.
B Penalties could burden the people she wants to include.
C Blank ballots would not be counted.
D Turnout in Australia has dropped.

38. What is the speaker's attitude toward the debate?

A It has been settled in Kowalski's favour.
B It may be useful whatever its outcome.
C It distracts from more pressing issues.
D It is unlikely to interest young people.

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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: The Noisy Washing Machine

1 C The machine does not empty completely.

2 B Something is blocking a part.

3 A which part might be broken

4 C Picture C

5 B Its other parts are working well.

6 D She is expecting guests.

7 D It will be charged together with the repair.

8 D Her husband will let the technician in.

Part 2: After the Interview

9 A unsure of how it went

10 C one about a past mistake

11 A to show that a weak answer need not cost her the job

12 A It offers a shorter commute and more responsibility.

13 D give a better answer in a follow-up message

Part 3: A Meal Plan with a Dietitian

14 D avoiding starchy foods entirely

15 C People overeat later in the day.

16 B His workday often starts very early.

17 C He did not think of it as healthy.

18 C reducing the sugar a little at a time

19 A They will check whether the changes are working.

Part 4: A Lighthouse Brought Back to Life

20 D technology made its keeper unnecessary.

21 B a structural problem.

22 C sales of a book.

23 A serve no practical purpose.

24 D is concerned about paying for upkeep.

Part 5: A Garden on the Roof

25 C given conditional permission

26 C to support Nicole's point about weight

27 C It would have to be carried up the stairs.

28 D how many households signed up

29 B He doubts they would solve the problem.

30 D She will be away for a family event.

31 B testing interest on a smaller scale

32 A Roof garden: some questions first

Part 6: Making Voting Mandatory

33 D respond to more groups of voters.

34 A show that uninformed voters may affect results.

35 A to stress that only attendance is required

36 B better education and easier ways to vote.

37 B Penalties could burden the people she wants to include.

38 B It may be useful whatever its outcome.

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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: The Noisy Washing Machine

Section 1

MAN: Hi, I'm here about the washing machine?

WOMAN: Yes, come in, thanks. It's downstairs. Sorry about the mess, I've been doing laundry in the bathtub all week.

MAN: No worries. So what's it doing, exactly?

WOMAN: It fills up and washes fine, but at the end there's still water sitting in the drum. And it makes this awful grinding noise, like… like it's chewing gravel.

MAN: Okay. When did the noise start?

WOMAN: Last weekend. My daughter washed her hockey gear, and, well, I think that was the first time I heard it.

MAN: Hockey gear. Hmm. Let me pull the front panel off. Okay, see this down at the bottom? That's the drain pump. I'd bet something's caught in there. Kids' gear has a lot of little bits. Laces, tape, the odd coin.

WOMAN: So it's the motor? Because my neighbour said if it's the motor, I should just buy a new machine.

MAN: No, no, not the motor, the pump. The motor turns the drum, and that's working fine. You said yourself it washes properly. The pump just pushes the water out. Give me a few minutes and I'll know more.

Section 2

MAN: Okay, mystery solved. Look at this.

WOMAN: Is that… a mouthguard?

MAN: Half of one. The other half was jammed in the pump, and it's cracked the housing. So the pump has to be replaced. The part's about $90, plus labour, so you're looking at roughly $250 altogether.

WOMAN: Two hundred and fifty. Honestly, the machine's eleven years old. Is it even worth it? I could put that toward a new one.

MAN: That's your call, of course. But a new front-loader's going to run you nine hundred at least, and this one's in good shape otherwise. The bearings are quiet, the door seal's fine. If it were mine, I'd fix it.

WOMAN: Okay, then. Fix it. And I'm going to have a little word with my daughter.

Section 3

MAN: So, the bad news is I don't carry this pump on the truck. I'll have to order it from the warehouse in Saskatoon. Normally that's two or three days.

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WOMAN: Two or three days. I've got… I'm hosting my whole family for Thanksgiving on Sunday. Tablecloths, napkins, all of it.

MAN: Ah. Well, here's one option. I can put the old pump back for now, without the mouthguard. It'll drain, mostly, but it'll be loud, and the crack might drip a bit.

WOMAN: That's fine, I can live with loud. A drip, though—

MAN: —just put a baking tray under that corner. It won't be much, I promise. And I won't bill you separately for today. It'll all go on one invoice when I come back.

WOMAN: Oh, that's kind. When would that be?

MAN: The office will call you once the part's in. Probably Wednesday or Thursday. Mornings work best for me.

WOMAN: Mornings are tricky, I start work at eight. But my husband's home on Thursdays.

MAN: Then Thursday it is, as long as the part cooperates.

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Part 2: After the Interview

MAN: Hey, so? How'd it go yesterday? You've been suspiciously quiet all morning.

WOMAN: Shh, not so loud. Honestly? I have no idea. The first part was great. They asked about the warehouse system I set up last year, and I could've talked about that for hours. Then the director came in and asked me to describe a time I'd failed, and my mind just went completely blank.

MAN: Oh no. What did you say?

WOMAN: I said something about being too much of a perfectionist. Which, I know, is the oldest dodge in the book. I could actually see her stop taking notes.

MAN: Ouch. But look, one bad answer out of, what, an hour? I sat on the hiring panel here last spring, and nobody gets every question right. We hired a guy who completely fumbled the salary question, and he's one of our best team leads now.

WOMAN: Maybe. It's just… I really want this one. It's the first time I've actually wanted to leave.

MAN: Because of Graham? I mean, I know he's been on your case since the reorganization—

WOMAN: No, no, it's not Graham. He's fine, really. It's the drive. Forty-five minutes each way, and their office is ten minutes from my place. Plus I'd finally be running projects myself instead of just tracking everybody else's.

MAN: Okay, that makes sense. So when do you hear back?

WOMAN: They said by the end of next week. But the recruiter mentioned there might be a second round, some kind of written exercise.

MAN: Then you've got another shot. Here's what I'd do: send a thank-you email today, short, and add a line about that failure question. A real example this time. Like the inventory launch that went sideways, and how you fixed it.

WOMAN: Wouldn't that look a bit… desperate?

MAN: Not if it's two sentences. It shows you actually thought about it afterward.

WOMAN: Hmm. Maybe. Let me sleep on it.

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Part 3: A Meal Plan with a Dietitian

WOMAN: So, I've had a look at the food diary you sent. Before we get into the plan, how have the last two weeks been?

MAN: Honestly, not great. Ever since the doctor said my blood sugar was creeping up, I've basically stopped eating bread, pasta, rice, potatoes, all of it. And I'm starving by ten in the morning and grumpy for the rest of the day.

WOMAN: Okay, I can see that in your diary. So, here's the thing. You don't need to cut carbohydrates out completely. A lot of people think that, but it usually backfires, because by evening they're so hungry they eat twice as much. What matters more is the type of carbohydrate, the portion, and what you eat with it.

MAN: So I can have pasta again?

WOMAN: You can, in a smaller amount, about a quarter of your plate. Half the plate should be vegetables, and the other quarter some protein, like chicken, fish, beans or eggs. The protein and fibre slow everything down, so your blood sugar doesn't shoot up.

MAN: Okay. That's… actually a lot simpler than I expected. The problem is my schedule. I drive a city bus, and three weeks a month I'm on the early shift, starting at five-fifteen. I'm not eating a plate of anything at that hour.

WOMAN: Right, I noticed a lot of coffee and muffins from the gas station in here.

MAN: The gas station's the only thing open.

WOMAN: Fair enough. So what if we moved breakfast to the night before? Something like overnight oats. You mix oats, milk and a bit of fruit in a jar, leave it in the fridge, and grab it on your way out the door. It takes about two minutes.

MAN: Hmm, my wife makes something like that. I always assumed it was dessert, to be honest.

WOMAN: It can be, if you pour in a lot of maple syrup. Go easy on that. And I'd keep a small bag of nuts in your jacket for your break, instead of the muffin.

MAN: And the coffee? Please don't tell me—

WOMAN: Coffee's fine. It's the double-double that adds up. Try one sugar this month, then none next month. Small steps.

MAN: Okay. I can probably manage that.

WOMAN: Good. I'll email you a one-page plan with some recipes tonight. And I'd like to see you again in six weeks, after your next blood test, so we can see whether any of this is making a difference.

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Part 4: A Lighthouse Brought Back to Life

NARRATOR: After more than a decade of neglect, the lighthouse at Cape Corbin on Nova Scotia's Eastern Shore is gleaming again, thanks to a group of volunteers who refused to let it crumble. Shut down in 2009, when automated navigation beacons made its keeper redundant, the wooden tower decayed badly, as rotting shingles and broken windows left it exposed to Atlantic storms. The federal government offered the structure to any community willing to maintain it, and a local heritage society, made up largely of retired fishermen and their families, eagerly accepted. Over four summers, roughly sixty volunteers scraped, patched and repainted the tower, salvaging original timber wherever possible. Funding came primarily from a community cookbook, which unexpectedly sold more than eight thousand copies, supplemented by a modest provincial grant. Society president Marion Doucette admits the project nearly collapsed in its second year, when engineers discovered that the foundation required urgent reinforcement. The lighthouse reopens to visitors on Saturday, though its lamp will now be purely decorative. Doucette concedes that the real challenge begins now: the society must attract enough tourists to cover ongoing maintenance, estimated at twenty thousand dollars a year.

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Part 5: A Garden on the Roof

Nicole: Okay, so the good news is the building manager said yes. In principle. We can use the east side of the roof for planters, starting in May.

Kenji: In principle?

Nicole: There are conditions. Nothing taller than a metre, everything has to be in containers, and we need to prove the roof can take the weight. He wants a letter from an engineer.

Mei: An engineer? For a few tomato plants?

Nicole: Well, it's not a few. Wet soil is heavy. Twenty planters after a rainstorm, that's, I don't know, a couple of tonnes.

Kenji: She's right, actually. My brother-in-law did this on a co-op in Hamilton, and they had to keep the planters along the edges, over the support walls. The middle of the roof is basically just… a lid.

Mei: Okay, that's slightly terrifying. Fine, an engineer. Who pays for that?

Nicole: That's the second problem. It's around $600, and the manager says the building won't cover it, since it's our project.

Mei: Six hundred split between, what, eleven households who signed up? That's nothing. Fifty-five each.

Kenji: Fourteen. Three more people put their names down after last week's meeting.

Mei: Even better. Forty-something each.

Kenji: Sure, but then there's water. Is there even a tap up there?

Nicole: No. Which means somebody's carrying watering cans up four flights, because the elevator stops at the top floor.

Mei: Hmm. What about rain barrels? We could collect water right there. My parents had three in their yard in Richmond, and they hardly ever used the hose.

Kenji: In July? When it hasn't rained for three weeks?

Mei: Then we'd need a lot of barrels.

Kenji: Which are heavy when they're full. Which brings us back to the engineer.

Nicole: Okay, that goes on the list of questions for the engineer. Honestly, I think the bigger issue is people. Fourteen households sign up in March. In August, who's actually up there every evening with a watering can?

Mei: I would be. I'm home most evenings.

Nicole: Mei, you're away the whole of August.

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Mei: Oh. Right. My sister's wedding. I forgot I'd told you that.

Kenji: What if each household takes a week? Like a rota. Then nobody's stuck doing it all summer.

Nicole: Maybe. Or maybe we start smaller. Ten planters this year, see who actually shows up, and grow it from there.

Kenji: Ten planters for fourteen households? People will be fighting over the tomato space.

Mei: People already fight over the parking spots. At least tomatoes are worth fighting for.

Part 6: Making Voting Mandatory

NARRATOR: In the last federal election, roughly one in three eligible Canadians did not vote, and among those under thirty the figure was closer to one in two. Alarmed by these numbers, a growing chorus of commentators argues that Canada should follow Australia's lead and make voting compulsory, with a modest fine for anyone who fails to cast a ballot.

NARRATOR: Among the most persuasive proponents is Andrea Kowalski, a political scientist in Winnipeg. Since Australia introduced compulsory voting in the nineteen twenties, she points out, turnout there has rarely dipped below ninety percent. More importantly, she contends, when everyone votes, politicians can no longer afford to cater exclusively to the older, wealthier citizens who reliably show up, and must instead address the concerns of renters, students and shift workers. Higher turnout, she adds, would also lend governments a stronger mandate, making it harder to dismiss election results as unrepresentative. Kowalski is careful to stress that compulsory voting does not force anyone to support a candidate; voters may return a blank ballot if they wish. The obligation, as she describes it, is merely to show up, much like jury duty.

NARRATOR: Critics find this reasoning unconvincing. Marcus Bell, a newspaper columnist, insists that the freedom to vote necessarily includes the freedom to abstain, and that staying home can itself be a meaningful political statement. He also questions whether dragging reluctant citizens to the polls genuinely improves democracy. Compulsion, he warns, may also breed resentment toward the very institutions it is meant to strengthen. Someone who knows nothing about the candidates, Bell argues, may simply pick the first name on the list, and research from Australia suggests that candidates placed at the top of the ballot do enjoy a small but measurable advantage. Bell would rather see governments invest in civics education and make voting more convenient, through measures such as online ballots and additional advance polling days.

NARRATOR: Kowalski dismisses online voting as a security gamble and observes that convenience measures have been tried for decades with disappointing results. Still, even she admits that a fine of, say, fifty dollars would fall hardest on the very people she hopes to bring into the system. Whether Canadians would ever accept a compulsory ballot remains to be seen. For now, the debate itself may be doing more to engage reluctant voters than any election campaign has managed.

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