CELPIP Listening Practice Test 99

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	Picking Up a Birthday Cake	1–8
Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation	Grandpa's New Phone	9–13
Part 3: Listening for Information	Calling a Community Organization	14–19
Part 4: Listening to a News Item	Salmon in the Classroom	20–24
Part 5: Listening to a Discussion	Planning for the Summer Season	25–32
Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints	Free Admission to Museums	33–38

How to take this test

1. Open celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/99 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/99 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

Picking Up a Birthday Cake

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 1 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/99**

1. What is the problem with the cake?

A It is not the flavour she asked for.
B It was damaged on the way home.
C It was decorated for a different order.
D It is a lot smaller than the size she ordered.

2. What did the woman want on top of the cake?

A



B



C



D



3. What will the man probably do next?

A offer the woman the castle cake again
B get in touch with the decorator
C call the customer who ordered the sailboat
D give the woman her money back

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 2 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/99**

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4. Why is there no standing horse on the cake?

A The decorator did not have enough time.

B The woman had not paid for one.

C It might have fallen over in the car.

D A part the bakery buys had run out.

5. How does the woman feel about the finished cake?

A thrilled with every detail

B a little let down, but willing to take it

C too upset to accept it

D worried that her daughter will refuse to eat it

▶ **Recording: Part 1, section 3 of 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/99**

6. What has the bakery changed?

A Sugar figures are now kept in stock.

B Customers now pay when they place an order.

C Lemon cakes are now baked on a separate day from others.

D Decorators now work from an image of each design.

7. Why does the woman mention one of the dads at the party?

A to show the cake impressed a guest

B to complain that a guest took photos

C to ask the man for another discount

D to explain why she came back to the bakery

8. What will most likely happen next?

A The man will phone the dad from the party.

B The woman will order another cake.

C Isla will come in to collect the horse figure.

D The woman will ask for the twenty dollars back.

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Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation

Grandpa's New Phone

▶ **Recording: Part 2. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/99**

9. Why does the woman take the blame for the voice message?

A She had not answered his video call.
B She had just taught him a new feature.
C She was the one who chose the phone he is using now.
D She had sent him a message first.

10. Why did the grandfather want a smartphone?

A to keep in touch with the people in his curling club
B to take photos of the meals he cooks
C to make video calls early in the morning
D to follow a new family member who lives far away

11. What did the man think of the smartphone at first?

A He felt it was too hard for their grandfather.
B He felt it was too expensive for their grandfather.
C He felt their grandfather should have had one sooner.
D He felt it had too few photos of the baby.

12. Why does the woman write the steps in a notebook?

A She will be away for the next two weekends.
B Their grandfather keeps losing his phone around the house.
C Their grandfather wants to do things himself.
D The phone's own instructions are too small.

13. What will the man probably do?

A buy their grandfather a simpler phone
B visit the new baby in Winnipeg
C ask their grandfather for driving lessons
D take over the lessons for a while

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Part 3: Listening for Information

Calling a Community Organization

▶ **Recording: Part 3. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/99**

14. What is the main purpose of the man's call?

A to find out what volunteering there would mean
B to book a ride for his neighbour
C to arrange transport for his elderly father in Sudbury
D to report a problem with a van

15. What did the man wrongly assume?

A that the trips would all be within the city
B that drivers would be paid an hourly wage for their time
C that the organization would supply a vehicle
D that his neighbour drove for the program

16. Why might the man's car cause a problem?

A A folded walker may not fit in the trunk.
B Clients may struggle to get in the back.
C It might not pass the program's safety check.
D It would cost too much to park at hospitals.

17. Why does the man mention his father?

A to show he has driven seniors before
B to say he has moved away from Sudbury
C to ask whether rides go outside the city
D to explain why the work matters to him

18. What does the woman advise about insurance?

A buying extra coverage for passengers
B making sure his policy provider knows about his new role
C asking the program to pay part of the cost
D sending proof of insurance after each trip

19. What will the man probably do next?

A give the woman his email address
B sign up for the orientation session
C fill out a form online
D drive a client on Tuesday

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Part 4: Listening to a News Item

Salmon in the Classroom

▶ **Recording: Part 4. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/99**

20. The water in the aquarium was kept very cold in order to

A slow down the growth of the young fish.
B save electricity during the cold winter months.
C keep the tank clean without chemicals.
D copy the conditions of a natural river.

21. The person who saved the project in March was

A a volunteer from the conservation group.
B an electrician hired by the school.
C a family member of a student.
D the class's biology teacher.

22. Each morning, students had to

A check how cold the water was.
B feed the eggs and young fish.
C count the eggs that had survived.
D clean the aquarium glass.

23. Some students were discouraged to learn that

A they cannot take part in the project next year.
B most of the released fish will not survive.
C the creek is too far away for them to visit.
D volunteers will take over watching the fish.

24. Belanger mentions the mentors to show that the project

A has made students want to stay involved.
B needs more adult volunteers next year.
C has been too difficult for the younger classes.
D will move to a different school next year.

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Part 5: Listening to a Discussion

Planning for the Summer Season

▶ **Recording: Part 5. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/99**

25. What problem are the managers trying to solve?

A Too few swimmers are renewing their passes.
B They are short of guards for July.
C The water slide needs to be repaired.
D The evening lane swim is losing money.

26. Why does Megan object to cutting the evening lane swim?

A Those swimmers complain about crowded lanes.
B That swim needs only one guard.
C The families prefer evening swims.
D Those swimmers are steady paying customers.

27. According to Megan, what is the drawback of Carmen's course idea?

A New guards could not start in time for July.
B Teenagers would not agree to two summers.
C The exam at the end is too hard for most teenagers.
D The city would refuse to pay for it.

28. Why does Russell mention his neighbour?

A to show that the morning swim is too crowded
B to suggest a lake where the course could be held
C to point to a group that could be hired quickly
D to explain why older guards need more training

29. How does Megan propose to reduce the number of guards needed?

A stop running the slide from Monday to Friday
B end the evening lane swim
C close the pool on weekends
D shorten the morning swim

30. What is Carmen's attitude toward the slide?

A She thinks it should close every day.
B She worries the children will stop coming.
C She wants it guarded from the bottom only.
D She values it less than the lane swim.

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31. What does Russell mean when he says "Or let's"?

A He wants to present the course to the board now.

B He disagrees with closing the slide.

C He thinks the guards' pay should be discussed.

D He wants to cancel the board meeting.

32. What is the best subject line for the managers' message to the board?

A Plan to end the evening lane swim

B Request to fund a lifeguard course

C Higher wages for current guards

D Closing the slide for the whole summer

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Part 6: Listening to Viewpoints

Free Admission to Museums

▶ **Recording: Part 6. Play it at celpass.com/celpip/listening/practice-tests/99**

33. The report is mainly about

A how museums can draw in teenagers after school.
B why occasional free evenings please nobody.
C the trade-offs of letting visitors in without paying.
D how one museum made up its lost ticket revenue.

34. Elaine Whitford suggests that an admission charge

A is the fairest way to pay for conservation work.
B shapes whether people feel a place is meant for them.
C can be offset by offering enough discount days.
D mostly stops families from returning to favourite exhibits.

35. Daniel Ostrowski would most likely favour

A holding free evenings more often.
B dropping fees once the trial has been studied.
C raising prices to protect the collection.
D basing the charge on who is coming through the door.

36. Why does the speaker mention the father's comment?

A to show that the museum now feels like part of everyday family life
B to suggest that bad weather is what really drives attendance
C to point out that the fire engine is the museum's main attraction
D to illustrate how novelty explains the rise in visitors

37. What can be inferred about Whitford's museum?

A Its attendance is slipping back toward earlier levels.
B It has already cut its school outreach programs.
C Its board plans to bring back the fee after the trial.
D It is still operating on less money than before.

38. The speaker's attitude toward free admission is best described as

A sympathetic but alert to its costs.
B dismissive.
C neutral and uninterested.
D wholeheartedly approving.

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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: Picking Up a Birthday Cake

1 C It was decorated for a different order.

2 D Picture D

3 B get in touch with the decorator

4 D A part the bakery buys had run out.

5 B a little let down, but willing to take it

6 D Decorators now work from an image of each design.

7 A to show the cake impressed a guest

8 B The woman will order another cake.

Part 2: Grandpa's New Phone

9 B She had just taught him a new feature.

10 D to follow a new family member who lives far away

11 A He felt it was too hard for their grandfather.

12 C Their grandfather wants to do things himself.

13 D take over the lessons for a while

Part 3: Calling a Community Organization

14 A to find out what volunteering there would mean

15 C that the organization would supply a vehicle

16 B Clients may struggle to get in the back.

17 D to explain why the work matters to him

18 B making sure his policy provider knows about his new role

19 C fill out a form online

Part 4: Salmon in the Classroom

20 D copy the conditions of a natural river.

21 C a family member of a student.

22 A check how cold the water was.

23 B most of the released fish will not survive.

24 A has made students want to stay involved.

Part 5: Planning for the Summer Season

25 B They are short of guards for July.

26 D Those swimmers are steady paying customers.

27 A New guards could not start in time for July.

28 C to point to a group that could be hired quickly

29 A stop running the slide from Monday to Friday

30 D She values it less than the lane swim.

31 C He thinks the guards' pay should be discussed.

32 B Request to fund a lifeguard course

Part 6: Free Admission to Museums

33 C the trade-offs of letting visitors in without paying.

34 B shapes whether people feel a place is meant for them.

35 D basing the charge on who is coming through the door.

36 A to show that the museum now feels like part of everyday family life

37 D It is still operating on less money than before.

38 A sympathetic but alert to its costs.

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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: Picking Up a Birthday Cake

Section 1

MAN: Hi there. Picking up?

WOMAN: Yes, a birthday cake under Novak. Sophie Novak. It was supposed to be ready at eleven.

MAN: Novak… yep, here it is. Want to take a look before I close the box?

WOMAN: Sure. Oh. Oh no. Um, that's not… Who's Ella?

MAN: Sorry?

WOMAN: It says "Happy Birthday, Ella." My daughter's name is Isla. And what is that, a sailboat? She's been riding since September. I asked for a horse jumping over a fence.

MAN: Let me check the slip. Okay, Novak, Isla, horse and fence… and the box has your name on it. There's a sailboat cake for an Ella due tomorrow, so it looks like the decorator mixed up the two slips.

WOMAN: Well, can it be fixed? The party's at four, and I still have to pick up balloons.

MAN: Our decorator, Joanne, starts at noon. In the meantime, there's a castle cake in the display case that's ready to go, if you'd rather not—

WOMAN: A castle? No. Last year it was butterflies, this year it's horses. Is the inside at least lemon?

MAN: It is. Both orders were lemon. It's only the top.

WOMAN: Okay. Then I'll wait.

MAN: Let me see if she can come in a bit early. She lives around the corner. Could you come back around one-thirty?

Section 2

MAN: Oh, good, you're back. The name's fixed, and Joanne did the horse herself.

WOMAN: Oh, that's lovely. But… it's flat. It's drawn on in icing. I thought there'd be a little horse standing on top, like the one in your photo book.

MAN: Right, the sugar figure. That's the one thing we couldn't do. We order those in from a supplier, and the last one went on another cake this morning. The next box isn't due until Thursday.

WOMAN: Thursday. Well, that's no good to me today.

MAN: No. So we've taken twenty dollars off, and when the figure comes in, it's yours to keep. And there are eight candles in the bag.

WOMAN: Nine. She's turning nine.

MAN: Sorry, nine.

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WOMAN: Hmm. Honestly, once the candles are lit, she'll probably be too excited to notice. Okay. I'll take it.

Section 3

MAN: Hey, welcome back! How did the party go?

WOMAN: Ha. Really well, actually. Isla said it was the best cake she's ever had, and one of the dads took a photo of it and asked me where it came from.

MAN: That's great to hear. And look what came in this morning.

WOMAN: Oh, the little horse! She's going to love that.

MAN: Also, so you know, we've changed how we do things. Every order slip now gets a printed picture of the design stapled to it, and the decorator has to match the name to the box before anything goes in the fridge.

WOMAN: Good. Because "Ella" nearly gave me a heart attack. Anyway, while I'm here… my husband turns forty next month. Nothing fancy, but he loves lemon.

MAN: Then let me grab the order book. And this time, I'm spelling the name back to you, letter by letter.

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Part 2: Grandpa's New Phone

WOMAN: Did Grandpa call you this morning too? Because he called me at six-fifteen. A video call. I picked up and all I could see was his ceiling.

MAN: Ha, no, I got a voice message. Well, I think it was a message. It was forty seconds of him breathing and then, very clearly, "How do I make it stop?"

WOMAN: Oh no. Okay, that one's on me. On Sunday I showed him the little microphone button, so he could send messages without typing. His fingers are too big for the keyboard, he says.

MAN: See, this is what I said at Christmas. We should've got him one of those simple phones with the big buttons. Call, hang up, done. He's eighty-three, Nina.

WOMAN: Yeah, but a simple phone doesn't do the one thing he actually wanted. Ever since Hailey had the baby, he's been desperate to see her, and with them out in Winnipeg, the photos are how he does it. He's got about four hundred of them now.

MAN: Four hundred? Of one baby?

WOMAN: Some of them are of his thumb. But honestly, he's getting there. Last week he sent a photo to his whole curling club group, all by himself. It was the wrong photo, it was his lunch, but still.

MAN: Okay, that's… progress, I guess. So what, you're over there every Sunday now?

WOMAN: Most Sundays. And here's the thing, he hates it when I take the phone and fix things myself, because then he still can't do it the next time. So now I write each step down in a little notebook, and he does it while I just sit on my hands.

MAN: Huh. That's actually smart. He was the same when he taught me to drive, you know. Never touched the wheel, just talked.

WOMAN: Well, good, because it's your turn. I'm away the next two weekends, so…

MAN: Wait, me? I can barely get my own phone to—

WOMAN: You'll be fine. Bring the notebook. And maybe start with the button that ends a video call.

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Part 3: Calling a Community Organization

WOMAN: Good afternoon, Helping Hands Community Services, Denise speaking.

MAN: Hi, my name's Paul Ferreira. My neighbour gets rides to her eye appointments through you, and she says you're always short of people to do the driving. So I thought I'd find out what's involved.

WOMAN: Oh, she's right, we always are. Thanks for calling. So basically, our drivers pick clients up at home, take them to their medical appointment, wait while they're seen, and then bring them back home again.

MAN: Okay. And I'd be driving one of your vans, I assume? I've seen them around town with the name on the side.

WOMAN: Ah, no, those belong to a different program, for clients in wheelchairs, and they need specially trained drivers. Our volunteers use their own cars. We pay back the kilometres at a set rate, plus any hospital parking, which, as you probably know, adds up fast.

MAN: My own car. Hmm. It's a small two-door, though. Is that a problem?

WOMAN: It can be. A lot of our clients use walkers, and squeezing into a back seat is really hard for them. As long as the front seat is easy to get into, and a folded walker fits in the trunk, you should be fine.

MAN: The trunk's decent. And the waiting part, appointments can drag on, can't they?

WOMAN: They can. Plan on about three hours for a typical trip. Most drivers bring a book, but some say the waiting room chats are the best part. Many of our clients live alone, and the ride might be the only conversation they have all day.

MAN: Yeah. My dad was like that, in Sudbury, and I was six hours away. A man from his church drove him to every appointment for two years. I never got to thank him properly.

WOMAN: Well, this is a pretty good way to pass it on. So, the steps. You fill in an application, we check your driving record and do a background check, and then there's a two-hour orientation. We'll also need a copy of your insurance, and it's worth telling your insurance company that you're volunteering.

MAN: Makes sense. How often would I have to drive?

WOMAN: Whatever you can manage. Some people do one trip a month, some do three a week. We just ask for a week's notice if you need to cancel.

MAN: I could probably do Tuesdays and Fridays. Where's the application?

WOMAN: It's on our website, under "Get Involved." Or I can email it to you right now, if you give me your address.

MAN: The website's fine. I'll do it tonight.

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Part 4: Salmon in the Classroom

NARRATOR: Students at a Cornwall high school said goodbye to some unusual classmates this week. Since January, a Grade 11 biology class has been raising salmon from eggs in a refrigerated aquarium at the back of the classroom, a partnership with a regional conservation group that hopes to return the fish to streams where they have become rare. Teacher Monique Belanger explains that the water must stay barely above freezing, imitating a riverbed in winter, so students took turns recording the temperature every morning, including weekends. The project nearly collapsed in March, when an ice storm knocked out power in the school's neighbourhood for two days. With the eggs in jeopardy, a student's grandfather, a retired electrician, arrived with a portable generator and kept the chiller running. Of the two hundred eggs originally delivered, roughly one hundred and sixty survived. On Tuesday, the class released the young fish into a creek east of the city, where volunteers will monitor their progress. Belanger was candid that only a tiny fraction will reach adulthood, a sobering statistic for some students. Still, she insists the lesson extends well beyond biology: several students have already volunteered to return next year as mentors.

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Part 5: Planning for the Summer Season

Carmen: So, I've got the July schedule up and, well, it's not pretty. We need fourteen guards to cover every shift, and as of this morning we've got eight. Two of last year's people took jobs at the water park.

Russell: Eight. Okay. Honestly, the simplest fix is to cut the evening lane swim. Seven to nine, it's what, a dozen people? That frees up two guards every night.

Megan: A dozen people who all have yearly passes, Russell. They're the ones who renew in September. The drop-in families come and go, but the lane swimmers are basically paying for the heating.

Russell: Fine, but I'm not sure what else we can trim without—

Carmen: What if we paid for the certification course? For teenagers, I mean. We cover the whole cost, and in return they agree to guard for two summers.

Megan: I love that for next year. But the course runs six weeks, and then there's the exam. Anybody we sign up now isn't in a chair until August at the earliest.

Carmen: August is still something. The shortage doesn't end on the first of the month.

Russell: True. And it doesn't have to be teenagers, either. My neighbour, she's sixty-eight, swims here every morning, and she guarded at a lake up north for twenty years. Last week she asked me if we ever hire, quote, old folks.

Megan: Wait, she's certified?

Russell: Was. She'd need to recertify, but that's a weekend, not six weeks. There must be others like her in the morning crowd.

Carmen: Huh. That's a much quicker pool to fish from. Sorry. Bad pun.

Megan: Okay, but that's still one or two people for July, tops. What about the slide? Every afternoon it needs a guard at the top and another one at the bottom. If we close it on weekdays, that's two stations gone.

Russell: The kids will riot.

Megan: The kids will survive. It stays open on weekends.

Carmen: Honestly, I'd rather lose the slide on weekdays than the lane swim. Nobody's buying a yearly pass for the slide.

Russell: Fair. So, the slide closes on weekdays, we put something up in the change rooms asking for retired guards, and the course idea goes to the board?

Carmen: The board meets on the twelfth. They'll want to know what it costs, and we don't have that number yet.

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Megan: I can get it. Although… if the city has money for a course, you'd think it could find money to pay the guards we've already got a bit more. Two of them walked across town for a better offer, remember.

Carmen: Let's not open that one today.

Russell: Or let's. Just maybe not in front of the board.

Part 6: Free Admission to Museums

NARRATOR: For most of the last century, a visit to a public museum came with a price of admission, a trifling sum for some households and a genuine deterrent for others. Lately, though, a growing chorus of advocates has been pressing governments to abolish those fees outright, reasoning that collections assembled with public money ought to be open to the public that paid for them. Their opponents reply, not without reason, that free is seldom as free as it sounds.

NARRATOR: Elaine Whitford, who directs a mid-sized history museum in a Prairie city, has become something of a standard-bearer for the cause. Two years ago her board scrapped its fifteen-dollar fee, as a trial. Attendance more than doubled, and, more tellingly, the newcomers were precisely the audiences museums often fail to reach: young families, recent immigrants, and teenagers drifting in after school simply because nothing stops them. One father told her his children now treat the place almost like a second living room on rainy Sundays, returning again and again to the same antique fire engine. For Whitford, that is the whole point. A ticket counter, she contends, quietly signals who is expected inside, and no quantity of discount days fully erases that impression. The financial gap has been real; donations and gift shop revenue have replenished roughly half of it, and she remains confident, perhaps optimistically, that the remainder will materialize.

NARRATOR: Economist Daniel Ostrowski finds the experiment intriguing but far from conclusive. Abolishing fees, he argues, chiefly subsidizes people who would have come regardless and who could comfortably have paid. Visitor surveys, he notes, tend to record bigger crowds rather than markedly different ones. The shortfall, meanwhile, has to be absorbed somewhere, and he suspects it will be carved out of conservation, research and school outreach, the unglamorous work that never appears in a brochure. A museum that welcomes everyone while its collection deteriorates has, in his view, merely postponed the bill. His preferred alternative is targeted: no charge for children, students and low-income residents, and a reasonable price for everyone else. Whitford's figures are undeniably striking, yet he wonders how much of the surge reflects novelty that will soon fade.

NARRATOR: Curiously, the two agree on one thing: the familiar compromise of an occasional free evening, usually barely publicized, pleases nobody. Ostrowski's caution about hidden costs is hard to dismiss, and yet the faces in Whitford's galleries are hardly an abstraction either. Perhaps the more pertinent question is not whether museums should be free, but whether governments are willing to fund what free admission genuinely costs. Until they are, one Prairie museum's experiment may prove more instructive than any amount of debate.

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