CELPIP Listening Practice Test 97

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/97 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/97 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 Visit to the Tire Shop

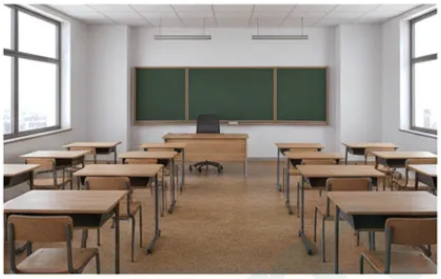
▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/97**

1. Where does the woman work?

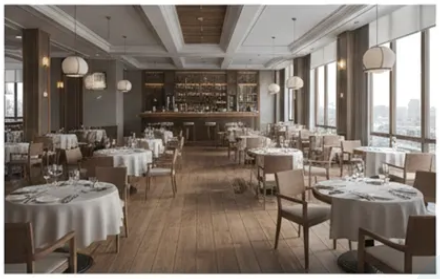
A



B



C



D



2. Why does the man mention nine hundred sets?

A to show how busy the shop gets on cold mornings
B to justify the price of storing her tires
C to explain how a set could end up misplaced
D to admit that some tires are thrown away

3. What will the man probably do next?

A search a different storage area
B phone the owner of the other tires
C move her appointment to another day
D check the size of the rims on her car

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/97**

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4. How does the woman feel at this point?

A grateful
B puzzled
C indifferent
D exasperated

5. According to the man, what most likely caused the problem?

A The orange tags fell off in a trailer.
B Information was moved over with errors.
C A worker gave her set to another customer.
D Her tires never reached the shop in April.

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/97**

6. What does the shop offer to make up for the problem?

A a refund of the eighty dollars she paid
B a discount on a brand-new set
C a ride to the hospital
D waiving next year's storage fee

7. Why does the woman mention the highway to Barrie?

A to explain why she will be late for work
B to ask about the shop's other location
C to show she needs tires she can rely on
D to suggest that her own tires wear out fast

8. What can we infer about the woman's own winter tires?

A They are fairly worn.
B They are brand new.
C They were sold by mistake.
D They were left in a trailer.

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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

Holiday Plans

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/97**

9. What does the woman suggest about the Saturday flight?

A It would cost more than her original ticket did.
B It would get her there too late for dinner.
C It would go through Montreal.
D It leaves from a different airport.

10. Why does the woman mention the departure lounge?

A to describe where she bought a ticket
B to complain about the airline staff
C to show how long she had been waiting
D to explain why the train had no room

11. Why does the woman decide against driving?

A She thinks the trip would be too risky.
B She cannot afford to rent a car.
C Her father needs the family car.
D The roads to Moncton are closed.

12. How does the woman feel about the video call?

A She thinks her sister is not being serious.
B She would prefer to call after Christmas.
C She finds it kind but a poor substitute.
D She worries her parents will find it difficult.

13. What does the woman's comment about butter tarts suggest?

A She is unsure what dessert to bring.
B She would rather cook the whole meal.
C She once worked as a baker.
D She is accepting the invitation.

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Part 3: Listening for Information

Calling a Heating Company

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/97**

14. Why is the man calling?

A to report that his furnace has stopped working
B to find out the age of his furnace
C to arrange a visit his insurer requires
D to complain about his neighbour's technician

15. What will happen if the man misses the November deadline?

A He will pay more for insurance.
B His insurance policy will be cancelled.
C He will lose a warranty.
D He will be fined by the city.

16. What did the man wrongly believe?

A that the inspection report was sent to his insurer
B that a cleaning came with the safety check
C that the technician would bring a manual
D that his neighbour used the same company

17. Why does the woman recommend booking both services?

A His insurer will also ask for proof of cleaning.
B The cleaning price will rise next month.
C His neighbour had a problem with his furnace.
D The furnace has probably been neglected.

18. What does the woman suggest about the weeks after the sixth?

A Demand will jump once the weather turns.
B Her technicians will be away on holiday.
C Prices go up during the winter months.
D Morning visits are no longer offered.

19. Why does the woman ask for a photo?

A so she can work out how old the furnace really is
B so the technician brings a part that fits
C so the insurer has a record of the unit
D so she can give him a final price

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

A New Resident at a Bookstore

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/97**

20. When the cat first arrived, Halvorsen

A planned to keep it in the shop from the start.
B took it straight to a veterinarian.
C tried to locate the people it belonged to.
D named it after a famous actor.

21. The cat seems

A nervous around visitors.
B indifferent to his fame.
C eager for more attention.
D unhappy in the back office.

22. Money from the picture book

A pays for the store's renovations.
B goes to the illustrator's school.
C was used to bring visitors from Michigan.
D supports the place that cared for strays.

23. On Tuesday mornings,

A the store is closed to the public.
B children's story time is held.
C the cat is kept away from shoppers.
D the cat sits in the front window.

24. We can infer that the cat has

A helped the store's sales in a slow season.
B caused the store to lose its regular customers.
C been chosen to appear in a Shakespeare play.
D made Halvorsen's own allergies worse.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

A First Car

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/97**

25. Why does Albert mention parking beside the sedan for eight years?

A to explain why he wants it for himself
B to point out that it belongs to him
C to admit that it is getting old
D to show he has seen how reliable it is

26. Which part of driving makes Darren most nervous?

A driving on the highway late at night
B fitting into a gap along the street
C watching for cars in his blind spot
D stopping quickly in heavy traffic

27. What does Albert imply about the safety features?

A They could make Darren rely on the car too much.
B They are expensive to repair when they break down.
C They tend to fail in winter weather.
D They will be required on the road test.

28. According to Yolanda, why is the hatchback cheaper to insure?

A Darren has a clean record so far.
B The dealer arranged a special rate.
C Its drivers seldom need the insurer to pay out.
D The broker is a family friend.

29. How does Yolanda respond to Darren's offer to pay?

A She agrees if he works more summer shifts.
B She refuses because of an earlier decision.
C She tells him to ask his grandfather for help first.
D She is impressed by how much he has saved.

30. What does Albert mean when he says "He's got you there"?

A Darren has won the whole argument.
B Darren should spend his savings.
C Darren has misunderstood his mother.
D Darren has made a valid point.

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31. What is most likely true about the Petersons' sedan?

A It has had several owners.

B It is cheaper to insure than the hatchback.

C It will need some work before long.

D It may be sold to someone else soon.

32. What is the best subject line for Yolanda's message to the dealer tomorrow?

A Test drive and a few more days, please

B Ready to pay for the hatchback

C Insurance rates for new drivers

D Please cancel our reservation

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Birthday Party Invitations

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/97**

33. The report is mainly about

A ways to hold a party that costs very little.
B parents who refuse to invite classmates.
C the history of birthday traditions.
D a dispute over a school invitation rule.

34. Grace Okafor believes that when young children leave a classmate out, they are usually

A careless rather than unkind on purpose.
B copying what their teachers do.
C quickly forgetting about it afterwards.
D trying to keep a close friendship to themselves.

35. Marcus Lindqvist would most likely agree that

A shy children must be pushed to mix more.
B schools ought to pay for class parties.
C small setbacks can make children stronger.
D envelopes can be handed out openly in class.

36. Why does Okafor mention a park, a cake and a few games?

A to describe a party she once held for her pupils
B to argue that a big party need not be costly
C to suggest that schools should host parties
D to show what shy children enjoy most

37. According to the report, the compromise is imperfect because

A many parents rarely check their email.
B principals refuse to enforce it.
C it raises the cost of a party.
D pupils may still find out who was invited.

38. The speaker's attitude toward the compromise is one of

A open hostility.
B complete indifference.
C guarded approval.
D unreserved enthusiasm.

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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 Visit to the Tire Shop

1 A Picture A

2 C to explain how a set could end up misplaced

3 A search a different storage area

4 D exasperated

5 B Information was moved over with errors.

6 D waiving next year's storage fee

7 C to show she needs tires she can rely on

8 A They are fairly worn.

Part 2: Holiday Plans

9 B It would get her there too late for dinner.

10 D to explain why the train had no room

11 A She thinks the trip would be too risky.

12 C She finds it kind but a poor substitute.

13 D She is accepting the invitation.

Part 3: Calling a Heating Company

14 C to arrange a visit his insurer requires

15 A He will pay more for insurance.

16 B that a cleaning came with the safety check

17 D The furnace has probably been neglected.

18 A Demand will jump once the weather turns.

19 B so the technician brings a part that fits

Part 4: A New Resident at a Bookstore

20 C tried to locate the people it belonged to.

21 B indifferent to his fame.

22 D supports the place that cared for strays.

23 C the cat is kept away from shoppers.

24 A helped the store's sales in a slow season.

Part 5: A First Car

25 D to show he has seen how reliable it is

26 B fitting into a gap along the street

27 A They could make Darren rely on the car too much.

28 C Its drivers seldom need the insurer to pay out.

29 B She refuses because of an earlier decision.

30 D Darren has made a valid point.

31 C It will need some work before long.

32 A Test drive and a few more days, please

Part 6: Birthday Party Invitations

33 D a dispute over a school invitation rule.

34 A careless rather than unkind on purpose.

35 C small setbacks can make children stronger.

36 B to argue that a big party need not be costly

37 D pupils may still find out who was invited.

38 C guarded approval.

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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 Visit to the Tire Shop

Section 1

MAN: Morning. What can I do for you?

WOMAN: Hi, I've got an appointment at nine to get my winter tires put back on. The name's Lena Fischer. You've had them since April.

MAN: Fischer… okay, here you are. Grey hatchback, four tires on steel rims, storage paid through to spring. Let me just grab them from the back.

WOMAN: Great, thanks.

MAN: Um, so this is a bit odd. The computer says your set should be in row eleven, bay four, but that bay's got somebody else's tires in it. Different size altogether.

WOMAN: Somebody else's? You haven't sold them, have you? I've heard some places get rid of tires when people forget about them.

MAN: No, no, we'd never do that while storage is paid up. More likely someone put them back in the wrong spot during the spring rush. We keep about nine hundred sets here, so it happens.

WOMAN: Nine hundred. Great. Okay, so how long is this going to take? I start a shift at the hospital at eleven, and the forecast says snow by tonight.

MAN: Give me twenty minutes. Anything that doesn't fit inside ends up in the trailers out back, and our tags are bright orange, so they're easy to spot.

Section 2

MAN: Okay, so… bad news, I'm afraid. I went through both trailers. No orange tag with your name on it.

WOMAN: You're joking. It's ten-fifteen. I told you I've got to be at work by eleven.

MAN: I know, and I'm really sorry. Here's what I think happened, though. We switched computer systems over the summer, and a few hundred records came across with the wrong bay numbers. Yours is probably one of them. So the tires are here, they're just not where the screen says.

WOMAN: Here. In a building with nine hundred sets. Look, I paid eighty dollars to have someone look after these, and now I'll be driving on summer tires in a snowstorm.

MAN: That's fair. Let me get my manager. She'll know what we can do.

Section 3

MAN: Right, I've spoken to my manager. First of all, you won't pay anything for storage next season. That's on us.

WOMAN: Okay. That's something, I suppose. But it doesn't help me today.

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MAN: No, so here's the other part. We keep a few used winter sets for situations like this, and one of them fits your car. We'll put those on now, at no cost, and you drive on them until we track yours down.

WOMAN: Used tires? How used are we talking? I drive the highway to Barrie twice a week.

MAN: They've got more than half their tread left. I measured them myself just now. Honestly, they're in better shape than some sets people bring in here every fall.

WOMAN: Hmm… better than mine, probably. And when you find my set?

MAN: We'll call you, you come by, and we swap them. Twenty minutes, tops.

WOMAN: Fine. Let's do it. But if I'm late, I'm blaming you.

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Part 2: Holiday Plans

MAN: Hey, Meera! I thought you'd be halfway to Halifax by now. Weren't you flying out this morning?

WOMAN: That was the plan. I was literally at the gate, boarding pass in hand, when they announced it. The storm's dumped so much snow on the east coast that the airport there's completely shut. Every flight's cancelled until at least Thursday.

MAN: Thursday? But that's Christmas Eve. Did the airline at least put you on something else?

WOMAN: Oh, they offered. A seat on Saturday. Saturday! By then my mom will have cooked the turkey, eaten the turkey and frozen whatever's left. I asked about going through Montreal, and the agent sort of laughed.

MAN: Okay, but what about the train? I took it to Moncton once. It's slow, sure, but it's kind of beautiful, all those little towns covered in snow…

WOMAN: Believe me, that was the first thing I checked. Apparently everyone sitting in that departure lounge had the same idea, because there isn't a single seat left before the twenty-seventh. I even looked at renting a car, but driving fourteen hundred kilometres alone in a blizzard? My dad would never forgive me. Well, if I survived.

MAN: Fair point. So you're just… staying here? On your own?

WOMAN: Looks like it. My sister keeps saying they'll set up a video call so I can watch everyone open presents, which is sweet, but it's not quite the same as being in the room, is it?

MAN: Look, I know it's not your mom's cooking, but we're doing a big thing at my place. My aunt's coming from Guelph, there'll be far too much food, and, honestly, my nephews could use someone new to beat at board games.

WOMAN: Are you sure? I don't want to just turn up and—

MAN: —get in the way? Please. My mother's heard all about you. Bring a dessert and you're family.

WOMAN: Well… I do make a pretty serious butter tart.

MAN: Then it's settled. Well, sort of. You're still keeping that Saturday flight, right?

WOMAN: Ha. If it doesn't get cancelled too.

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Part 3: Calling a Heating Company

WOMAN: Good morning, Prairie Comfort Heating, this is Dana. How can I help?

MAN: Hi, yeah. I'd like someone to come and look at my furnace. We bought a house in Saskatoon last month, an older place, and the furnace is, well, I honestly don't know how old it is. The previous owners didn't leave any paperwork, not even a manual.

WOMAN: No problem, we see that a lot. Is it giving you any trouble right now? Strange noises, a smell, the house not warming up?

MAN: No, it's running fine as far as I can tell. It's more that my insurance company wants proof it's been checked by a licensed technician. They've given me until the end of November, otherwise they'll raise my premium.

WOMAN: Okay, then what you want is our standard safety inspection. The technician tests for gas leaks and carbon monoxide, checks the burners and the venting, and gives you a signed report you can send straight to your insurer. That's one hundred and twenty-nine dollars.

MAN: And that includes the cleaning, right? Because my neighbour said his guy vacuumed everything out and changed the filter while he was there.

WOMAN: Ah, not quite. Cleaning is a separate service, another ninety dollars, though if you book both together we take twenty off. Honestly, in your situation I'd do both. If nobody knows when it was last cleaned, it probably wasn't.

MAN: Hmm. Fair enough. Let's do both, then. What have you got for dates?

WOMAN: Our first opening is Thursday the sixth, between eight and noon. After that, it gets tricky. The first real cold snap always has the phones ringing nonstop. The next morning I have is the eighteenth.

MAN: The sixth works. I'm working from home that week anyway. Is there anything I should do before the technician comes?

WOMAN: Just make sure there's a clear path to the furnace. And if you can find the model number on the side of the unit, text a photo to this number. That way the technician brings the right filter instead of guessing.

MAN: Will do. The basement's still full of moving boxes, though, so the clear path might take me a while.

WOMAN: Ha. You've got a week.

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Part 4: A New Resident at a Bookstore

NARRATOR: A scrawny grey tabby that wandered into a Stratford bookstore during a February cold snap has become something of a local celebrity. Owner Ruth Halvorsen says she initially had no intention of keeping the animal. She put up notices around the neighbourhood and contacted the animal shelter, fully expecting someone to come forward. Nobody did, and the cat stayed. Three years later, the cat, christened Puck after the mischievous sprite in a Shakespeare comedy, spends his days dozing in the front window and supervising customers from the top of the poetry shelf. Since then, his fame has only grown. Visitors from as far away as Michigan now arrive asking for him by name, and a children's illustrator has published a picture book chronicling his adventures, with a portion of the proceeds going to the shelter that once listed him as a stray. Halvorsen admits that not every customer has been charmed. A handful with allergies have complained, and the store now reserves Tuesday mornings as a cat-free period, when Puck is confined to the back office. Still, she credits him with a noticeable rise in foot traffic during the sluggish winter months. Puck, for his part, appears thoroughly unimpressed by the fuss.

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Part 5: A First Car

Yolanda: Okay, before your grandpa falls asleep on us, can we actually decide on this? The dealership said they'd only keep the hatchback for us until Saturday.

Albert: I'm wide awake. I've just seen a lot of cars. And I'll say it again: the Petersons' sedan next door is the one. One owner, she had it serviced every six months, and I've parked beside it for eight years. It's never so much as coughed.

Darren: Grandpa, it's beige. And it's older than my little sister.

Albert: It's not a fashion show. Twelve years old with ninety thousand kilometres is nothing. And she's asking forty-five hundred, which is half what the dealer wants.

Yolanda: Half the price, sure, but it doesn't have any of the newer safety stuff. The hatchback brakes on its own if you're about to hit something, it beeps when someone's in your blind spot…

Darren: And it has a backup camera. I'm just saying, squeezing in between two parked cars is literally the part of the road test I'm dreading.

Albert: In my day, we had a thing called turning your head.

Yolanda: Dad.

Albert: What? I'm serious. If he learns on a car that does everything for him, he'll never build the habits. Then one day he borrows a friend's old truck and—

Yolanda: —and he'll be fine, because he'll have had two years of not crashing. Look, I called the insurance broker yesterday. For a new driver, the hatchback is actually cheaper to insure. Not by a lot, maybe thirty dollars a month, but still.

Darren: Wait, really? Because of the safety stuff?

Yolanda: That's what she said. Fewer claims on that model.

Albert: Thirty dollars a month won't make up the difference in price for… well, a long time. Nine years, about.

Darren: Okay, but what if I pay part of it? I've saved almost two thousand from the grocery store, and I can pick up more shifts in the summer.

Yolanda: Absolutely not. That money's for school. We agreed on that.

Darren: We agreed it was mostly for school.

Albert: He's got you there.

Yolanda: Don't encourage him. Anyway, my real worry about the Petersons' car is the tires and brakes. Has anyone actually looked underneath it?

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Albert: I was a mechanic for thirty-one years, Yolanda. I looked underneath it on Tuesday. The brakes have maybe a year left. The tires, I'd replace this fall.

Yolanda: So that's another, what, a thousand dollars?

Albert: Eight hundred, if I do the brakes myself. Which I would.

Darren: So it's still way cheaper. Even I can do that math.

Yolanda: It's not only about the math, though. When he's out at eleven at night on the highway, I want to know the car's doing some of the thinking.

Albert: And I want to know he's doing the thinking.

Darren: Can I at least drive both of them before anyone decides?

Yolanda: That's… actually reasonable. I'll call the dealer tomorrow. But if they won't give us another weekend—

Albert: Then the Petersons will. She's in no hurry to sell.

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Part 6: Birthday Party Invitations

NARRATOR: Few rituals of childhood carry quite as much emotional weight as the birthday party invitation. For decades, the envelope tucked into a backpack was a private matter between families. Parents chose who came, and nobody else needed to know. More and more, however, elementary schools are adopting a rule that would have seemed peculiar a generation ago: if invitations are handed out at school, every child in the class must receive one. Few would quarrel with its aim, yet the policy has provoked a surprisingly heated debate about where kindness ends and obligation begins.

NARRATOR: Among its most vocal defenders is Grace Okafor, a retired principal from Hamilton who introduced the rule at her own school a decade ago. Okafor recalls a seven-year-old sitting alone at recess while classmates compared plans for a weekend party, and she maintains that such moments linger far longer than adults imagine. She still remembers the look on that child's face. Exclusion at that age, she argues, is rarely deliberate cruelty; it is mostly thoughtlessness, and the rule teaches children that it has consequences. She concedes that entertaining twenty-five children is hardly trivial, but insists a whole-class gathering need not be extravagant. A park, a cake and a few games, she points out, have satisfied children perfectly well for generations.

NARRATOR: Not everyone is persuaded. Parenting columnist Marcus Lindqvist contends that the rule, however admirable in theory, places an unreasonable burden on families with modest incomes, some of whom may quietly abandon the celebration altogether. He also questions what it asks of the birthday child. A shy eight-year-old, Lindqvist observes, may be overwhelmed by a crowd of acquaintances and would rather spend the afternoon with three genuine friends. That, he says, is not unkind; it is simply how most of us like to spend a special day. Coping with disappointment, he suggests, is an unavoidable part of growing up, and shielding children from every minor rejection may leave them less resilient later. He does acknowledge, though, that handing out envelopes in front of children who were not asked is needlessly hurtful.

NARRATOR: On that point, at least, the two camps find common ground. Many schools now permit smaller parties provided invitations travel privately, by email or between parents. It is a modest compromise, and an imperfect one, since children inevitably compare notes on Monday morning, and no rule can stop that. Still, it may be the most sensible arrangement available: it spares the feelings of those left out without dictating to families how they must celebrate.

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