CELPIP Listening Practice Test 81

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.

Part	Topic	Questions
Part 1: Listening to Problem Solving	A Missing Dinner Reservation	1–8
Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation	Talking About a New Book Club	9–13
Part 3: Listening for Information	Renting a Hall for a Reunion	14–19
Part 4: Listening to a News Item	A Scarf for a Statue	20–24
Part 5: Listening to a Discussion	A Moving Company Meeting	25–32
Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints	Food Trucks in City Parks	33–38

How to take this test

1. Open celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/81 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/81 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

A Missing Dinner Reservation

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/81**

1. Why can't the woman find the man's booking?

A It was made for a different evening this week.
B It was cancelled by another staff member.
C It came through an outdated website.
D It was entered under his father's name.

2. Why does the man turn down the woman's first offer?

A His father could not sit there comfortably.
B His parents would find the bar area too noisy.
C He wants to sit near the fireplace.
D His group is too large.

3. What does the woman first suggest about the booking?

A It was made for the following week.
B It was made at another branch of the restaurant.
C It was cancelled by phone.
D It may have been spelled differently.

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/81**

4. Why is the man unsure about the patio?

A It may be too uncomfortable for his mother.
B It is not available until much later tonight.
C It is too far from the fireplace.
D His father dislikes eating outside.

5. What is likely true of the man's father?

A He would prefer to sit on the patio.
B He wants to go to another restaurant.
C He gets irritable when dinner is late.
D He usually eats later than this.

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/81**

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6. What problem does the man point out?

A His main course was not cooked properly.

B He was charged for food meant to be free.

C The server forgot part of his order.

D The cake from the kitchen was added to his bill.

7. What does the woman say about booking online?

A Customers should phone in their bookings.

B The site will be repaired before December.

C The restaurant's current website is reliable.

D Old confirmation links now go to the new site.

8. What does the kitchen bring out at the end?

A



B



C



D



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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

Talking About a New Book Club

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/81**

9. What did the man expect the book club to be like?

A mostly about home renovations
B focused closely on the writing itself
C full of people who hadn't read the book
D centred on food and desserts

10. What does the man suggest when he says "That's because you read it"?

A She reads faster than most of the members.
B She should have skimmed the book like him.
C The other members found the book boring.
D Finishing it gave her more to say.

11. What worries the woman about hosting next month?

A choosing a suitable book
B matching Marion's apple cake
C preparing enough food for everyone
D finding room for the whole group

12. Why does the man recommend a book with a character readers may love or hate?

A It would be quicker for everyone to read.
B It would be easier to borrow.
C It would give members something to debate.
D It would appeal to the retired English teachers.

13. What will the woman probably do at lunchtime?

A buy a hardcover copy of the novel
B ask Marion to host instead of her
C reread the novel from university
D find out if enough copies are available

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Part 3: Listening for Information

Renting a Hall for a Reunion

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/81**

14. Why is the man unsure of the number of guests?

A Some relatives haven't decided on travel.
B His aunt has not finished the invitations.
C The hall limits the number of children.
D A wedding may take some guests away.

15. Why does the man think Sunday might be better?

A Sunday rentals are cheaper than Saturdays.
B It gives long-distance guests a day to arrive.
C His aunt is busy on Saturdays.
D The kitchen is free only on Sundays.

16. Why will the family not need a food handler certificate?

A They are hiring a caterer for the day.
B His cousin already has one.
C The rule does not apply in this province.
D Guests will make their dishes at home.

17. What does the woman explain about the $250?

A It covers use of the kitchen.
B He will be repaid if the room is left tidy.
C It must be paid within two weeks of booking.
D It pays for a professional cleaning crew.

18. Why does the woman mention the group from last month?

A to explain why the price has gone up
B to complain about a recent wedding
C to show what could cost him the deposit
D to suggest he bring his own decorations for the walls

19. What does the woman say about the playground?

A It costs extra to reserve.
B Children need an adult from the centre.
C It is closed on Sundays.
D Other people may be using it too.

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

A Scarf for a Statue

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/81**

20. 1. The idea for the scarf came from

A a request made by the city.
B a knitting circle at the seniors' centre.
C something young people had done for the statue.
D a similar knitting project in Nova Scotia last year.

21. 2. Doreen Fisher was most likely surprised by

A the cost of the wool.
B the size of the response.
C the length of the scarf.
D the skill of the children.

22. 3. Keeping the lopsided squares suggests that the organizers

A plan to hide them at the back.
B asked the volunteers to redo them before Saturday.
C ran out of time to fix them.
D value every contribution over appearance.

23. 4. The city maintenance crew will

A help put the scarf on the statue.
B wash the scarf in the spring.
C turn the scarf into blankets.
D move the statue indoors.

24. 5. The knitters were

A mainly retired nurses.
B only members of the seniors' centre.
C students from a local school.
D people of very different ages.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

A Moving Company Meeting

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/81**

25. What is the main purpose of the discussion?

A to set prices for the coming year
B to get ready for a day of very heavy demand
C to plan hiring for the whole summer
D to respond to complaints from last year's customers

26. What does Maria imply about the early start?

A She thinks it will save money.
B She wants it only for new workers.
C She expects the crews to dislike it.
D She believes it is too late to arrange.

27. What does Karl think about raising prices?

A It might drive away repeat business.
B It should be at least fifty percent.
C It is the only way to pay for overtime.
D It works well for the airlines.

28. Why does Felicia mention the students hired last summer?

A to suggest hiring more students this year
B to explain why new staff need support this time
C to blame Karl for a poor hiring choice
D to argue that crews should start later in the day

29. What is Maria's concern about Felicia's two-price idea?

A It would not cover the overtime.
B Loyal customers would pay more.
C Customers could learn that others paid less.
D It would be too hard for the office staff to calculate.

30. What happened to the company in the Plateau last year?

A A truck broke down on a busy street.
B Its permit applications were turned down by the borough.
C A crew could not find the right address.
D Its vehicles were fined for where they stopped.

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31. Why is the piano job hard to accept?

A The client has moved too many times.

B The piano cannot fit up the outdoor staircase.

C The client wants to move on the second.

D It needs more movers than are available.

32. What is the best subject line for a summary of this meeting?

A July 1: shifts, new hires, permits and pricing

B Cancelling waiting-list jobs for July 1

C New piano service for regular clients

D Hiring students for the summer season

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Food Trucks in City Parks

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/81**

33. 1. The main theme of the report is

A how food trucks affect nearby restaurants.
B whether permit fees can pay for park washrooms.
C competing ideas of what parks should offer people.
D why suburban parks attract fewer visitors than downtown ones.

34. 2. Ruth Lindqvist doubts that permit fees would

A be paid by most of the vendors.
B cover the costs that trucks create.
C be set too high for small businesses.
D be collected by the neighbourhood association.

35. 3. Okafor's remark about cafés suggests that

A he plans to open a café in a park.
B restaurants have publicly supported his proposal.
C café owners fear competition from trucks.
D suburban restaurants would lose little business.

36. 4. Lindqvist regards the compromise rules with

A suspicion.
B approval.
C indifference.
D amusement.

37. 5. Lindqvist's point about picnics suggests that trucks could

A take up space used for picnic tables.
B make park outings costlier for some families.
C keep children from playing outdoors.
D block the paths to the playgrounds.

38. 6. The speaker believes the success of any policy will depend on

A how many vendors apply for permits each year.
B whether residents are consulted first.
C whether local governments follow through.
D how far the trucks are from playgrounds.

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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: A Missing Dinner Reservation

1 C It came through an outdated website.

2 A His father could not sit there comfortably.

3 D It may have been spelled differently.

4 A It may be too uncomfortable for his mother.

5 C He gets irritable when dinner is late.

6 B He was charged for food meant to be free.

7 C The restaurant's current website is reliable.

8 D Picture D

Part 2: Talking About a New Book Club

9 B focused closely on the writing itself

10 D Finishing it gave her more to say.

11 A choosing a suitable book

12 C It would give members something to debate.

13 D find out if enough copies are available

Part 3: Renting a Hall for a Reunion

14 A Some relatives haven't decided on travel.

15 B It gives long-distance guests a day to arrive.

16 D Guests will make their dishes at home.

17 B He will be repaid if the room is left tidy.

18 C to show what could cost him the deposit

19 D Other people may be using it too.

Part 4: A Scarf for a Statue

20 C something young people had done for the statue.

21 B the size of the response.

22 D value every contribution over appearance.

23 A help put the scarf on the statue.

24 D people of very different ages.

Part 5: A Moving Company Meeting

25 B to get ready for a day of very heavy demand

26 C She expects the crews to dislike it.

27 A It might drive away repeat business.

28 B to explain why new staff need support this time

29 C Customers could learn that others paid less.

30 D Its vehicles were fined for where they stopped.

31 D It needs more movers than are available.

32 A July 1: shifts, new hires, permits and pricing

Part 6: Food Trucks in City Parks

33 C competing ideas of what parks should offer people.

34 B cover the costs that trucks create.

35 D suburban restaurants would lose little business.

36 A suspicion.

37 B make park outings costlier for some families.

38 C whether local governments follow through.

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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: A Missing Dinner Reservation

Section 1

WOMAN: Good evening, welcome in. Do you have a reservation with us tonight?

MAN: We do, yes. Four people at seven-thirty, under Novak. My parents are just parking the car.

WOMAN: Let me see, Novak… hmm. I've got a Nowak at eight-fifteen, party of two?

MAN: No, that's not us. N, O, V, A, K. I booked it online about three weeks ago. It's my parents' anniversary, actually, their fortieth.

WOMAN: Oh, congratulations to them. I'm just not seeing it, I'm afraid. Do you have the confirmation?

MAN: Somewhere… here. See, Saturday, seven-thirty, four guests.

WOMAN: Ah, I see what's happened. That email came from our old booking website. We switched to a new system last week, and a handful of reservations didn't come across. I'm so sorry.

MAN: So… there's no table.

WOMAN: Not right this minute. We're full until about eight-fifteen. I could seat you at the bar now, or—

MAN: The bar won't work. My dad had knee surgery in the spring, and he can't manage those high stools.

WOMAN: Of course. Let me talk to the kitchen and see what we can do. Would you mind waiting by the fireplace for a few minutes?

Section 2

WOMAN: Okay, Mr. Novak, good news, sort of. We can put you on the back patio right away. It's covered, and we've got heaters out there.

MAN: The patio? In October? My mother wears a sweater in July.

WOMAN: Fair enough. The other option is a booth inside that opens up at eight-fifteen. In the meantime, I could bring your family some drinks by the fireplace, on the house.

MAN: Eight-fifteen, that's forty-five minutes. My dad usually has dinner at six, so he's already… well, let's just say he's not at his best right now.

WOMAN: What if I send out a couple of appetizers as well, also on us?

MAN: That might just save the evening. Okay, we'll wait for the booth.

Section 3

WOMAN: How is everything over here?

MAN: Honestly, it's been wonderful. The lamb was perfect, and those appetizers won my dad over completely.

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WOMAN: Glad to hear it. Our chef heard it's a fortieth, so there's a little something coming out from the kitchen in a minute.

MAN: Oh, you didn't have to… actually, one thing. The bill your server left, I think the appetizers are on it. Two plates of calamari?

WOMAN: Let me see… you're right, that's my fault, I never told her. There, I've just taken them off.

MAN: Thanks, and for next time, should I just stay away from the website?

WOMAN: No, the new one works fine, it's only the old links that cause trouble. But if you like, I'll write down my direct line. Call me, and I'll make sure your table's waiting.

MAN: I might take you up on that. My sister turns fifty in December, and once she hears about tonight, she'll want to come here.

WOMAN: Then I'll look forward to it. Oh, and here comes the cake now.

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Part 2: Talking About a New Book Club

MAN: So, Nadia, be honest. Did you actually finish that book before Thursday? Because I got to page two hundred and then just sort of skimmed the rest on the bus.

WOMAN: I did, but only because I stayed up until one the night before. Six hundred pages about a shipbuilding family in Nova Scotia. I liked it, though. The ending surprised me, the way the youngest brother turned out to be the one holding everyone together.

MAN: Don't tell me, I'm still planning to finish it. Probably. Anyway, what did you think of the group? I was expecting a bunch of retired English teachers picking apart every sentence, but it was way more relaxed than that.

WOMAN: Same here, honestly. We spent maybe half an hour on the book and the rest of the evening on everybody's renovation horror stories. Which, I mean, was fun, but I did kind of want to talk about the book more.

MAN: That's because you read it. Okay, so you're hosting next month, right? Are you nervous about the food? Marion set the bar pretty high with that apple cake.

WOMAN: No, no, the food's easy, everybody brings something. It's the book. Whoever hosts gets to choose, and I've changed my mind about five times already. If I pick something too serious, nobody'll finish it, and if it's too light, there won't be anything to say.

MAN: Well, speaking as the guy who didn't finish, keep it under three hundred pages. And pick something with an argument in it, like a character who does something you either love or can't stand. Then people have to—

WOMAN: —take sides. Yeah, that's actually not bad. There's this novel I read in university about a doctor who lies to her patients to protect them. We argued about it for a whole class.

MAN: There you go, perfect. Just check that the library has enough copies first. Nobody wants to buy a hardcover for one evening.

WOMAN: Good point. I'll call the branch on my lunch break.

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Part 3: Renting a Hall for a Reunion

MAN: Hi there, I'm calling about renting a room at the Riverside Community Centre. My family's planning a reunion this summer, and somebody told me you've got a big hall with a kitchen.

WOMAN: We do, the Maple Room. How many people are you expecting?

MAN: Well, that's the thing. My aunt is counting everyone's cousins' kids, so somewhere between sixty and ninety, depending on who decides to fly in from Halifax.

WOMAN: That's no problem, the Maple Room seats a hundred and twenty. And what date were you thinking of?

MAN: The second Saturday in August. That's the twelfth, I think?

WOMAN: Let me check… the twelfth is booked, I'm afraid, there's a wedding. But the Sunday, the thirteenth, is open.

MAN: Sunday… hmm. You know, that might actually be better. A lot of the relatives are driving in from out of province, and this way they'd have the whole Saturday on the road.

WOMAN: Great, so for a full day it's $380. The kitchen is another $75, but I should mention that if you're cooking on site, someone in your group needs a food handler certificate. That's a provincial rule, not ours.

MAN: Oh, we were thinking potluck, mostly. Everybody brings a dish from home.

WOMAN: Then that's not an issue at all. The certificate's only for preparing food here. You'd still be welcome to use the fridges and the ovens to keep things warm.

MAN: Perfect, and I saw something on your website about another $250 on top of that?

WOMAN: That's the damage deposit. You get it back within two weeks, as long as the room's left the way you found it. Tables wiped, chairs stacked, garbage out. We don't charge for normal wear, but last month we had a group tape posters straight onto the freshly painted walls…

MAN: Ah, got it, nothing stuck on the walls. What about the yard out back? The kids would go stir-crazy inside all afternoon.

WOMAN: The playground is public, so you're welcome to use it, but it isn't part of the rental. If another family turns up, you'll be sharing.

MAN: Fair enough. Could you hold the thirteenth for me? I'd like to run it by my aunt before I pay anything.

WOMAN: I can hold it until Friday at five. After that it goes back on the calendar, and August Sundays go fast.

MAN: I'll call her tonight.

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Part 4: A Scarf for a Statue

NARRATOR: Residents of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, have joined forces to keep one local landmark warm this winter. Over the past three months, more than ninety volunteers, ranging in age from eight to ninety-three, have knitted a scarf measuring nearly forty metres for the bronze bison statue in a small neighbourhood park. The project began with retired nurse Doreen Fisher, who noticed last January that schoolchildren had wrapped their own scarves around the statue during a bitter cold snap. Fisher posted a request for spare wool on a community website and expected perhaps a dozen replies. Instead, donations arrived from as far away as Nova Scotia, and the local seniors' centre began hosting knitting circles twice a week. Each participant contributed a single square, so the finished scarf is a colourful patchwork of patterns and abilities. Organizers admit that several squares are noticeably lopsided, and they've proudly kept every one. The scarf will be wrapped around the bison on Saturday morning, with a city maintenance crew providing a lift truck. Once spring arrives, it will be removed, washed and stitched into blankets for a local shelter. Fisher says she has already received enthusiastic requests to make it an annual tradition.

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Part 5: A Moving Company Meeting

Maria: Okay, we're about three weeks out. Where are we on bookings for the first?

Karl: Sixty-two jobs confirmed, and the phone hasn't stopped ringing. I've got another eleven people on a waiting list.

Felicia: Sixty-two, with fourteen trucks. That's more than four jobs a truck, and half of them are third-floor walk-ups with those outdoor spiral staircases.

Karl: Which is why I'd like the first crews to start at five in the morning instead of seven. Two shifts, two crews per truck. The trucks never stop moving.

Maria: Five in the morning… the guys are going to love that. But fine, it beats last year, when we were still carrying a sofa up the stairs at eleven at night.

Felicia: Honestly, it's the people I'm worried about, not the trucks. Remember the three students we hired last summer? By lunch two of them had disappeared, and the third was sitting in the shade looking grey.

Karl: That was thirty-four degrees, though. Brutal.

Felicia: Which it could be again. So this year every new hire gets paired with someone who's done at least two Julys. And I'm putting a cooler in every truck, water, electrolyte drinks, the works.

Maria: Good, that's smart. Now, the waiting list. I keep thinking we should charge more for the first, like the airlines do over the holidays.

Karl: I'd be careful. Half our business comes from people who used us before and told their friends. If a regular customer suddenly sees fifty percent extra, that's the end of that.

Maria: I'm not saying fifty percent. Just enough to cover the overtime.

Felicia: What if new customers pay the higher rate, and anyone who's moved with us before keeps last year's price?

Maria: Hmm, that could work… though people talk. Someone's neighbour will end up comparing invoices.

Karl: Speaking of neighbours, did anyone apply for the street parking permits? Because last year in the Plateau we got a ticket on—

Felicia: —on every single truck, yes. I sent the applications in on Monday. The borough says ten business days.

Maria: Cutting it close. Okay, back to the waiting list. There's one I can't stop thinking about, Madame Tremblay, the piano teacher. She's moved with us four times.

Karl: The upright piano, up two flights. That's a four-person job on a day when I can't spare two.

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Felicia: Unless she'd be willing to move on the second.

Maria: On the second, she'd be sleeping in an empty apartment for a night. I'll call her, but I don't love any of this.

Part 6: Food Trucks in City Parks

NARRATOR: Few summer pleasures rival a lazy afternoon in a city park, and increasingly, that afternoon comes with a side of tacos. Across the country, municipalities are debating whether food trucks, long confined to downtown curbs and festival grounds, should be permitted to set up beside playgrounds and picnic shelters. What appears to be a trivial question of lunch options has, in several councils, become a surprisingly heated dispute about who parks are actually for.

NARRATOR: Restaurant owner turned truck operator Daniel Okafor is among the most vocal proponents. He contends that many parks, particularly in newer suburbs, sit underused precisely because there is nothing to do in them but walk. A truck parked near the soccer fields, he argues, gives families a reason to linger, and lingering families make a park livelier and safer. Okafor also points to the economics: a permit fee charged to vendors could fund the washroom repairs that cash-strapped cities perpetually postpone. And he bristles at the suggestion that trucks would steal customers from nearby restaurants, noting that most suburban parks are kilometres from the nearest café. He adds that vendors have every incentive to keep their surroundings tidy, since nobody lines up for lunch beside an overflowing bin.

NARRATOR: Neighbourhood association president Ruth Lindqvist sees things differently. For her, a park's value lies in being one of the few public spaces where nobody is trying to sell you anything. She worries that once trucks are welcomed, generators, idling engines and overflowing bins will follow, and that the quiet corners relied on by seniors and parents with infants will gradually disappear. Lindqvist is equally sceptical of the revenue argument. Permit fees, she observes, tend to be kept low to attract vendors in the first place, and she doubts they would cover even the additional garbage collection, let alone new washrooms. She also suspects that families who pack a picnic precisely to save money will feel considerable pressure once their children spot a dessert truck parked beside the swings.

NARRATOR: Some councils have attempted a middle path: designated spots at the edges of larger parks, limited hours, and a ban on generators. Okafor calls these restrictions workable, if fussy; Lindqvist calls them a foot in the door. Both, tellingly, agree that the worst outcome would be a free-for-all. Ultimately, the real question may not be whether trucks belong in parks, but whether cities are prepared to enforce the rules they write. A regulation that nobody polices, after all, is merely a suggestion.

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