CELPIP Listening Practice Test 73

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/73 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/73 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 Tree

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/73**

1. Where does the man's wife think the receipt went?

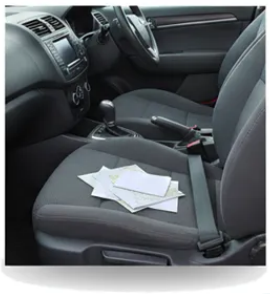
A



B



C



D



2. According to the woman, why did the tree die?

A It was watered too often.
B The hole he dug for it was far too narrow.
C Its roots never spread into the soil.
D It was dug up too roughly.

3. What will the man most likely do next?

A go home to search for the receipt
B ask for his money back
C replant the same tree more carefully
D pick out a replacement tree

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/73**

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4. Why does the woman advise against another spruce?

A The spot he chose stays too wet.
B Spruces grow too wide for a fence corner.
C The spruces in stock are smaller than his.
D Cedars cost less.

5. What does the man misunderstand at first?

A what the cedar will cost
B where in the yard the cedar should go
C how big the cedar will grow
D how many cedars she is suggesting

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/73**

6. How should the man decide when to water the cedar?

A by watering on the same evenings each week
B by checking how damp the soil feels
C by waiting for a heavy rain first
D by asking his father-in-law

7. What can be inferred about the man's father-in-law?

A He gave the man the first tree.
B He works at the garden centre.
C His opinion matches the woman's.
D He planted the cedar for the man.

8. What does the woman's final remark refer to?

A how he lost his first receipt
B the dirt on his clothes
C where he should plant the tree
D the money in his pocket

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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

Before the Parents Arrive

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/73**

9. What had the woman got wrong?

A the day their parents arrive
B the time of their parents' flight
C the city their parents are leaving from
D who would meet their parents

10. What does the man suggest about their father?

A He hates flying at early hours.
B He would rather take a taxi home.
C He can easily get alarmed.
D He is a light sleeper.

11. Why does the man mention their mother and the fridge?

A She will want to cook on Friday.
B She asked them to buy groceries.
C She fears what's inside.
D She is likely to inspect it.

12. What is the woman complaining about when she is interrupted?

A Her brother avoids the unpleasant jobs.
B Her brother never cooks for the family.
C The list has too many items on it.
D Their parents always criticize the house.

13. Why does the man want his sister to cook on Friday?

A He will be at the airport then.
B His cooking has a poor record.
C Their father dislikes pizza.
D She makes the best lasagna in the family.

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Part 3: Listening for Information

A Call to the City

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/73**

14. Why is the woman calling?

A to report a cart that was not emptied
B to complain about her neighbour's visitor
C to ask when recycling is collected
D to change the address on her account

15. Why does the woman give the wrong house number?

A The agent misheard her.
B She was reading an old bill.
C She has not lived there long.
D She was thinking of her neighbour's house.

16. Why was the cart not emptied?

A It was too full to close.
B The truck could not lift it.
C It was set out after the truck passed.
D It held waste that is not allowed.

17. What does the man offer the woman?

A a truck to come back for the cart
B a discount on garbage tags
C a replacement cart
D a larger allowance next week

18. What can be inferred about the woman's recycling?

A The parked car blocked it as well.
B She set it out on the wrong week.
C It will be collected tomorrow.
D It must be taken to a depot.

19. How does the woman react to the man's offer?

A She is only partly satisfied.
B She is very grateful.
C She refuses to accept it.
D She suspects he is breaking a rule.

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

A Maze in the Shape of Canada

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/73**

20. Lindqvist designed the maze

A with help from school groups.
B after the stalks were knee-high.
C months before the corn went in.
D from a photo taken from the air.

21. Visitors are given a passport so they can

A enter the maze without a ticket.
B record where they have been.
C ask staff for directions.
D find the exit more quickly.

22. Some visitors have spent over an hour in the maze because

A the paths between provinces are narrow.
B they try to collect every stamp.
C staff on ladders are slow to help.
D one northern area keeps leading nowhere.

23. The idea for the maze came from

A a young relative's schoolwork.
B a request from a nearby school.
C a maze he visited on holiday.
D an aerial photo of his farm.

24. The ending of the report is

A worried.
B critical.
C playful.
D formal.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

A Ninetieth Birthday

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/73**

25. What problem does Pierre raise about the number of guests?

A Two families cannot come.
B His neighbours would complain.
C The food would cost too much.
D His yard has too little room.

26. Why does Yvonne mention the grandmother's eightieth birthday?

A to show how much she enjoyed the party
B to suggest hiding guests in the garage
C to show surprises can rattle her
D to remind them who planned that party

27. What is the purpose of Erin's lunch idea?

A to reduce the number of guests
B to respond to Yvonne's concern
C to avoid paying for the hall
D to give everyone time to arrive early

28. What does Yvonne want to know about the hall?

A whether it suits Gran's walker
B what the back room costs
C how far it is from the church
D whether it can hold forty people

29. What can be inferred about the grandmother?

A She has given her albums to Linda.
B She keeps a close eye on her things.
C She no longer goes to her church.
D She would rather not see old photos.

30. How does Pierre feel about Aunt Linda helping with the photos?

A doubtful
B worried
C delighted
D indifferent

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31. Why is Pierre unsure about the letters?

A Gran wants gifts instead.

B He would rather show the slideshow.

C He thinks a box would be too small.

D Some relatives are poor writers.

32. What is the best subject line for a follow-up email after the discussion?

A Gran's 90th: party moved to Pierre's yard

B Gran's 90th: gift list attached

C Gran's 90th: lunch plan, some questions still open

D Gran's 90th: surprise called off after family vote

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Cooking in the Classroom

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/73**

33. The report is mainly about

A how adults today learned to cook.
B the value of cooking lessons against schools' limits.
C the rising cost of school kitchens.
D the effect of packaged and processed food on children's long-term eating habits.

34. Graham Whitfield believes cooking lessons are

A worthwhile but hard for schools to provide.
B a waste of children's time.
C best left to trained dietitians who visit schools.
D suitable only for older students.

35. Haddad mentions flour, dough and recipes to show that

A children prefer baking to cooking.
B cooking can reinforce other subjects.
C teachers would need extra training first.
D processed food is easy to replace.

36. Why does Whitfield mention the six-hour day?

A to argue that the school day should be longer
B to say teachers are underpaid
C to complain that lunch breaks are too short
D to show the timetable has no room to spare

37. Haddad's reply to Whitfield suggests that

A schools should build proper kitchens in every new building.
B allergies are rarely a serious problem.
C parents should pay for the equipment.
D his practical objections can be worked around.

38. The speaker would most likely favour

A leaving cooking lessons entirely to families.
B adding a separate cooking course in every grade.
C simple food activities within existing lessons.
D building kitchens in all new schools.

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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 Tree

1 B Picture B

2 C Its roots never spread into the soil.

3 D pick out a replacement tree

4 A The spot he chose stays too wet.

5 D how many cedars she is suggesting

6 B by checking how damp the soil feels

7 C His opinion matches the woman's.

8 A how he lost his first receipt

Part 2: Before the Parents Arrive

9 B the time of their parents' flight

10 C He can easily get alarmed.

11 D She is likely to inspect it.

12 A Her brother avoids the unpleasant jobs.

13 B His cooking has a poor record.

Part 3: A Call to the City

14 A to report a cart that was not emptied

15 C She has not lived there long.

16 B The truck could not lift it.

17 D a larger allowance next week

18 B She set it out on the wrong week.

19 A She is only partly satisfied.

Part 4: A Maze in the Shape of Canada

20 C months before the corn went in.

21 B record where they have been.

22 D one northern area keeps leading nowhere.

23 A a young relative's schoolwork.

24 C playful.

Part 5: A Ninetieth Birthday

25 D His yard has too little room.

26 C to show surprises can rattle her

27 B to respond to Yvonne's concern

28 A whether it suits Gran's walker

29 B She keeps a close eye on her things.

30 C delighted

31 D Some relatives are poor writers.

32 C Gran's 90th: lunch plan, some questions still open

Part 6: Cooking in the Classroom

33 B the value of cooking lessons against schools' limits.

34 A worthwhile but hard for schools to provide.

35 B cooking can reinforce other subjects.

36 D to show the timetable has no room to spare

37 D his practical objections can be worked around.

38 C simple food activities within existing lessons.

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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 Tree

Section 1

WOMAN: Hi there, need a cart for that?

MAN: No, I've got it. So, I bought this spruce here in May, and, well, look at it. The needles are going brown from the bottom up, and half of them are already on my deck.

WOMAN: Oh dear, that's not a happy tree. You dug it up yourself?

MAN: This morning. It's dead anyway, and you have that one-year guarantee, right? Thing is, I don't have the receipt. My wife thinks it went through the wash in my jeans.

WOMAN: That's okay, if you paid by card, I can look it up. But let me see the roots first. Hmm, see how they go round and round, in the exact shape of the pot?

MAN: Is that bad? I dug the hole twice as wide, like the tag said, and I've watered it every single evening.

WOMAN: Every evening? That's more than it needed, but that's not what killed it. These roots never left the pot shape, so they never went looking for water. You have to loosen them with your fingers before planting.

MAN: Nobody told me that. So the guarantee doesn't count?

WOMAN: Strictly speaking, no. But tell you what, pick out another one, and I'll show you how to plant it properly.

MAN: Fair enough. I'd rather have a tree that lives than get my money back.

Section 2

MAN: Okay, there's a whole row of spruces over here, same size as mine was.

WOMAN: Before you grab one, where in your yard did it go?

MAN: Back corner, by the fence. It's the lowest spot, actually. After a big rain, it's basically a pond for a day or two.

WOMAN: Ah, then I wouldn't put another spruce there. They hate wet feet. What about a white cedar? They're happy in soggy ground.

MAN: A cedar? Like a hedge? I don't want a whole wall of them, I just want one tree.

WOMAN: No, just the one. It grows tall and narrow. It's $15 more than the spruce, so you'd only pay the difference.

MAN: Fifteen bucks for a tree that might actually survive. Sold.

Section 3

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WOMAN: Okay, slide the pot off, like this. Now pull the roots loose with your fingers, gently, until they hang down instead of wrapping around.

MAN: Feels like I'm wrecking it.

WOMAN: A few broken roots are fine. It's the circling ones that strangle a tree.

MAN: Got it. And I'm guessing watering every evening is out?

WOMAN: For that corner? Twice a week at most, and skip it after a heavy rain. Push a finger into the soil, and if it's damp past your first knuckle, leave it alone.

MAN: My father-in-law's going to love this. He told me in June I was overdoing the watering.

WOMAN: Ha, well, don't tell him I agree with him. Oh, and I've stapled the plant tag to your new receipt.

MAN: So I don't lose it in the wash again?

WOMAN: Exactly, so put it somewhere safer than your jeans.

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Part 2: Before the Parents Arrive

WOMAN: Okay, so Mom and Dad land Friday at six. I made a list of everything that has to happen before then, and, um, it's a lot longer than I thought.

MAN: Six in the evening? Mom told me six in the morning. She was complaining that the only cheap flight out of Toronto left at some ridiculous hour.

WOMAN: Are you serious? Then that changes everything. One of us has to be at the airport by, like, five-thirty, which means Thursday night is basically our last chance to get anything done.

MAN: I'll do the airport. I'm up early for work anyway, and you know Dad, if nobody's standing there waving when he walks out, he'll assume something terrible happened and start phoning hospitals.

WOMAN: Fine, airport's yours. Then there's the spare room. They're sleeping in there, and right now it's a mountain of your bike stuff and those boxes you swore you'd unpack in March.

MAN: Those are going to my buddy's garage on Wednesday, he already said yes. What else is on the list?

WOMAN: Bathroom, kitchen, groceries, and the fridge needs a serious clean-out. There's a container at the back that I'm honestly scared to open.

MAN: How about this: I'll take the kitchen and the fridge, and I'll do a big grocery run Thursday. You know Mom's going to open that fridge the minute she puts her suitcase down, just to judge us.

WOMAN: Which leaves me the bathroom. Of course it does. You always manage to pick the jobs that—

MAN: —that involve food, yes, I know. Okay, okay, I'll scrub the tub too. But you're cooking dinner Friday, because if I cook, Dad'll just ask why we didn't order pizza.

WOMAN: That's fair, actually. Your lasagna last time was… memorable.

MAN: It was crunchy in one corner. One corner.

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Part 3: A Call to the City

MAN: Waste collection line, this is Daniel speaking. How can I help?

WOMAN: Hi, yes, I'm calling because my garbage wasn't picked up this morning. Every other cart on the street was emptied, mine's the only one still standing there full, and, well, it's pretty hot out, so you can imagine what that's going to be like by tonight.

MAN: I can. Let me pull up your address and see what the driver logged.

WOMAN: It's 48 Birchmount Crescent. Sorry, no, 84. I only moved in last month, and I still mix the numbers up.

MAN: 84 Birchmount, okay, here we go. So, the truck came by at nine-fifteen, and the driver marked your cart as not serviceable. There's a photo attached, and it looks like a car was parked right in front of it. Also, the handle's facing the road instead of the house.

WOMAN: A car? Oh, that would be my neighbour's daughter, she visits on Tuesday mornings. But does the handle really make a difference?

MAN: It does, actually. The trucks use a mechanical arm, so the cart has to face the right way and have about a metre of clear space all around it. If anything's in the way, the arm can't grab it, and drivers aren't allowed to get out and move things.

WOMAN: Okay, so can someone come back for it? I really don't want it sitting in the sun for a whole week.

MAN: Unfortunately, since it wasn't set out properly, I can't send a truck back. What I can do is put a note on your account, so next week you'd be allowed one extra bag beside the cart, no tag needed.

WOMAN: One extra bag. Well, that's something, I suppose. And what about my recycling? Nobody touched that either.

MAN: Let me check. Ah, that's actually normal. On your street, recycling goes every other week, and this wasn't one of them. It'll go next Tuesday along with the garbage.

WOMAN: Oh, so I've been putting it out for nothing. Is there a schedule somewhere, so I stop embarrassing myself?

MAN: There's a collection calendar on the city website. If you sign up with your address, you'll get a reminder the night before telling you exactly what goes out.

WOMAN: That would have been nice to know a month ago. Maybe somebody should mention it to people when they move in.

MAN: That's a fair point, I'll pass it along. In the meantime, if the smell gets bad, try sprinkling a cup of baking soda in the bottom of the cart.

WOMAN: Baking soda, okay. And I'll have a word with my neighbour about Tuesdays.

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Part 4: A Maze in the Shape of Canada

NARRATOR: A farmer near Red Deer, Alberta, has turned eight acres of corn into what may be the largest map in the province. Seen from the air, Gord Lindqvist's maze shows all ten provinces and three territories, separated by narrow paths that visitors follow from coast to coast. Lindqvist, whose family has farmed the land for three generations, says the idea came from his granddaughter, who was struggling to memorize the provinces for a geography test. He drew the design on graph paper last winter, planted the corn in May, and cut the paths by hand once the stalks were knee-high. At the entrance, each visitor receives a paper passport and collects a stamp in every capital city. The trickiest section, Lindqvist admits, is Nunavut, where a series of dead ends has left some people wandering for more than an hour. Staff on tall ladders keep watch and can direct anyone who gets lost. Since opening in August, the maze has welcomed nearly six thousand visitors, including several school groups. And his granddaughter? She received a perfect score on her test, although she still insists that Prince Edward Island is impossible to find.

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Part 5: A Ninetieth Birthday

Erin: Okay, so I've talked to almost everyone on Mom's side, and all but two families can make it on the twelfth. That's around forty people, not counting kids.

Pierre: Forty people? My backyard can't hold forty, not unless half of them stand in the neighbour's flower beds.

Yvonne: Before we argue about where, can I just raise something? I'm still not sure a surprise is a good idea. She's turning ninety. Forty people jumping out and shouting at her…

Erin: We wouldn't shout. Well, not loudly.

Yvonne: Remember her eightieth? Uncle Ray hid everyone in the garage, and she was so flustered she barely said a word for the first hour. She told me afterwards she'd have liked to put on her good earrings.

Pierre: See, I took that completely differently. I think she loved it. She still brings it up every Christmas.

Yvonne: She brings it up because she's still annoyed about the earrings.

Erin: What if it's half a surprise? We tell her it's lunch with just the three of us, so she dresses up, and the rest of the family is already there waiting.

Pierre: That works for me. And actually, if it's a lunch, we can do it somewhere bigger. The community hall by her church rents out its back room for about $200.

Yvonne: The hall's fine, but the stairs aren't. She's been on her walker since spring. Is there an elevator, or…?

Pierre: There's a ramp at the side door, I'm pretty sure. I'll double-check when I drop off the deposit.

Erin: Okay, now, I really want to do a slideshow. Old photos of her growing up on the farm, the wedding, all of us as babies. But every album she owns is in that cabinet in her living room.

Pierre: So someone borrows them without her noticing. Easy.

Yvonne: Easy, you think? She notices when you move a coaster. Last month she asked me why her teapot was facing the window.

Erin: Then we ask Aunt Linda. She's over there every Sunday, she could take a few at a time and scan them.

Pierre: Sneaking out ninety years in a handbag. I love it.

Yvonne: Fine, but one more thing. Gran keeps saying she doesn't want presents, she has enough stuff. If everyone turns up with a gift bag, she'll spend the whole party worrying about where to put it all.

Erin: Maybe we ask people to write her a letter instead, a memory or something, and we put them all in a box.

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Pierre: Hmm, half my side of the family can barely write a birthday card. But, well… let me think about who could actually manage it.

Yvonne: And we still haven't decided who tells Gran about this lunch without giving the whole thing away. Not me, she reads my face like a book.

Part 6: Cooking in the Classroom

NARRATOR: Ask most adults where they learned to cook, and the answers rarely involve a classroom. Some picked it up beside a parent at the stove; many, if they're honest, are still improvising with the help of a microwave. That gap has inspired a growing campaign to make cooking a regular part of the elementary school day, and the idea has divided parents and educators more sharply than its cheerful image might suggest.

NARRATOR: Registered dietitian Amira Haddad is among its most vocal proponents. She points out that children now get a substantial share of their daily calories from packaged and processed food, and that eating habits established before the age of twelve tend to persist well into adulthood. A child who has chopped a pepper, she argues, is far more likely to eat one. Haddad also maintains that the kitchen is an underestimated teaching tool: measuring flour involves fractions, watching dough rise is chemistry, and following a recipe demands patience and attentive reading. For families where both parents work demanding shifts, she adds, school may be the only place a child ever sees a meal made from scratch.

NARRATOR: Graham Whitfield, a retired principal who now sits on a school board in Manitoba, is unconvinced. He doesn't dispute the value of cooking; what he questions is the arithmetic. Elementary teachers, he notes, are already expected to cover an ever-expanding curriculum, and every new subject is squeezed out of the same six-hour day. Most schools built in recent decades have no kitchen at all, and outfitting classrooms with stoves, sinks and safety equipment would require resources that boards simply don't have. Whitfield also worries about allergies, since a single classroom may include children who cannot be near peanuts, eggs or shellfish. In his view, cooking is quite properly a family's responsibility, and schools that continually accept additional duties end up performing all of them poorly.

NARRATOR: Haddad's answer is that cooking need not be a separate subject at all. A fruit salsa or a no-bake granola bar requires no stove, she says, and a cart of donated utensils can turn an ordinary math lesson into a cooking lesson.

NARRATOR: Both positions carry considerable weight, but they may be less irreconcilable than they first appear. Whitfield is surely right that schools cannot do everything. Yet if a weekly fraction lesson ends with a bowl of salsa that children actually want to eat, it's hard to see what has been lost.

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