CELPIP Reading Practice Test 101

A free full-length CELPIP-General Reading practice test from CELPass.com: all 4 parts and 38 questions in the real test order, an answer sheet, the answer key and a score chart.

Part	Topic	Questions	Time
Part 1: Reading Correspondence	Grandma's Letter Before the Quebec Trip	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	A Gift for Grandpa's Moving Day	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	The Silver Dart Over Baddeck Bay	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Port Halden's Private Tree Bylaw	29–38	about 13 minutes

How to take this test

1. Do all 4 parts in one sitting in about 55–60 minutes, timing each part.
2. Mark your answers on the answer sheet. Wrong answers lose no points, so answer every question.
3. Check your answers with the answer key and count your correct answers for an estimated CLB.

Prefer to take it on screen? The same test is free online at celpass.com/celpip/reading/practice-tests/101, marked as you go, with an estimated CLB. More free tests: celpass.com/celpip/practice-tests-pdf

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Part 1: Reading Correspondence

Time: about 11 minutes

Grandma's Letter Before the Quebec Trip

> Dear Theo,
>
> Your mother tells me that the Grade 10 trip to Quebec City has finally been approved, and that you have been shovelling driveways all winter to pay for your share. I could not be prouder. When I was your age, my class went to Ottawa by train, and I spent most of my savings on a silver souvenir spoon that I managed to lose before we got home. I suspect you will be wiser with your money than I was.
>
> That brings me to the real reason for this letter. Your grandfather and I would like to cover whatever is still owing on the trip. Before you protest, let me say that this is not charity. You have already earned most of it yourself, and we would simply like to have a small share in the adventure. Your mother says the final payment is due at the school by March 15, so I have sent the cheque to her rather than to you. That way it won't spend a month in a coat pocket. (I know exactly where you get that habit, and I apologize.)
>
> I have also tucked a little something into this envelope: a pocket French phrasebook that belonged to your great-aunt Colette. It is a bit out of date, and I doubt anyone still asks where to post a telegram, but the basics haven't changed. Your mother mentioned that you are nervous about staying with a host family who speak mostly French. Please don't be. Nobody expects you to be fluent. In my experience, people are touched when a visitor makes the effort, even a clumsy one, and laughing at your own mistakes is the fastest way to make friends.
>
> I have only one condition, and it isn't negotiable. I would like a postcard from every place you sleep, even if all you write is the weather. Your grandfather has already cleared a spot on the fridge for them.
>
> I'm sorry that we will miss your band concert on the 28th. My new knee is coming along nicely, but the physiotherapist has ruled out long car rides for another month, and you know how your grandfather feels about driving the highway at night. Perhaps your mother could record a little of it on her phone for us?
>
> Have a wonderful time, and remember to look up from your phone once in a while.
>
> All my love,
>
> Grandma Ruth

1. What is the main purpose of Grandma Ruth's letter?

A to remind Theo of the school's payment deadline
B to explain why she cannot travel with the class
C to offer to pay the rest of Theo's trip
D to ask Theo to study French first

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2. Why did Grandma Ruth send the cheque to Theo's mother?

A Theo might hold on to it for too long.
B The school accepts payments only from parents.
C Theo had refused her money.
D His mother had asked her for help with the cost.

3. Grandma Ruth's memory of her own school trip suggests that

A she was nervous about meeting new people.
B she paid for it by doing chores for neighbours.
C she sent postcards home from every stop.
D she was not very careful with her savings.

4. The phrasebook Grandma Ruth sent

A was bought for an earlier trip to Quebec City.
B is partly old-fashioned but still helpful.
C should be learned by heart before the trip.
D has been in Grandpa's family for years.

5. What advice does Grandma Ruth give Theo about his host family?

A Trying to speak French matters more than speaking it well.
B He should ask the family to speak English with him at home.
C He should practise his French with his mother first.
D Bringing a small gift will help him make friends.

6. Why will Grandma Ruth miss Theo's band concert?

A She has a physiotherapy appointment that evening.
B Grandpa has to work late on the 28th.
C Her recovery limits how far she can travel.
D The concert has been moved to a weeknight.

Here is a response to the message. Complete the response by filling in the blanks. Select the best choice for each blank from the drop-down menu.

> Dear Grandma,
>
> Thank you so much for your letter, and for the cheque! Mom took it to the school last week, so **(7)** _____. I promise to pay you back in postcards, one from every place I stay.
>
> I love Great-Aunt Colette's phrasebook. Last night I tried asking Mom in French where I could **(8)** _____, and she laughed so hard she had to sit down.
>
> You were right about the host family, too. I've been worried that **(9)** _____, but after reading your letter I'm going to try anyway, mistakes and all.

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> About the concert: don't worry. Mom has already promised to **(10)** _____ so you and Grandpa can watch it at home.
>
> Most of all, I hope your **(11)** _____ keeps getting stronger so you can come to the spring concert instead.
>
> Love,
>
> Theo

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** I still owe the school one more payment **B** my trip is now completely paid for **C** the school returned the cheque **D** the money went into my savings account

8. **A** buy a silver souvenir spoon **B** catch the train to Ottawa **C** laugh at my own clumsy mistakes **D** send an old-fashioned telegram

9. **A** my French would not be good enough **B** the family would not have room for me **C** I'd spend my money too fast **D** I would miss my band's spring concert

10. **A** drive you both to the school and back **B** ask the school to change the date **C** record some of it on her phone **D** bring the band to you

11. **A** eyesight **B** back **C** hip **D** knee

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

A Gift for Grandpa's Moving Day



Harbourlight Photo & Frame

Printing · Restoration · Framing · Digitizing — Price Guide

Photo Prints

4×6	$0.39 each
5×7	$1.99 each
8×10	$4.99 each
11×14	$12.99 each

Glossy or matte finish.
4×6 and 5×7: **same-day pickup** if ordered before 2 p.m.
Larger sizes ready the next day.

Canvas Prints

12×16	$59
16×20	$79
24×36	$139

Gallery-wrapped and ready to hang.
Ready in **5 business days**.

Photo Restoration

Basic fading, colour correction, small scratches	$25
Advanced tears, stains, creases, missing pieces	$60

Includes one free 8×10 print. Your original is returned unharmed.
Standard: **7–10 business days**
Rush service: **3 business days, +$20**

Framing

Ready-made frames in stock — take home today	from $15
Custom framing ready in 2 weeks	from $85
Museum glass upgrade UV-protective, anti-glare; any frame	+$40

Museum glass is recommended for originals and for rooms with direct sunlight.

Digitizing

Slides & negatives	$0.75 each
Paper prints	$0.50 each
Video tapes (VHS)	$25 per tape

Files delivered on a USB drive (**$10**) or by download link (**free**).

Good to Know

- Seniors (65+) save 10% every Tuesday.
- Free parking behind the store.
- Not sure which restoration you need? Bring the photo in for a free assessment.
- Orders are paid in full at pickup.

Harbourlight Photo & Frame · 212 Water Street · 902-555-0148
Open Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. · Closed Sundays

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Read the following email message about the diagram on the left. Complete the email by filling in the blanks. Select the best choice for each blank from the drop-down menu.

> Subject: Grandpa's boat photo
>
> To: Marco Bellini
>
> From: Lena Russo
>
> Hi Marco,
>
> While my mom was helping Grandpa pack up the house, she found that old photo of him on the Maria Rosa, the fishing boat he worked on for thirty years. It's torn right across the middle and has a coffee stain in one corner, so I think it will need the **(12)** _____ restoration at Harbourlight. I'd love to give it to him framed when he moves into Birchwood Manor on the 20th. That's only eight days from now, so we should **(13)** _____ just to be safe.

> His new room faces west and gets strong sun all afternoon, so I'd add **(14)** _____ when we pick out a frame.
>
> Your dad also mentioned that there's a box of about 200 slides from Grandpa's fishing years in the basement. Scanning them at **(15)** _____ each would come to $150. That's not cheap, but if we split it, I think it's worth it. Grandpa's new tablet has no USB port, so let's choose **(16)** _____, and your dad can help him open the files.
>
> You know Grandpa would never hear of us spending this kind of money on him, so let's just tell him it was a bargain!
>
> Talk soon,
>
> Lena

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** $25 Basic **B** $20 Rush Service **C** $60 Advanced **D** $85 Custom

13. **A** pay the extra $20 for rush service **B** order the photo as a canvas print **C** ask for same-day pickup instead **D** have it scanned before it is restored

14. **A** a glossy finish **B** a wider mat **C** a canvas wrap **D** museum glass

15. **A** $0.50 **B** $0.75 **C** $0.39 **D** $1.99

16. **A** the $10 USB drive **B** a DVD copy **C** the free download link **D** a printed photo book instead

17. Lena and Marco are most likely

A co-workers
B first cousins
C brother and sister
D neighbours

18. Why does Lena want the photo ready by the 20th?

A It is Grandpa's eightieth birthday.
B The shop closes for holidays then.
C Marco is leaving town on that date.
D Grandpa moves into a new home that day.

19. When Lena says Grandpa "would never hear of" them spending this money, she means he

A would refuse to allow it.
B cannot hear them very well.
C has not been told yet.
D would be delighted.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

The Silver Dart Over Baddeck Bay

Paragraph A

On February 23, 1909, a crowd of local residents gathered on the frozen surface of Baddeck Bay, on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, to watch a strange machine of bamboo, wire and fabric race across the ice. After a short run, the Silver Dart lifted into the air and flew for roughly 800 metres before settling back down. It was the first controlled, powered aeroplane flight in Canada. The choice of setting was a practical one. In the hilly, wooded countryside around the village, a long, flat and unobstructed stretch of land was hard to find, while a frozen bay offered exactly that for several months each winter.

Paragraph B

The aircraft was the work of the Aerial Experiment Association, a small group led by Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, who had built his summer home near Baddeck. For years, Bell had been testing enormous kites made of many small three-dimensional triangular cells, and these experiments had convinced him that people would one day fly. The group was formed in 1907 at the suggestion of his wife, Mabel, who also paid its expenses from her own funds. Its other members were much younger: two young engineers from the University of Toronto, J.A.D. McCurdy and Frederick “Casey” Baldwin; an American engine builder, Glenn Curtiss; and a United States Army officer, Lieutenant Thomas Selfridge. Selfridge never saw the Silver Dart fly. In 1908, while riding as a passenger with Orville Wright, he became the first person to die in the crash of a powered aeroplane.

Paragraph C

Before coming to Cape Breton, the group designed and tested three earlier aircraft at Hammondsport, New York, Curtiss’s home town, and each one borrowed lessons from the last. The Silver Dart was the fourth, and it made its first flights there in December 1908 before being shipped north to Baddeck. Its name came from the silvery, rubberized fabric stretched over its wings, and it was powered by a water-cooled engine that Curtiss had designed. McCurdy, who had grown up in Baddeck, was chosen as its pilot, so the people cheering on the ice that February afternoon were watching one of their own. In the weeks that followed, he took the machine up many more times, gradually flying farther and learning to make turns over the bay.

Paragraph D

The association broke up only a few weeks after the historic flight, but its story did not end there. McCurdy and Baldwin hoped to persuade Canada’s military that aircraft had a future, yet demonstration flights at Petawawa, Ontario, later that year ended with the Silver Dart damaged on landing, and the officers who watched remained unconvinced. McCurdy nevertheless stayed involved in aviation for decades and later served as Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. Today, visitors to the

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> Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site in Baddeck can learn about the Silver Dart alongside Bell's many other inventions, and in 2009 the flight's hundredth anniversary was marked with celebrations in the village.

Decide which paragraph, A to D, has the information given in each statement below. Select E if the information is not given in any of the paragraphs.

20. A shortage of suitable open ground helps explain where the first flight in Canada took place. _____

21. The person who paid for the group's work later flew in the Silver Dart as a passenger. _____

22. Some of the people who watched the flight over Baddeck Bay had a personal connection to the pilot. _____

23. One member of the group did not live to see its most famous achievement. _____

24. Military observers were not persuaded by what they saw of the aircraft. _____

25. Bell eventually took the controls of one of the association's aircraft himself. _____

26. The Silver Dart's design benefited from a series of earlier attempts. _____

27. Bell's confidence that people could fly came partly from testing objects other than aeroplanes. _____

28. On its first flight in Canada, the aircraft covered less than a kilometre. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Port Halden's Private Tree Bylaw

> A bylaw before Port Halden council would, for the first time, regulate trees on private property. Owners would require a $150 permit to remove any tree whose trunk exceeds 30 centimetres at chest height. Permits would remain available for specimens that are dead, diseased or damaging a building, but owners must in every case plant two replacements or contribute $1,500 to a municipal planting fund.
>
> Councillor Amrit Sandhu, the measure's sponsor, cites aerial surveys showing the canopy shrinking from 28 to 21 percent in fifteen years, predominantly on private lots where older houses yielded to larger ones. "Planting on public land can't offset that loss," she insists. "Without regulation, shade will disappear one lot at a time." She has, however, ruled out subsidizing owners' arborist reports.
>
> Doug Tremblay, a thirty-year resident of Orchard Street, regards the bylaw as an intrusion. The silver maple behind his house, nearly a metre across, is reportedly cracking his basement wall with its roots; he would now confront "a permit, a specialist's report costing several hundred dollars and two trees I never requested." Though he has planted three himself, he foresees perverse results: "Give people a reason to keep a tree and most of us will. Punish them, and they'll quietly cut it down before the bylaw passes."
>
> Marcus Lindqvist of the Port Halden Home Builders' Association disputes the arithmetic. "Aerial photographs can't detect thousands of saplings in peripheral subdivisions, tomorrow's canopy," he notes. Delays and replacement costs, he warns, will be absorbed into new home prices. His association would reward builders who design around existing trees by expediting their applications.
>
> Urban forester Dr. Helen Okafor shares the councillor's concern without sharing her confidence. A fifty-year-old oak intercepts more rainwater and casts more shade than dozens of saplings, she notes, which makes a two-for-one formula an odd yardstick. "And how would two inspectors process thousands of homeowners' applications?" she wonders. Her recommendation: concentrate on redevelopment sites, where most large trees fall, and oblige builders to protect mature specimens during construction. Several neighbourhood associations have already asked to address councillors.

29. Who favours the aim but doubts the means?

A Councillor Amrit Sandhu
B Doug Tremblay
C Marcus Lindqvist
D Helen Okafor

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30. Tremblay and Lindqvist would most likely favour

A revised canopy figures
B reward over punishment
C shielding veteran trees on job sites
D more greenery on city grounds

31. Why does Okafor compare an oak with saplings?

A to show surveys miss young trees
B to explain why sites lose large trees
C to suggest two replacements are meagre
D to question whether inspectors can keep up

32. Which of these follows from the article?

A Tremblay's maple would be covered.
B Tremblay couldn't get a permit.
C Builders would be exempt.
D Saplings already offset the lost canopy.

33. The best title is "Port Halden's Tree Bylaw:

A An Overdue Rescue Everyone Welcomes"
B Too Far for Some Shade?"
C Proof That the Canopy Is Recovering"
D A Gift to Home Builders"

The following is a comment by a visitor to the website page. Complete the comment by choosing the best option to fill in each blank.

> Having watched two old elms on my street fall to make room for triplexes, I am glad council is finally **(34)** _____. Still, details matter. Mr. Tremblay's basement worry is understandable, but the bylaw **(35)** _____, so his permit seems likely. Mature elms, once gone, do not return.
>
> What I cannot accept is Mr. Lindqvist's contention that **(36)** _____; a sapling planted today shades nobody until my grandchildren are grown. Dr. Okafor rightly wants the rules aimed **(37)** _____, since two inspectors chasing every backyard is a recipe for frustration. To win over such owners, the city might reconsider **(38)** _____; a modest sum would buy considerable goodwill.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** paying owners who spare their trees **B** lining boulevards with saplings **C** waking up to canopy loss **D** cutting permit fees

35. **A** makes allowances for his predicament **B** applies only to developers **C** spares any tree planted long ago **D** exempts owners who have planted others

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36. **A** a mature tree beats any newcomer **B** the rules will inflate house costs **C** builders deserve a faster queue **D** suburbs will offset the loss

37. **A** at rotting or ailing trees **B** where the bulldozers are **C** at people with spacious yards **D** at public boulevards

38. **A** raising the $1,500 payment **B** lowering the trunk threshold **C** picking up the specialist's bill **D** dropping the two-for-one formula

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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: Grandma's Letter Before the Quebec Trip

1 C to offer to pay the rest of Theo's trip

2 A Theo might hold on to it for too long.

3 D she was not very careful with her savings.

4 B is partly old-fashioned but still helpful.

5 A Trying to speak French matters more than speaking it well.

6 C Her recovery limits how far she can travel.

7 B my trip is now completely paid for

8 D send an old-fashioned telegram

9 A my French would not be good enough

10 C record some of it on her phone

11 D knee

Part 2: A Gift for Grandpa's Moving Day

12 C $60 Advanced

13 A pay the extra $20 for rush service

14 D museum glass

15 B $0.75

16 C the free download link

17 B first cousins

18 D Grandpa moves into a new home that day.

19 A would refuse to allow it.

Part 3: The Silver Dart Over Baddeck Bay

20 A

21 E

22 C

23 B

24 D

25 E

26 C

27 B

28 A

Part 4: Port Halden's Private Tree Bylaw

29 D Helen Okafor

30 B reward over punishment

31 C to suggest two replacements are meagre

32 A Tremblay's maple would be covered.

33 B Too Far for Some Shade?"

34 C waking up to canopy loss

35 A makes allowances for his predicament

36 D suburbs will offset the loss

37 B where the bulldozers are

38 C picking up the specialist's bill

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Your estimated CLB

Correct answers (of 38)	Estimated level
37–38	CLB 12
35–36	CLB 11
33–34	CLB 10
31–32	CLB 9
28–30	CLB 8
24–27	CLB 7
19–23	CLB 6
15–18	CLB 5
10–14	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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