CELPIP Listening Practice Test 89

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
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How to take this test

1. Open celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/89 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/89 with the recordings, marked as you go, with an estimated CLB. More free tests: celpass.com/celpip/practice-tests-pdf

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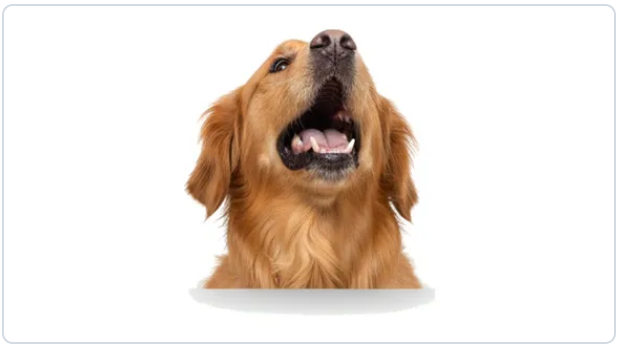
Part 1: Listening to Problem Solving

Exchanging a Rental Violin

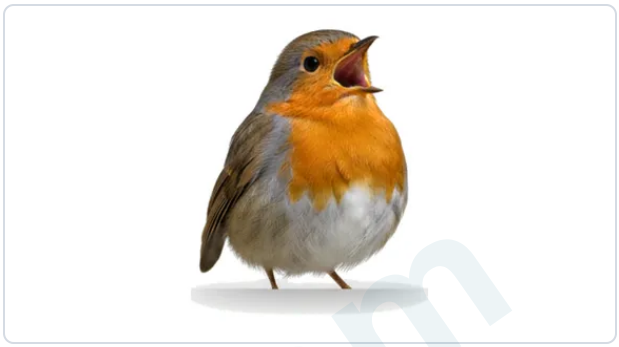
▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/89**

1. What does the woman say the violin sounds like?

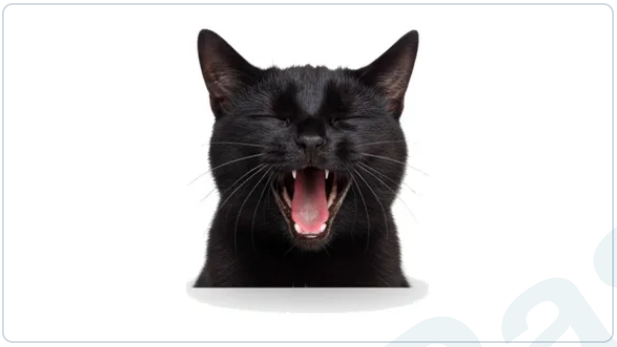
A



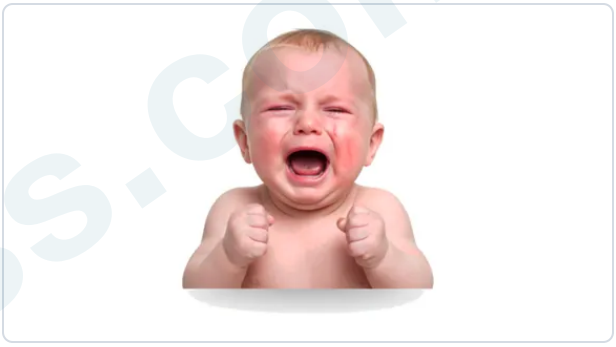
B



C



D



2. What is causing the problem with the violin?

A The thinnest string has snapped.

B The body of the violin is too old to hold a tune.

C Her son tunes it the wrong way.

D A worn part is letting a string loosen.

3. Why will the exchange be free?

A The family pays for coverage each month.

B The violin is still under warranty.

C The store gave wrong information about its age.

D The replacement is coming from another store.

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/89**

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4. Why does the man advise against the better model?

A It is harder for young beginners to hold and play.

B Its sound is rougher than the regular one.

C The boy is likely to need a bigger instrument soon.

D It cannot arrive before the lesson.

5. What does the woman decide?

A to take the less expensive replacement

B to keep the violin that was just repaired

C to pay extra for the better model

D to wait until next fall to choose

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/89**

6. What does the man correct the woman about?

A what to do before coming back

B how often her son should tune the violin

C how to tune the violin herself

D where the replacement violin will go

7. What is likely true of the boy?

A He prefers the sound of the replacement.

B He has become attached to his violin.

C He missed his group lesson this week.

D He practises without being reminded.

8. Why does the man give the woman a spare string?

A She paid for it with the rental fee.

B The new string he put on earlier was faulty.

C He expects her son to need it.

D It came with the replacement violin.

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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

Trouble with the Garbage Bins

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/89**

9. Why does the woman mention the people across the street?

A Their bin was knocked over on Tuesday.
B She suspects they are feeding the raccoons.
C They had complained to her about the noise.
D She first thought the noise was theirs.

10. What does the man believe about the city's rules?

A Bins with fastened lids may not be emptied.
B Bins must be kept in a garage until pickup.
C Bricks are not allowed on bin lids.
D Bins must be put out the night before.

11. Why does the woman advise against keeping the bin in the garage?

A Her husband needs the space for his car.
B Raccoons can easily get into most garages.
C The garbage would smell terrible.
D The man would forget to take it out.

12. What does the man mean when he mentions mornings?

A He is usually in a bad mood early in the day.
B He might not remember to remove the cords.
C He leaves for work before the trucks come.
D He would rather put his bin out at night.

13. What will the man most likely do?

A spread a spicy powder all around his bin
B keep his bin inside until pickup day
C buy his own set of stretchy cords
D use cords lent to him by his neighbour

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Part 3: Listening for Information

Piano Lessons for an Adult

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/89**

14. Why has the man become interested in the piano?

A His children have recently started lessons.
B His mother asked him to learn her hymns.
C He now has an instrument he does not want to waste.
D He saw a flyer offering a free first lesson.

15. Why does the woman ask when the piano was last tuned?

A She tunes pianos for her students herself.
B An out-of-tune piano could teach him the wrong sounds.
C Old pianos are much harder for adult beginners to play.
D The tuning must be done before the trial lesson.

16. Why does the woman recommend forty-five-minute lessons?

A It is the only length she has available.
B Adults learn faster than children do.
C She charges less for shorter lessons than longer ones.
D Other lengths are either too rushed or too draining.

17. According to the woman, how are adult beginners different from children?

A They are harder on themselves.
B They progress more quickly.
C They prefer classical music.
D They practise for longer periods.

18. What is the woman's attitude toward students who have had a difficult week?

A She expects them to make up the time on Sunday.
B She would rather they cancel and rest.
C She charges them less for a review lesson.
D She would prefer that they come anyway.

19. What will most likely happen?

A The man will begin paid lessons next Wednesday.
B The woman will look for a different time slot.
C The man will pay for his first month.
D The man will try a free lesson later than she suggested.

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

Back-to-School Haircuts

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/89**

20. This year, Dennis Moreau's event was

A more popular than in the past.
B held for the very first time.
C run by Moreau without any help.
D moved to a larger location.

21. The money in the jar will

A pay the stylists who volunteered.
B cover the cost of a second shop.
C go toward feeding people in the community.
D be returned to families who need it.

22. Moreau got the idea for the event from

A a request from local parents.
B an unhappy experience from his childhood.
C a barber he once trained with.
D a teacher at a nearby school.

23. The mother of three suggests that

A her sons did not want haircuts.
B she usually cuts their hair herself.
C the line was longer than she expected.
D money had been tight for her family.

24. Moreau asks children to look in the mirror in order to

A check that they like the new cut.
B help them feel positive about school.
C practise speaking clearly in front of others.
D decide on their next hairstyle.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

Traffic on Our Street

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/89**

25. What happened on Saturday?

A A dog ran out into the road.
B A neighbour's car hit the curb.
C A pet was nearly struck by a car.
D A driver was stopped for speeding.

26. Why does Anita apologize?

A She had believed a false account.
B She had interrupted Melissa's story.
C She had arrived at the meeting late.
D She had let her own dog off the leash.

27. What does Jamal say has caused the increase in traffic?

A A nearby bridge has been closed.
B New traffic lights were put in.
C A school has opened at the bend.
D Drivers are being sent around roadwork.

28. Why does Anita mention her cousin?

A to suggest asking the cousin for advice
B to show that speed bumps are slow to get
C to prove that radar signs work well
D to point out that Hamilton has less traffic

29. How does Jamal feel about the radar sign?

A sure that it will cost too much
B eager to borrow one himself
C doubtful that it will work for long
D certain that drivers will ignore it

30. What does Melissa propose?

A a quick fix plus a longer-term request
B waiting to see whether the detour ends
C relying only on a petition for speed bumps
D asking a city planner to visit the street

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31. What is most likely true of Anita?

A She thinks the speeding is exaggerated.

B She is careful about what she backs.

C She lives on the street called Birch.

D She trusts Jamal's relative completely.

32. What is the best subject line for Melissa's message to the councillor?

A Complaint about a neighbour's dog

B Request to end the detour early

C Asking to borrow a speed sign

D Residents seek action on unsafe through traffic

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Keeping Score in Children's Sports

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/89**

33. The main purpose of the report is to

A argue that scores should be banned.
B compare two views on a sports policy.
C describe how a soccer league is run.
D criticize coaches for unfair team choices.

34. According to Rachel Lindqvist, keeping score tends to

A make young players train harder.
B make games last much longer.
C improve how parents behave.
D favour children who grow sooner.

35. Tom Okafor doubts the registration figures because

A the same increase appears in competitive leagues.
B few families leave leagues midseason.
C the figures come from just one small league.
D children often add goals to the result.

36. Okafor mentions what seven-year-olds say after a game to show that

A young children are often dishonest.
B children enjoy winning more than playing.
C children notice results regardless.
D coaches should keep official scores.

37. Tom Okafor would likely agree that

A standings matter for six-year-olds.
B registration rose because of the rule.
C some parents behave badly at games.
D bigger players deserve more ice time.

38. The speaker suggests that the real issue is

A how grown-ups respond to the outcome.
B whether children can handle losing.
C how much playing time each child gets.
D which age group should keep score.

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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: Exchanging a Rental Violin

1 C Picture C

2 D A worn part is letting a string loosen.

3 A The family pays for coverage each month.

4 C The boy is likely to need a bigger instrument soon.

5 A to take the less expensive replacement

6 A what to do before coming back

7 B He has become attached to his violin.

8 C He expects her son to need it.

Part 2: Trouble with the Garbage Bins

9 D She first thought the noise was theirs.

10 A Bins with fastened lids may not be emptied.

11 C The garbage would smell terrible.

12 B He might not remember to remove the cords.

13 D use cords lent to him by his neighbour

Part 3: Piano Lessons for an Adult

14 C He now has an instrument he does not want to waste.

15 B An out-of-tune piano could teach him the wrong sounds.

16 D Other lengths are either too rushed or too draining.

17 A They are harder on themselves.

18 D She would prefer that they come anyway.

19 D The man will try a free lesson later than she suggested.

Part 4: Back-to-School Haircuts

20 A more popular than in the past.

21 C go toward feeding people in the community.

22 B an unhappy experience from his childhood.

23 D money had been tight for her family.

24 B help them feel positive about school.

Part 5: Traffic on Our Street

25 C A pet was nearly struck by a car.

26 A She had believed a false account.

27 D Drivers are being sent around roadwork.

28 B to show that speed bumps are slow to get

29 C doubtful that it will work for long

30 A a quick fix plus a longer-term request

31 B She is careful about what she backs.

32 D Residents seek action on unsafe through traffic

Part 6: Keeping Score in Children's Sports

33 B compare two views on a sports policy.

34 D favour children who grow sooner.

35 A the same increase appears in competitive leagues.

36 C children notice results regardless.

37 C some parents behave badly at games.

38 A how grown-ups respond to the 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: Exchanging a Rental Violin

Section 1

MAN: Afternoon. Can I help you?

WOMAN: I hope so. We rented this violin from you in September, for my son. He's nine. And it just won't stay in tune. He tunes it before he practises, and twenty minutes later it sounds like, well… a cat in distress. His teacher says it's not him.

MAN: Let me have a look. Is it all the strings, or—

WOMAN: Mostly the thin one. The… A? No, the E.

MAN: That's it. See this little peg? It's slipping. The hole's been worn smooth. That happens with the older rentals.

WOMAN: Older? We were told it was practically new.

MAN: The body is, probably, but the pegs get the hardest use. Honestly, the simplest fix is to swap the whole instrument. Did you take the damage protection when you signed up?

WOMAN: The eight dollars a month? Yes, my husband insisted.

MAN: Then the swap won't cost you anything. Thing is, we're out of that size, with the September rush. I can have one sent over from our Kitchener store by Thursday.

WOMAN: Thursday. His group lesson is Wednesday evening, though.

MAN: Then I'll put a new peg in this one for now, so he's got something to play. Give me half an hour.

Section 2

MAN: Okay, all done. New peg, and I put on a fresh E string while I was at it.

WOMAN: Oh, thank you. What do I owe you for the string?

MAN: Nothing, it's covered. Now, Kitchener has two in his size, but one is a slightly better model. It's five dollars more a month.

WOMAN: Better how? He's only been playing for six weeks.

MAN: Mainly the sound, it's less scratchy. At his stage, though, I wouldn't bother. Most kids move up a size within a year anyway.

WOMAN: Hmm, so the extra would sort of be…

MAN: Money down the drain, pretty much. Unless he really takes off.

WOMAN: Let's go with the regular one, then. If he's still at it next fall, we'll talk.

Section 3

WOMAN: Hi, I'm back.

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MAN: No problem. Your replacement came in this morning. It's tuned and ready.

WOMAN: Actually, that's the thing. Since you fixed the old one, it's been perfect. My son played it all through his lesson last night, and the teacher didn't touch it once. And, um, he's sort of… named it.

MAN: Named it?

WOMAN: Maestro. Don't ask. Anyway, would it be all right if we just kept the one we've got?

MAN: Of course, it's your call. I'll send this one back to Kitchener. The only thing is, if that peg starts slipping again—

WOMAN: —bring it straight in, I know.

MAN: Well, actually, I was going to say, phone first. I'm only here Tuesdays and Thursdays, and nobody else here does repairs.

WOMAN: Oh, good to know.

MAN: And here, take a spare E string. Thin ones snap all the time at his age.

WOMAN: That's very kind. Now I just have to get him to practise without being asked.

MAN: Ha. That, I can't fix.

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Part 2: Trouble with the Garbage Bins

MAN: Morning, Lisa. Did you hear that racket last night? Around two there was this crash, and when I looked out, my green bin was on its side and there were coffee grounds and corn husks all down the driveway.

WOMAN: Oh, that was you? I thought it was the people across the street again. Ours got hit on Tuesday. I spent twenty minutes picking up chicken bones before work, and believe me, I was not in a good mood.

MAN: Raccoons, I'm guessing. I saw a big one on my fence last week, just sitting there, staring at me like I was the one trespassing. I've tried weighing the lid down with a couple of bricks, but they just shove them off.

WOMAN: Bricks won't do it, they're smarter than that. My brother in Ottawa swears by bungee cords, the stretchy ones, hooked across the lid and around the handles. Apparently they can't figure out the hooks.

MAN: Hmm, but doesn't the city say you can't tie the lids down? I thought the trucks with the big mechanical arm wouldn't take them.

WOMAN: No, I think that's only if the lid can't open when they tip it. You just take the cords off on collection morning. Although, I mean, that does mean remembering to take them off.

MAN: Right, and you know me and mornings. What about keeping the bin in the garage until pickup day?

WOMAN: You could, but in this heat? Honestly, the smell would knock you over every time you opened the door. We tried that one summer and my husband nearly moved out.

MAN: Ha. Okay, so bungee cords it is, I suppose. Or, actually, my sister said something about sprinkling cayenne pepper around the bin.

WOMAN: I wouldn't. They'll just walk around it, and then you've got pepper all over your shoes. Look, I've got a spare set of cords in my shed. Try them for a week. If you still find a mess, then…

MAN: Then I owe you a coffee for trying. Deal.

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Part 3: Piano Lessons for an Adult

WOMAN: Good afternoon, Riverside Piano Studio, this is Helen.

MAN: Hi, um, I got your number off a flyer at the community centre. I'm looking into piano lessons. For me, that is, not my kids. I'm fifty-four and I've never played a note, so I don't know if that's, you know, ridiculous.

WOMAN: Not at all. About a third of my students are adults, and the oldest just turned seventy-eight. Can I ask what got you interested?

MAN: Well, my mother had an old upright, and when she moved into a care home last spring, nobody in the family had room for it. So now it's sitting in my living room, and it just felt wrong to let it collect dust. She used to play hymns on it every Sunday.

WOMAN: That's a lovely reason. Before anything else, though, when was it last tuned? A piano that's been moved almost always needs it, and if it's badly off, you'd be training your ear on the wrong notes.

MAN: Oh, I have no idea. Years, probably.

WOMAN: I can give you the name of a good tuner. Now, for adults I usually suggest forty-five minutes a week. Half an hour flies by before we've really started, and an hour is exhausting when everything is new. It's fifty dollars a lesson, paid by the month.

MAN: Fifty a lesson… okay. And would I be using those children's books, with the cartoon animals on every page?

WOMAN: Ha, no. I use a method book written for adults, so the pieces are things you'd actually recognize, folk songs, a bit of classical, even some pop. The main difference with adults is that they want to move faster than their fingers allow. Kids just play. Adults judge every single mistake.

MAN: That sounds like me, to be honest. What about practice? I work shifts at the hospital, so some weeks I'm completely worn out.

WOMAN: Fifteen or twenty minutes most days is better than two hours on a Sunday. And on the bad weeks, we just review. I'd much rather see you than have you cancel because you feel unprepared.

MAN: Well, that's a relief. So when could I start?

WOMAN: I've got a Wednesday at seven that just opened up. But let's do a trial lesson first, no charge, so you can see whether we're a good fit. Does next Wednesday suit you?

MAN: Next Wednesday I'm on nights. Could we do the week after?

WOMAN: That's fine. I'll hold the spot for you until then.

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Part 4: Back-to-School Haircuts

NARRATOR: For the third consecutive year, a Sault Ste. Marie barber turned his modest storefront into something resembling a neighbourhood festival on the weekend before classes resumed. Dennis Moreau, who has operated his two-chair shop on the city's east side for nearly two decades, offered complimentary haircuts to any student heading back to school. By closing time on Sunday, he and two volunteer stylists had trimmed one hundred and forty heads, roughly double last year's total, and by mid-morning the lineup stretched past the bakery next door. Moreau says the idea originated in his own childhood. His family struggled financially, and he vividly remembers dreading the first day of grade four because of a lopsided cut his father had attempted at the kitchen table. Parents were never asked to pay, although a jar on the counter collected nearly six hundred dollars, which Moreau intends to donate to a local breakfast program. One mother, who brought three sons, admitted she had been quietly stretching her back-to-school budget for weeks. Moreau insists, however, that the haircut is only half the point. He encourages every child to look in the mirror afterward and name one thing they're looking forward to this year. Next summer, he hopes to recruit enough barbers to run the event in a second location.

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Part 5: Traffic on Our Street

Melissa: Thanks for coming over. I know it's late, but after what happened on Saturday, I just couldn't sit on this any longer.

Jamal: The thing with the dog?

Melissa: The thing with Priya's dog, yes. Somebody came flying in from the main road, must have been doing seventy, and missed him by about this much. If she hadn't yanked the leash—

Anita: Okay, but to be fair, that dog is off the leash half the time.

Melissa: He was on the leash, Anita. That's the point. He was on the sidewalk, and the car nearly came up over the curb.

Anita: Oh. Sorry, I'd heard it differently.

Jamal: Look, I'm with you. Ever since they put the construction detour on the avenue, the map apps are sending everyone down our street to skip the lights. I counted one morning last week. Sixty-two cars in half an hour. Normally it's maybe ten.

Anita: You actually counted?

Jamal: Sat on the porch with my coffee and a notepad. My wife thought I'd lost it.

Melissa: Well, that's exactly what we need, numbers. I was thinking we ask the city for speed bumps. A petition, with signatures from every house.

Anita: Speed bumps take forever. My cousin in Hamilton went through all that. Two years of studies and meetings, and in the end they got one sign. And the detour's supposed to be finished by spring anyway.

Jamal: Supposed to be. They said that about the bridge, too.

Melissa: So what, we do nothing?

Anita: No, I'm saying start with something faster. The city lends out those radar signs, the ones that flash your speed at you. Someone over on Birch borrowed one in August. People slow right down when they see their own number lit up.

Jamal: Do they, though? Or just for the first week, until they stop noticing it?

Anita: Even one week of slower cars beats what we've got now.

Melissa: Fine, but why not both? The sign now, and the petition for the long haul. If the detour really ends, great, we drop it.

Jamal: I'd add one thing. School starts at eight-thirty, and the twins from number twelve cross right at the bend, where you can't see anything coming. If we mention children in the petition, the city tends to move faster. That's what my brother-in-law says, anyway. He used to work in traffic planning.

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Anita: Your brother-in-law says a lot of things.

Jamal: He's usually right, though.

Melissa: Okay. I'll draft something for the councillor this week, and I'll put the kids in it.

Anita: I'll call about the sign. Though, honestly, I'm not putting my name on any petition until I've read it.

Melissa: That's fair.

Jamal: And if the city says no to all of it?

Melissa: Then… I don't know. Let's see what they say first.

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Part 6: Keeping Score in Children's Sports

NARRATOR: On any Saturday morning in a Canadian community arena, you'll find rows of parents clutching coffee, cheering on six-year-olds who are, frankly, more interested in the snack schedule than the scoreboard. Increasingly, though, there is no scoreboard to speak of. A growing number of recreational leagues have stopped recording scores and standings for their youngest players, typically those under nine. The policy has its champions and its sceptics, and the disagreement reveals as much about adults as it does about children.

NARRATOR: Rachel Lindqvist, who coordinates a youth soccer association outside Halifax, introduced a no-score rule four years ago. Her reasoning is straightforward. At that age, she argues, competition rewards early physical maturity rather than talent or effort. A child born in January may be considerably bigger than a teammate born in December, and once results are tallied, coaches quietly hand the bigger kids more playing time. Lindqvist says registration in her under-eight division has climbed steadily since the change, and fewer families drop out midseason. Coaches, she adds, can then concentrate on teaching passing and positioning, which she maintains is what young players genuinely need. She has also noticed something less measurable: without a score to argue about, parents on the sidelines have far less to shout about.

NARRATOR: Former junior hockey coach Tom Okafor considers the policy well-intentioned but misguided. Children, he points out, keep score whether adults do or not. Ask any seven-year-old after a game and they'll recite the result instantly, often with a goal or two added. Pretending otherwise, in his view, robs youngsters of the chance to practise losing gracefully while the stakes are trivial, a lesson he believes no amount of encouragement can substitute for. Okafor fears that players who never taste defeat early will find it all the more bruising at eleven or twelve, when standings suddenly matter and teams are selected. Nor is he persuaded by the enrolment figures. Leagues that still count goals, he notes, have grown just as quickly.

NARRATOR: Interestingly, the two agree on more than one might expect. Both insist that equal playing time matters more than any scoreboard, and Okafor readily concedes that shouting parents are a genuine problem. Perhaps the real question isn't whether to count the goals, but whether the adults in the stands can be trusted with the number. Several provincial associations are watching closely before deciding whether to follow suit, and a few have quietly begun surveying parents.

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