CELPIP Listening Practice Test 90

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/90 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/90 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 Problem with New House Keys

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/90**

1. What is the woman's problem?

A One of her keys broke off in the lock.
B The new keys won't open her door.
C Her new keys don't fit into the lock.
D Her old key has stopped working.

2. Why didn't the new keys work properly?

A The machine was set up for another lock.
B Her lock is too old for new keys.
C They were cut from an inaccurate key.
D She turned them too hard.

3. Where does the woman think the original key is?

A



B



C



D



▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/90**

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4. What does the man say about the key the woman found?

A It is too worn down to be copied properly.
B It is the original key to her house.
C It has to be cleaned before copying.
D It was never made for her house door.

5. What is the woman's first reaction to the man's new suggestion?

A She thinks $40 is too expensive.
B She thinks the job is too big.
C She would rather buy a new lock.
D She wants him to come to her house.

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/90**

6. What does the man warn the woman about?

A The work will take all afternoon.
B The new keys will need extra filing.
C Her current key will stop working.
D A fourth key will cost extra.

7. How does the woman feel about the old key no longer working?

A relieved
B worried
C embarrassed
D disappointed

8. What will the woman probably do when she reinstalls the lock?

A mail a key to her brother-in-law
B drop a key off at her neighbour's
C ask the man to install the lock
D test each copy before finishing the job

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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

Hosting an Exchange Student

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/90**

9. What does the woman suggest about Yuki's comment on the lasagna?

A It was a joke about Canadian food.
B It was said to be kind rather than honest.
C It showed she was missing meals from home.
D It was based on many meals she had eaten in Canada.

10. What worries the woman most about Yuki?

A She is missing her family in Japan.
B She has trouble getting to school on time.
C She does not say when something is wrong.
D She fights with the woman's son.

11. Why does the man talk about his sister's experience?

A to warn that host students are often fussy eaters
B to explain why his sister stopped hosting
C to recommend a store with a better selection
D to suggest a way to find out what Yuki likes

12. How does the woman feel about Tyler's arguments with Yuki?

A quietly pleased
B annoyed
C worried
D embarrassed

13. What will the woman probably do before the agency's visit?

A buy Yuki a monthly bus pass
B ask Tyler to share his video games
C clear storage space for Yuki's belongings
D go to the agency's office

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Part 3: Listening for Information

Planning a Graduation Lunch

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/90**

14. Why is the man calling?

A to order a specially shaped cake
B to arrange food for a family celebration
C to rent tables and tents for an outdoor party
D to book a hall for a graduation

15. Why does the man choose the more expensive menu?

A It works better for outdoor events.
B His daughter asked for a buffet.
C It is the only menu with a vegan dish.
D He wants the meal to feel special.

16. Why does the woman advise against salmon?

A It may not stay safe in warm weather.
B Some guests are allergic to fish.
C It costs more than the chicken.
D The kitchen cannot cook it for forty-five.

17. What will the catering company NOT provide?

A staff to serve the food
B tables for the food
C chairs for the guests
D dishes for serving

18. What will the man probably do about the cake?

A accept a dessert table instead
B ask his daughter to choose a simpler design
C bake it himself at home
D order it from another business

19. What can we infer about the daughter's mother?

A She is no longer married to the man.
B She is also a nurse.
C She has a nut allergy.
D She is planning the whole party by herself.

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

Bees in the Wall

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/90**

20. At first, the family thought the noise came from

A a neighbour's house.
B a broken furnace.
C the electrical system.
D insects under the siding.

21. The bees were discovered by

A the couple's child.
B an electrician who came twice.
C the beekeeper.
D Tom Bergeron.

22. Okafor chose to save the colony because

A the orchard owner offered to pay for it.
B the family wanted to keep the honey.
C local exterminators were not available.
D bee numbers have been under pressure.

23. The bees were taken to

A a park in Kelowna.
B a fruit farm.
C Okafor's own backyard.
D a research centre.

24. We can infer that Rachel Bergeron

A blames the electrician for the damage.
B is happy with the outcome.
C plans to start keeping bees herself.
D will sell the honey she receives.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

Choosing an Apartment

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/90**

25. Why does Fernando prefer the Elm Street apartment?

A It has a bigger third bedroom.
B It costs less each month than the other place.
C It includes heat and internet.
D It would save him time before early classes.

26. What does Jacqueline dislike about Elm Street at first?

A One bedroom is tiny.
B It is far from campus.
C The landlord seems unfriendly.
D The landlord wants an answer soon.

27. Why does Fernando mention his cousin?

A to recommend a place she used to rent
B to show the bus is often too full
C to suggest the long trip could make them miss classes
D to explain why he has early labs

28. What does Kathleen think about the laundry room at Elm Street?

A It is too expensive to use.
B It is an unpleasant place.
C It is shared with too many people.
D It has no dryer.

29. What does Jacqueline misunderstand?

A the reason Fernando is often out
B where the Elm Street laundry is
C when the lease at Elm Street ends
D which bus goes to the basement suite

30. Why might the basement suite cost more than it seems?

A Utilities would be added to the rent.
B The laundry machines are coin-operated.
C Summer students pay less rent.
D They'd be charged over the summer.

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31. What is most likely true at the end of the discussion?

A They have signed the Elm Street lease.

B They will look for summer subtenants.

C They are leaning toward Elm Street.

D They have chosen the basement suite.

32. What is the best subject line for an email to the Elm Street landlord?

A Asking for a twelve-month lease

B Still interested, can we visit again?

C Question about summer subletting

D Can heat and internet be included too?

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Report Cards Without Letter Grades

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/90**

33. The report is mainly about

A a possible new way of reporting students' progress.
B the heavy workload of Canadian teachers.
C how children adjust to high school.
D ways parents can help with homework.

34. According to Michelle Tran, comments are more useful than letters because they

A rank each student against classmates.
B prepare pupils for high school.
C show families how a child could improve.
D are quicker for teachers to write.

35. Paul Sinclair's main objection is that comments

A are too harsh for young children.
B are sent home only once a year.
C distract students from their tests.
D can hide how well a child is really doing.

36. The speaker regards Sinclair's point about teachers' workload as

A overstated.
B well founded.
C beside the point.
D alarmist.

37. We can infer that Michelle Tran

A has adjusted the approach in response to problems.
B thinks the extra workload is not a problem.
C wants letters kept for older students.
D has convinced Paul Sinclair to support the change.

38. Tran mentions the questions her students now ask in order to show that

A they participate less in class discussions.
B their test scores have risen since the switch.
C the change has altered what they care about.
D they feel better prepared for high school.

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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 Problem with New House Keys

1 B The new keys won't open her door.

2 C They were cut from an inaccurate key.

3 C Picture C

4 D It was never made for her house door.

5 B She thinks the job is too big.

6 C Her current key will stop working.

7 A relieved

8 D test each copy before finishing the job

Part 2: Hosting an Exchange Student

9 B It was said to be kind rather than honest.

10 C She does not say when something is wrong.

11 D to suggest a way to find out what Yuki likes

12 A quietly pleased

13 C clear storage space for Yuki's belongings

Part 3: Planning a Graduation Lunch

14 B to arrange food for a family celebration

15 D He wants the meal to feel special.

16 A It may not stay safe in warm weather.

17 C chairs for the guests

18 D order it from another business

19 A She is no longer married to the man.

Part 4: Bees in the Wall

20 C the electrical system.

21 A the couple's child.

22 D bee numbers have been under pressure.

23 B a fruit farm.

24 B is happy with the outcome.

Part 5: Choosing an Apartment

25 D It would save him time before early classes.

26 A One bedroom is tiny.

27 C to suggest the long trip could make them miss classes

28 B It is an unpleasant place.

29 A the reason Fernando is often out

30 D They'd be charged over the summer.

31 C They are leaning toward Elm Street.

32 B Still interested, can we visit again?

Part 6: Report Cards Without Letter Grades

33 A a possible new way of reporting students' progress.

34 C show families how a child could improve.

35 D can hide how well a child is really doing.

36 B well founded.

37 A has adjusted the approach in response to problems.

38 C the change has altered what they care about.

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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 Problem with New House Keys

Section 1

MAN: Hi there. What can I do for you?

WOMAN: Hi. I had three copies of my house key cut here on Saturday, and none of them work.

MAN: None of them? Do they go into the lock at all?

WOMAN: Oh, they go in fine. They just won't turn. One turns halfway if I jiggle it, but then it sticks. I nearly snapped it off last night.

MAN: Good thing you didn't. A broken key in a lock is a whole other bill. Have you got the key you brought in to be copied?

WOMAN: This one. It works perfectly.

MAN: Let me see… Ah. See how the edges are rounded off? This key's worn down. Is it the original, or a copy?

WOMAN: A copy, I think. The original's in a drawer somewhere at home. Probably with the warranty for the dishwasher.

MAN: Then that's your problem. When you copy a worn copy, the machine copies the wear too, and adds a little of its own. Your lock puts up with this old one, but not the new ones.

WOMAN: So I came back for nothing?

MAN: Not quite. If you can dig up that original, I'll cut you three new ones from it. No charge.

WOMAN: Hm. Deal. Though if it's where I think it is, I'll have to empty half the kitchen.

Section 2

WOMAN: Hi, me again. I found it! Well, I found a key. In the dishwasher drawer, like I said.

MAN: Hmm. Sorry, but see the shape of the head, and this groove? This one's for a completely different lock. A padlock, maybe, or a shed.

WOMAN: Oh, you have got to be kidding me. I emptied every drawer in that kitchen.

MAN: I know. But there's another way. I can rekey the lock: change the little parts inside to suit a brand-new key, so nothing old gets copied. It's $40, less than a new lock.

WOMAN: I'm not taking my front door apart.

MAN: You won't have to. The part that matters comes out with two screws. I'll draw it for you.

WOMAN: Fine. Two screws. If I'm back here carrying the whole door, you'll know why.

Section 3

MAN: Oh good, you got it out. Any trouble?

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WOMAN: Two screws, like you said. It took me twenty minutes, mind you, because I was holding your drawing upside down.

MAN: Ha. It happens. So, I'll change the pins to match a fresh key, then cut your copies. Three, was it?

WOMAN: Four, actually. My neighbour waters the plants when we're away.

MAN: Four. Now, once I do this, the key you've been using is finished. Anyone with a copy won't be getting in anymore.

WOMAN: Anyone… oh. My brother-in-law borrowed one last spring and swore he'd mailed it back. It never showed up.

MAN: Well, then this solves two problems.

WOMAN: Honestly, I've lost sleep over that. How long will all this take?

MAN: Half an hour, maybe. Just, uh, try every one in the lock before you put the door back together.

WOMAN: Believe me, I'm not taking that chance again.

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Part 2: Hosting an Exchange Student

MAN: Morning, Diane. You look like you've been up since five.

WOMAN: Close. Six. Remember I told you we'd signed up to host an exchange student? She arrived on Sunday. Yuki. She's from Osaka, she's with us until June, and suddenly I'm packing three lunches and figuring out school buses.

MAN: Oh, right. Wait, I thought you were getting a university student. Somebody doing a master's?

WOMAN: No, that's the Hendersons down the street. Ours is sixteen. Grade 11. Different worries entirely.

MAN: Ha. So how's it going? Is she homesick?

WOMAN: I was braced for tears, honestly, but no. She's lovely. Almost too lovely. Last night I made lasagna and she told me it was the best thing she'd eaten in Canada, which, okay, she'd been here two days, and then I noticed she'd mostly pushed it around the plate. This morning the coordinator mentioned, sort of in passing, that dairy doesn't agree with her.

MAN: So it wasn't your cooking, it was—

WOMAN: My cooking is fine, thank you. But that's what gets me. If she won't mention something like that, what else is she keeping quiet about? I can't fix what I don't know about.

MAN: You know, my sister had a boy from Germany a few years back. Same thing at first. Then she started taking him along to the grocery store on Saturdays and letting him fill half the cart himself. Turns out he couldn't stand mushrooms, and she'd been putting them in practically everything.

WOMAN: Huh. Yuki would love that, actually. She took pictures of the cereal aisle on Monday, like it was a museum.

MAN: And your son? Is he okay sharing the house?

WOMAN: Tyler? He was dead set against it. Then he discovered she beats him at every video game he owns, and now they bicker every night over whose turn it is. My husband keeps saying I should step in. I'm not going to. When we signed up, Tyler wouldn't even say her name.

MAN: Does the agency check in on you?

WOMAN: Once a month, and the first visit's next Thursday. Right now Yuki's closet is full of our winter coats and about forty boxes of Christmas decorations, and the poor girl's living out of her suitcase. So, busy weekend.

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Part 3: Planning a Graduation Lunch

WOMAN: Good afternoon, Silver Birch Catering, this is Monica.

MAN: Hi, Monica. My name's Gary Holt. I'm putting together a lunch for my daughter's graduation from nursing school, and a friend passed along your number. I'm hoping you're free on June the fourteenth.

WOMAN: Let me check… The fourteenth is a Saturday, so we're fairly busy, but we can still take a lunch as long as it's under sixty people. How many are you expecting?

MAN: About forty-five. Mostly family, plus some of her classmates. It'll be in our backyard, here in Guelph.

WOMAN: Lovely. For backyard parties, most people go with our buffet. You choose two mains, two salads and a dessert, and it's $32 a person. Or there's a lighter option, sandwich platters and soup, which comes to about $18.

MAN: Hmm. Honestly, her mother would never forgive me if it was just sandwiches. It's a big day. But I do have a question about the mains. My sister's vegan, and one of the classmates has a nut allergy, so —

WOMAN: Not a problem. Our kitchen has been completely nut-free for years. And for your sister, we do a roasted vegetable and chickpea stew. Plenty of people who aren't vegan go back for seconds.

MAN: Great. And for the other main… we were thinking salmon?

WOMAN: Salmon's popular, but for an outdoor buffet in June, I'd steer you toward the chicken. Fish doesn't do well sitting out in the heat, and at a backyard party people keep coming back to the table all afternoon.

MAN: Ah, I hadn't thought of that. Okay, chicken it is. Do you bring tables and everything, or is that up to us?

WOMAN: We bring the buffet tables, the serving dishes and two staff. Seating and tents you'd have to rent separately, but I can give you the name of a rental company we work with.

MAN: Please. And what about a cake? She wants one shaped like a nurse's cap. Don't ask me why.

WOMAN: I'm afraid we don't do custom cakes. We put out a dessert table with squares and fruit. But there's a bakery downtown that does that kind of thing, and you're welcome to bring a cake in.

MAN: Huh. That'll be the place on Wyndham Street, I bet. Fine, I'll get them on the phone tomorrow. So what do you need from me to hold the date?

WOMAN: A twenty-five percent deposit, and a final head count ten days before. I'll email you a quote tonight, so you can look it over with your wife first.

MAN: Ah, with her— well, my ex-wife, actually. But yes, she'll definitely want a say.

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Part 4: Bees in the Wall

NARRATOR: A Kelowna family has discovered that the mysterious humming in their living room wall wasn't faulty wiring after all. For nearly a month, Rachel and Tom Bergeron heard a low, steady buzz behind the drywall, and twice called an electrician, who found nothing wrong. Only when their eight-year-old son noticed bees vanishing into a gap beneath the siding was the culprit identified: a colony of roughly forty thousand honeybees, along with an estimated twenty kilograms of honeycomb. Rather than hiring an exterminator, the couple contacted Sandra Okafor, a local beekeeper who specializes in relocating colonies. Okafor spent an entire afternoon carefully removing sections of wall and moving the comb into wooden frames, using a gentle vacuum to collect stray bees. The hive was then transported to an orchard in East Kelowna, where the owner welcomes additional pollinators. Okafor explains that honeybees have struggled badly in recent years, so destroying a healthy colony would have been needlessly wasteful. The family is now repairing the damaged drywall, an expense their insurance company has declined to cover. Still, Rachel Bergeron says she has no regrets, and has been promised several jars of honey once the colony settles in.

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Part 5: Choosing an Apartment

Kathleen: Okay, so the landlord on Elm Street wants an answer by Friday, and the basement suite guy said Monday. So we kind of have to pick.

Fernando: I still say Elm Street. It's a five-minute walk to campus, and I've got eight o'clock labs three days a week next year. Five minutes instead of a bus ride? That's an extra half hour in bed.

Jacqueline: Sure, but did you actually look at the third bedroom? It's basically a closet with a window. Whoever gets it is fitting in a single bed, and maybe a desk if they're lucky.

Fernando: I'd take it. I'm hardly ever home anyway.

Kathleen: That's nice of you, but then we can't all pay the same. We'd have to split the rent differently.

Fernando: Fine by me. What is it, $2,100 total?

Jacqueline: Plus utilities. The basement suite is $1,950, and that includes heat and internet. And it's got its own washer and dryer. At Elm Street the laundry's coin-operated, down in the—

Kathleen: —in that creepy parking garage. Yeah. I remember.

Fernando: But the basement's on the twenty-two bus. Waiting for that bus at seven-thirty in January? My cousin lived out that way in second year, and by February she'd basically given up on her morning lectures.

Jacqueline: That's your cousin, though. And you just said you're hardly ever home. If none of us is ever home, why not take the cheaper place?

Fernando: I'm hardly ever home because I'm on campus. That's my whole point.

Kathleen: Hm. Okay, can I bring up the thing nobody wants to talk about? The lease. The basement suite is twelve months. We're all going home in May. Who's paying for May to August?

Jacqueline: We could sublet it. Summer students are always looking.

Kathleen: For a basement forty minutes from campus? I'm not so sure. Elm Street's eight months, right?

Fernando: September to April. I asked him twice.

Jacqueline: Okay, so if you add four months of empty rent to the basement… it's not actually cheaper, is it?

Kathleen: Not unless somebody sublets it, no.

Jacqueline: Fine. But I'm not signing up for coin laundry in a garage until I've at least seen it in daylight.

Fernando: We could go Thursday, after my lab.

Kathleen: I work until six on Thursday. And if the landlord gets another offer before then…

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Jacqueline: Then I guess somebody's making a phone call tonight.

Part 6: Report Cards Without Letter Grades

NARRATOR: For generations, the report card has been a model of brevity: a column of letters, an A in mathematics, perhaps a disappointing C in French. Yet a handful of Canadian school boards are now experimenting with abolishing letter grades in the elementary and middle years, substituting detailed written commentary on what each student can, and cannot yet, do. Advocates regard the change as long overdue; skeptics suspect it is a solution in search of a problem.

NARRATOR: Michelle Tran, a Grade 6 teacher at a pilot school near Halifax, has become one of the reform's most outspoken champions. A letter, she argues, tells a family where a child stands relative to classmates, but offers precious little guidance about what to do next. A comment, by contrast, might observe that a student writes vivid descriptions but struggles to organize a paragraph, giving parents something tangible to reinforce at home. Tran further contends that grades inadvertently teach children to pursue marks rather than mastery. Since the switch, she reports, students are far less preoccupied with what will be on the test, and far more curious about where their reasoning went astray.

NARRATOR: Paul Sinclair, a father of three and chair of his school's parent council, is markedly less enthusiastic, though his quarrel is narrower than it first appears. He has no objection to comments; what he resists is the disappearance of the letter. Written assessments, he argues, are frequently so diplomatically worded that parents cannot discern whether their child is excelling or quietly falling behind. A child described as developing confidence with fractions, he notes wryly, could be almost anyone. Sinclair also anticipates a jarring transition to high school, where letters and percentages resume and students accustomed to gentle feedback may be caught off guard. Most persuasively, he observes that composing thirty individualized reports three times a year places a considerable burden on teachers who are already stretched thin, a concern that even the reform's proponents struggle to dismiss.

NARRATOR: Tran, to her credit, acknowledges that the first comments at her school were vague, and that teachers now receive training and shared examples to sharpen them. She concedes, too, that the workload is genuine, though she maintains those hours are better invested than in calculating averages. Sinclair, for his part, would accept a compromise: comments on every report card, with a letter available to any parent who requests one. Whether school boards will embrace such a hybrid, or press ahead with abolition, remains to be seen.

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