CELPIP Listening Practice Test 56

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/56 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/56 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

Choosing an Aquarium

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/56**

1. What did the man first plan to buy?

A



B



C



D



2. Why does the woman mention a bookshelf?

A to suggest a good place to put the tank
B to recommend a stand that the store sells
C to explain why the water turns green
D to stress how heavy a full tank is

3. What will the man probably do next?

A buy a stand for the larger tank
B ask his landlord about the weight
C find out how much space he has
D move his daughter's bed away from the window

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/56**

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4. What problem does the man report?

A The larger tank would not fit.
B His daughter no longer wants goldfish.
C The floor could not hold the weight.
D The tank would get too much sun.

5. Why does the man most likely choose guppies?

A They do not need a heater.
B They are cheaper to buy than the tetras.
C They swim together in a group.
D They match what his daughter wanted.

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/56**

6. Why won't the woman sell the fish today?

A The tank must be ready first.
B The store has no guppies left.
C Fish should not be given as gifts.
D The man has not paid for them.

7. What is likely true about the man's daughter?

A She enjoys making decisions.
B She would prefer a different gift.
C She has kept fish before.
D She chose the tank herself.

8. What will the man and his daughter most likely do next weekend?

A visit the store together
B set up the new tank
C buy a heater for the tank
D exchange the tank for a bigger one

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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

A High Electricity Bill

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/56**

9. What does the woman believe caused the high bill?

A Electricity rates rose sharply.
B They changed to monthly billing.
C Their furnace is not working properly.
D Their household used more energy.

10. Why does the man first think the bill is reasonable?

A He expected the rates to go up.
B He compared it with last January.
C He forgot about the space heater.
D He assumes it covers a longer period.

11. Why does the man use the space heater?

A The main heat is off during the day.
B His office floor lets in the cold.
C The kitchen is too noisy for him to work.
D His brother recommended one to him.

12. Why does the woman object to the man working in the kitchen?

A It would cost more to heat the kitchen.
B They would disturb each other.
C The kitchen is colder than his office.
D She needs the table for her cooking.

13. What does the woman's question about the slippers suggest?

A They would cost too much to buy.
B They would not cut their power use.
C He should ask his cousin about them.
D They would not keep his feet warm enough.

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Part 3: Listening for Information

A Community Solar Program

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/56**

14. Why is the man interested in the program?

A He hopes to make money quickly.
B He cannot install panels where he lives.
C He is moving to a new building.
D His landlord suggested it to him.

15. What had the man misunderstood?

A how much a single share costs
B where the panels would be put
C who pays for the repairs
D when the sign-up deadline is

16. What does the woman suggest about the money members get back?

A It is better than most other investments.
B It stops after eleven years.
C It builds up slowly.
D It depends on how many shares are sold.

17. What can a member do if they move away?

A get back the full price of the share
B pass the share on to someone else
C keep receiving credits on their bill
D move the share to a project in their new city

18. Why does the value of a share go down each year?

A The waiting list is getting shorter.
B Repairs become more expensive as the panels age.
C The amount of sunshine changes.
D The panels will produce power for fewer years.

19. Why does the woman mention February bills?

A to show that solar panels work poorly in winter
B to describe how the payment plan works
C to explain when savings will begin
D to advise him to wait until spring to join

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

A Town Shelters Stranded Travellers

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/56**

20. The mayor turned the arena into a shelter because

A the closure was expected to last for days.
B the motels refused to take any travellers.
C families with children needed privacy.
D travellers had nowhere else to stay.

21. Families with young children mostly stayed

A at the hockey arena.
B at an army reserve building.
C in the town's motels.
D with local residents.

22. Gurpreet Sandhu's experience in Wawa was

A as dull as he had expected.
B better than he had feared.
C spoiled by the long delay.
D too short to meet anyone.

23. The restaurant owner

A fed people without charging them.
B lent cots to the shelter.
C took families into her home.
D turned her restaurant into a shelter.

24. Critics believe that many of the stranded travellers

A need not have been on the road.
B should have stayed in their vehicles.
C were not given enough help in Wawa.
D ignored the warnings that were issued.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

Planning Site Visits

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/56**

25. What is the main problem the speakers are trying to solve?

A how to finish the bridge deck before the weather turns
B how to fit several site visits into one busy week
C how to train a new engineer quickly
D how to satisfy a demanding school principal

26. Why was the pour at the bridge moved to Wednesday?

A The developer asked for a later date.
B The drawings were not finished.
C Wet weather delayed it.
D No engineer was free earlier.

27. Why does Noah mention the crew in Calgary?

A to warn Oscar about working in the rain
B to stress why a licensed engineer must attend
C to suggest the firm hire a different concrete crew
D to explain why the pour was postponed

28. What does Ingrid suggest about the school principal?

A She will expect thorough answers.
B She is worried about the children's safety.
C She has complained about the roof.
D She wants the visit moved to Monday.

29. Why does the developer want the window inspection sooner?

A The contract dates have been changed.
B Oscar promised them an earlier date.
C Cold weather could hold up the work.
D Some of the windows have failed.

30. Why is Noah doubtful about Oscar's plan to do the inspection on Monday?

A Oscar is not allowed to inspect windows alone.
B Oscar is needed at the school that day.
C The job could take longer than one day.
D The developer wants the visit later.

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31. What does Ingrid mean by her remark about the building being open to the sky in December?

A The gym roof at the school needs urgent repairs.

B The condo tower will not be finished this year.

C Insisting on the contract date could backfire.

D The developer has been unreasonable before.

32. What would be the best subject line for Oscar's email to the developer?

A Window inspection: date to be confirmed

B Inspection confirmed for Monday

C Request to keep the contract date

D Delay caused by truck repairs

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Smartphones for Children

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/56**

33. Why do some parents sign pledges together?

A Their schools have asked them to.
B Saying no is easier when others say it too.
C Their children have requested it.
D They hope to get a group discount on basic phones.

34. According to Helen Moreau, the main danger of smartphones is

A the cost of buying the device.
B the loss of contact with parents.
C the risk of being left out by classmates.
D the content and features they provide.

35. Moreau would most likely agree that

A phones should be banned in all schools.
B children need smartphones to make friends.
C anxiety in children has nothing to do with phones.
D a simple phone is a sensible compromise.

36. Why does Marcus Bell mention children who travel between two households?

A to criticize parents who have divorced
B to argue that the pledges are expensive
C to show that some children genuinely need a phone
D to explain how social media affects young teenagers

37. What does Bell suggest about children who get their first smartphone late?

A They may be less ready for social media.
B They will be excluded by their peers.
C They will sleep better than other children.
D They will depend more on their parents.

38. In the final sentence, the speaker suggests that

A more parents should sign the pledges.
B children should be taught to use phones early.
C responsibility should not fall on parents alone.
D technology companies are already closely watched.

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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: Choosing an Aquarium

1 B Picture B

2 D to stress how heavy a full tank is

3 C find out how much space he has

4 A The larger tank would not fit.

5 D They match what his daughter wanted.

6 A The tank must be ready first.

7 A She enjoys making decisions.

8 A visit the store together

Part 2: A High Electricity Bill

9 D Their household used more energy.

10 D He assumes it covers a longer period.

11 B His office floor lets in the cold.

12 B They would disturb each other.

13 B They would not cut their power use.

Part 3: A Community Solar Program

14 B He cannot install panels where he lives.

15 B where the panels would be put

16 C It builds up slowly.

17 B pass the share on to someone else

18 D The panels will produce power for fewer years.

19 C to explain when savings will begin

Part 4: A Town Shelters Stranded Travellers

20 D travellers had nowhere else to stay.

21 D with local residents.

22 B better than he had feared.

23 A fed people without charging them.

24 A need not have been on the road.

Part 5: Planning Site Visits

25 B how to fit several site visits into one busy week

26 C Wet weather delayed it.

27 B to stress why a licensed engineer must attend

28 A She will expect thorough answers.

29 C Cold weather could hold up the work.

30 C The job could take longer than one day.

31 C Insisting on the contract date could backfire.

32 A Window inspection: date to be confirmed

Part 6: Smartphones for Children

33 B Saying no is easier when others say it too.

34 D the content and features they provide.

35 D a simple phone is a sensible compromise.

36 C to show that some children genuinely need a phone

37 A They may be less ready for social media.

38 C responsibility should not fall on parents alone.

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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: Choosing an Aquarium

Section 1

WOMAN: Morning! Can I help you find something?

MAN: My daughter turns eight on Saturday, and she's been begging for a goldfish. I was thinking one of those round bowls, maybe with a little castle.

WOMAN: Ah, the bowl. Honestly, we stopped carrying those. Goldfish are messy, and in a bowl the water goes bad in a couple of days.

MAN: Really? The ones they give out at the fair are tiny.

WOMAN: They start tiny. A healthy goldfish can reach twenty centimetres. For two of them, I'd want you looking at something like this, a seventy-five litre tank with a filter.

MAN: Seventy-five litres? That's, what, a bathtub?

WOMAN: Not quite. More like a big suitcase. But full of water it's close to ninety kilos, so it needs a proper stand, not a bookshelf.

MAN: Hmm. We're on the third floor, and the only free spot is beside her bed, by the window. I'm not even sure that's… Look, I'd better go home and get the tape measure out first.

WOMAN: Good idea. And keep it away from that window if you can. Sun on the glass means green water.

Section 2

MAN: Hi again. So, bad news. The space by her bed is only sixty centimetres wide. Your big tank won't go.

WOMAN: Okay. This forty-litre one is fifty-five centimetres long. It fits, but it's too small for goldfish.

MAN: So no goldfish at all? She'll be crushed. She's already named them.

WOMAN: Well, what about tropical fish? A little group of neon tetras, or a few guppies. They stay small, and they're more colourful anyway. You'd just need a heater, because they like warm water.

MAN: A heater? In her bedroom? Is that safe?

WOMAN: Completely. It's sealed, and it switches itself off. Kids love tetras. They swim together like a little blue cloud.

MAN: Hmm. She did say she wanted orange ones. Are guppies orange?

WOMAN: Some are. Bright orange, with long, fancy tails.

MAN: Guppies, then. At least she gets to keep the names.

Section 3

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MAN: Okay, I'll take the forty-litre tank, the heater, and, let's say, five guppies.

WOMAN: The tank and heater, sure. The fish, not today.

MAN: Sorry?

WOMAN: A new tank has to run for about a week before any fish go in. The filter needs time to build up good bacteria, or a lot of the fish won't make it.

MAN: But her birthday's Saturday. That's the whole point. A tank with no fish is just a box of water.

WOMAN: I hear that a lot. Here's what other parents do. She gets the tank on Saturday and you set it up together, gravel, plants, the castle. Then next weekend she comes in and picks the fish herself. Most kids remember that part more than the gift.

MAN: Hmm. She does like running the show. All right. Can I pay for the fish now, so there's something to put in the card?

WOMAN: Sure, I'll write you a voucher. And bring some tank water when you come, so I can test it.

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Part 2: A High Electricity Bill

WOMAN: Did you see the hydro bill? It's on the counter. Two hundred and eighty dollars.

MAN: For two months? That's not so bad.

WOMAN: For one month. We switched to monthly billing in the spring, remember? Last January it was about $150.

MAN: Oh. Okay, that's… yeah, that's a lot. Is it the rates? I read something about prices going up in the new year.

WOMAN: They did go up, but only by a few percent. I compared the usage, and we used almost twice as much power as last January. So it's us, not them.

MAN: Well, it has been colder. And I've been working from home since October, so the heat's on all day instead of just mornings and evenings. Plus the space heater in the office…

WOMAN: The little one under your desk? I thought you only switched that on when your feet got cold.

MAN: My feet are always cold. That room is over the garage, and there's basically no insulation in the floor. I run it pretty much nine to five.

WOMAN: Those things eat electricity. My brother said his was costing him something like fifty dollars a month.

MAN: Fine, but I can't sit in there in a winter coat. What if I just worked at the kitchen table?

WOMAN: Through my video calls, three times a day? We tried that in the spring, remember. We lasted about a week before we were—

MAN: —before we stopped speaking. Right. Okay, what about insulating under the office floor? It's not a big room. My cousin did his garage ceiling last fall, and I think the province gave him some kind of rebate.

WOMAN: That's actually smart. If there's a rebate, it might pay for itself in a couple of winters. Can you call him tonight and find out what he paid?

MAN: Sure. And in the meantime, maybe I'll order a pair of those heated slippers.

WOMAN: Heated slippers. That plug into what, exactly?

MAN: …Fair point.

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Part 3: A Community Solar Program

MAN: Hi, sorry, do you have a minute? I came in halfway through your presentation, so I probably missed the basics.

WOMAN: Of course. What would you like to know?

MAN: Well, I rent an apartment, so I can't exactly put panels on the roof. My landlord would never go for it. Am I still… is this even for people like me?

WOMAN: Absolutely, that's really who it's for. The panels go on the roof of the new arena on Mill Street, and members buy shares in them. Nothing is ever installed at your home. Each month, the power your share produces shows up as a credit on your electricity bill.

MAN: Oh, I see. From the poster, I thought they went on your own building. So how much is a share?

WOMAN: Five hundred dollars. Based on last year's sunshine, one share should take about forty-five dollars a year off your bill. Most people buy two or three.

MAN: Forty-five a year… so, what, eleven years to earn it back?

WOMAN: Roughly. It's not a get-rich-quick scheme. But the panels are guaranteed for twenty-five years, and the co-op covers all the cleaning and repairs. And for a lot of members, it's more about where their power comes from than the money.

MAN: Sure. Here's my worry, though. I'm not planning to stay in this city forever. What if I move in, say, five years?

WOMAN: Then you sell your share. The buyer has to be a customer of the same utility, but we've got a waiting list, so that hasn't been a problem so far.

MAN: And I'd get the full five hundred back?

WOMAN: Not quite. The price drops a little each year, since the panels have fewer years left in them.

MAN: Makes sense. Is it all due up front? That's a lot at once.

WOMAN: You can spread it over twelve months, no interest. One thing, though. The arena roof won't be finished until June. People sign up in January and then wonder why their February bill looks exactly the same.

MAN: Good to know. And the deadline?

WOMAN: The end of this month. After that, there may not be another round.

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Part 4: A Town Shelters Stranded Travellers

NARRATOR: Residents of Wawa, Ontario, opened their homes and their community centre to nearly three hundred stranded motorists this week, after a ferocious snowstorm forced the closure of the Trans-Canada Highway. Officials shut a ninety-kilometre stretch on Tuesday afternoon when visibility deteriorated to virtually zero and two transport trucks jackknifed across both lanes. With the town's motels filled within an hour, the mayor declared a local emergency and converted the hockey arena into a temporary shelter. Volunteers set up cots borrowed from a nearby army reserve unit, while a local restaurant owner kept her kitchen open overnight, serving complimentary chili to anyone who walked through the door. Several families with young children were welcomed into private homes instead. Among the stranded was Gurpreet Sandhu, a long-haul driver from Winnipeg, who confessed he had initially dreaded being marooned in an unfamiliar town. Instead, he spent the evening playing cards with retirees and departed with a dozen new phone numbers. The highway reopened Thursday morning. Provincial authorities have since faced criticism for not issuing closure warnings earlier, which could have prevented many travellers from setting out at all. The mayor, however, insists the town would gladly do it again.

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Part 5: Planning Site Visits

Ingrid: Okay, next week. Three sites, and the one I'm worried about is the bridge in Lacombe. The concrete pour got pushed to Wednesday because of all the rain.

Noah: Wednesday? They told me Tuesday.

Ingrid: They told you Tuesday before it rained for four days straight. So somebody has to be out there the whole day on Wednesday. That's not optional.

Oscar: I can do the bridge. I've been going through the drawings all week.

Noah: Sure, but you're not signed off for pours yet. Someone with a licence has to be on site. A couple of years ago a crew in Calgary poured without an engineer there, and the whole deck had to come out. Four months, gone.

Oscar: Right. Okay. So I go with one of you.

Ingrid: Which would actually be good for you. You'd see how it's done before you're out there on your own.

Noah: Then it's me. Ingrid, you've still got the school in Red Deer, haven't you?

Ingrid: Thursday morning. The principal wants to walk the new gym roof before the kids come back. And she's, well… let's say she likes a lot of detail. She asked for someone senior by name.

Oscar: What about the condo tower in Edmonton? The developer emailed me again. They want the window inspection next week instead of the week after.

Noah: Next week? The contract says the twentieth. We tell them the twentieth.

Oscar: I know. I think they're racing the weather. If the windows aren't signed off before the first hard frost, they can't seal the building.

Ingrid: And if we hold them to the contract and their building's still open to the sky in December, I'm sure they'll be very understanding about it.

Noah: Fair enough. Fine.

Ingrid: Oscar, you're allowed to do windows on your own, aren't you?

Oscar: I am. I could drive up Monday, do the inspection, and be back in plenty of time for the bridge.

Noah: If Monday goes smoothly. Last time that inspection took two full days. Their site manager kept finding one more floor he wanted us to look at.

Oscar: So Monday and Tuesday, then. That still leaves Wednesday free for the pour.

Noah: Just. It's a long drive back, and the pour starts at seven. I'd rather you weren't half asleep on that deck.

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Ingrid: Then go up Monday and come back Tuesday night no matter what. If they're not finished, they're not finished.

Oscar: So… do I tell the developer Monday?

Ingrid: Tell them early in the week. Just don't promise a day until we know the pour is really happening. If it rains again, Wednesday's gone too.

Part 6: Smartphones for Children

NARRATOR: For many parents, the moment a child first asks for a smartphone arrives sooner than expected, often around the age of nine or ten, and usually accompanied by the argument that everyone else already has one. In several Canadian cities, groups of parents have begun signing collective pledges to delay smartphones until their children finish elementary school, reasoning that the pressure is easier to withstand when no family has to withstand it alone. Critics contend that such pledges answer a complicated question far too simply.

NARRATOR: Developmental psychologist Helen Moreau is among the pledges' most vocal supporters. She points to research associating heavy smartphone use in late childhood with disrupted sleep, diminished concentration and rising anxiety. In her view, the problem is not the device itself but what it delivers: endless scrolling, constant comparison with peers, and notifications deliberately engineered to be irresistible. A basic phone that only calls and texts, she suggests, provides the reassurance parents want without the distractions they fear. Moreau also dismisses the claim that children without smartphones will be excluded, noting that when entire classrooms wait together, nobody is left out. She adds that the age at which Canadian children receive their first smartphone has fallen steadily over the past decade.

NARRATOR: Marcus Bell, a father of three and a former school technology coordinator, considers this approach well-intentioned but unrealistic. Children, he argues, will encounter smartphones at friends' houses and on school buses regardless of what their parents decide, and a child who discovers social media at fourteen, without guidance, is arguably more vulnerable than one who learned gradually at eleven with a parent looking over their shoulder. Bell also observes that for children who travel between two households, or who ride public transit alone, a phone with maps and location sharing is less a luxury than a lifeline. He also worries that outright bans can backfire, encouraging children to borrow devices secretly, beyond any parental supervision whatsoever.

NARRATOR: Interestingly, the two agree on more than their debate suggests. Both favour firm limits at bedtime, and both are sharply critical of technology companies that design apps to maximize children's screen time. Their disagreement is ultimately about timing and trust. Perhaps the more pressing question is why parents are left to settle this family by family, while the corporations profiting from children's attention face remarkably little scrutiny. Until that changes, families will keep negotiating, one dinner-table argument at a time.

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