CELPIP Reading Practice Test 102

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	A First-Month Update for a Mentor	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Eye Exams and New Glasses at Birchgrove	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Pablum and the Hospital for Sick Children	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Cruise Ship Visits to Cape Merrow Debate	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/102, 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

A First-Month Update for a Mentor

> Dear Mr. Achebe,
>
> It has been almost a month since I started as an assistant editor at Valley Life magazine, and I owe you a proper update. When we met for coffee in the spring, you told me that the first weeks at any job are mostly about listening. I can report that I have done a great deal of listening and a little less talking than usual, which my sister says is a miracle.
>
> The work itself is more varied than I expected. On a typical day I edit two or three short articles, update the community events calendar and write captions for photographs. The editor, Maureen, has a habit of handing me pieces at four o'clock that must be ready by five, so I am learning to work quickly without panicking.
>
> I have also made my first real mistake. In last week's issue, I labelled a photo of the Pine Hollow farmers' market as being in Elk Ridge. A reader wrote in to point it out, and I was mortified. Then I remembered your advice to own a mistake before anyone has to mention it twice, so I went straight to Maureen, explained what had happened and drafted a correction for the website that same afternoon. She seemed more impressed by how I handled it than bothered by the error itself.
>
> Now I have a decision to make, and I would value your opinion. Maureen has offered me two possibilities for the fall. I can take over the arts listings column, which would put my name on a page every month, or I can join the small team checking facts for a special issue on the history of the valley's orchards. The column is the more visible choice, but the fact-checking would put me beside our most experienced writers for three months, and I suspect I would learn more. The catch is that the special issue will mean several Saturdays in the office, and I have only just started a weekend pottery class.
>
> Finally, the magazine is holding a small reception on Thursday, October 22, to celebrate its twenty-fifth year, and each staff member may bring one guest. Nobody did more than you to help me get here, so I would be honoured if you would come.
>
> With gratitude,
>
> Amara Osei

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

A to apologize for an error in the magazine
B to update her mentor and ask for his advice
C to request a reference for a new position
D to complain about her editor's short deadlines

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2. When Amara mentions that her sister calls her quietness “a miracle,” she suggests that she

A has been too nervous to speak at work.
B rarely sees her sister these days.
C found her first weeks very difficult.
D is normally a talkative person.

3. How did Amara deal with the caption error?

A She reported it to her editor without delay.
B She asked Mr. Achebe how to correct it.
C She printed a correction in the next issue.
D She waited until her editor raised it.

4. What appeals to Amara about the fact-checking project?

A It would give her a regular monthly column.
B It would let her work from home on weekends.
C It would let her learn from senior colleagues.
D It would come with a higher salary.

5. What makes Amara hesitate about the fact-checking project?

A Her editor might be disappointed in her.
B It would take up some of her free weekends.
C She has little experience checking facts.
D She knows nothing about the valley’s orchards.

6. Why does Amara invite Mr. Achebe to the reception?

A Every staff member is expected to bring a guest.
B He used to work as an editor at the magazine.
C Maureen has asked to meet him in person.
D She feels he helped her reach this point.

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 Amara,
>
> What a treat to find your letter in my mailbox. It sounds as though Maureen’s last-minute requests are **(7)** _____. That is a skill no classroom can teach.
>
> Please don’t lose sleep over the caption. Mixing up **(8)** _____ happens to every editor sooner or later. What readers remember is how quickly **(9)** _____, and from what you describe, you handled that part very well.
>
> As for your choice, I would lean toward the orchard issue. A byline is pleasant, but three months working beside **(10)** _____ will be worth far more in the long run. Your pottery wheel will still be

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there in January.

Finally, thank you for the invitation. I would be delighted to help celebrate the magazine's **(11)** _____ on the 22nd.

Warmly,

Desmond Achebe

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** teaching you to work quickly under pressure
B giving you a chance to write your own column **C** keeping you from finishing your captions
D costing you your weekend pottery classes

8. **A** the dates of two events **B** the names of two writers **C** the names of two places
D the prices of two products

9. **A** the magazine reaches their mailbox **B** the photographer took the picture
C the error appears in print **D** a mistake is admitted and fixed

10. **A** the valley's orchard growers **B** your most experienced colleagues
C the local arts community **D** your new pottery classmates

11. **A** quarter-century anniversary **B** new arts column **C** special orchard issue
D fall subscription drive

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Eye Exams and New Glasses at Birchgrove



Birchgrove Eye Care & Eyewear

Eye Exams · Frames · Lenses · Repairs — 2026 Price Guide

Eye Exams

Children (under 18)	$70
Adults (18–64)	$125
Seniors (65+)	$95
Contact lens fitting added to any exam	$60

Exams by appointment only.
First-time contact lens wearers receive a **free trial pair** with their fitting.

Frames

Value Collection	$89
Designer Collection	$199–$399
Kids' Flex Frames ages 3–12, bendable hinges	$99
Prescription sports goggles	$149

★ Kids' Flex Frames include a **1-year breakage warranty**: bent or broken frames replaced free.

Lenses (per pair)

Single vision for distance or reading	$110
Progressive distance and reading in one lens	$320
Anti-glare coating	+$45
Blue-light filter	+$40
Light-reactive darkens outdoors	+$95
Thin & Light for strong prescriptions	+$70

Ready Times

Single vision	5–7 business days
Progressive	10–14 business days
Contact lenses in stock	same day

RUSH SERVICE: 2 business days, +$35
Available for single vision lenses only.

Repairs & Extras

Adjustments & cleaning no appointment needed	FREE
Screws & nose pads	FREE
Hinge or bridge repair ready in 3 business days	$30
Ready-made reading glasses no prescription needed	$25

Hours

Mon–Wed: 9 a.m.–6 p.m. **Thu:** 9 a.m.–8 p.m. **Fri:** 9 a.m.–6 p.m. **Sat:** 9 a.m.–2 p.m. **Sun:** Closed

We bill most insurance plans directly. Please bring your **current glasses** and a **list of your medications** to your exam.

Unit 4, 210 Lakeshore Road · ☎ 555-0148

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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: Your eye exam at Birchgrove
>
> To: Rafael Reyes
>
> From: Tomás Reyes
>
> Hi Dad,
>
> Mom tells me you've been holding the newspaper at arm's length again, so I picked up a price list from the eye care place beside my office. Since you turned 65 in March, your exam would cost **(12)** _____.
>
> Mom also says Dr. Kwan told you last year that you now need help with both reading and distance, so this time you'll need **(13)** _____. I know you think glasses cost an arm and a leg, but the Value frames are under $90, so it won't be as bad as you fear.

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> The only problem is timing. You fly to Halifax eight business days after the earliest exam I could get, and that type of lens takes **(14)** _____. Their rush service won't help either. In the meantime, **(15)** _____ would get you through the trip. Mom is doing all the driving, so you only need to see your crossword on the plane, and I know you've always refused to put anything in your eyes.
>
> Leo needs his exam too. He's nine and has already snapped two pairs playing hockey this year, so I'm going to get him the **(16)** _____ frames this time.
>
> I've booked you both for Thursday at 6:30 p.m., since that's the only evening they're open late. Let me know if that works.
>
> Love,
>
> Tomás

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** $125 **B** $95 **C** $70 **D** $60

13. **A** single vision lenses **B** a blue-light filter **C** progressive lenses **D** light-reactive lenses

14. **A** 5 to 7 business days **B** 2 business days **C** 3 business days **D** 10 to 14 business days

15. **A** a $25 pair of ready-made readers **B** a free trial pair of contact lenses **C** a pair of prescription sports goggles **D** a pair of light-reactive lenses

16. **A** Value Collection **B** Designer Collection **C** Kids' Flex **D** Thin & Light

17. Tomás and Rafael are most likely

A co-workers.
B father and son.
C next-door neighbours.
D old school friends.

18. Why does Tomás suggest the ready-made glasses?

A His father's prescription has not changed.
B They are covered by his insurance plan.
C His father will need them for driving.
D They will do until the new pair is ready.

19. When Tomás says his father thinks glasses "cost an arm and a leg," he means his father believes they are

A very expensive.
B uncomfortable to wear.
C easy to break.
D rarely needed.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Pablum and the Hospital for Sick Children

Paragraph A

In the 1920s, doctors at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto treated a steady stream of young patients whose troubles began not with germs but with what they ate. Rickets, a disease that softens and bends growing bones, was still common in Canadian cities and appeared most often in children who got little sunshine during the long northern winter. Some arrived with bowed legs or other visible signs of the disease. Many babies were fed thin porridges or watered-down milk, and even careful parents had little reliable advice about what a growing child needed. For the hospital's physician-in-chief, Dr. Alan Brown, poor infant feeding was not simply a private family matter. He considered it a public health problem and believed that doctors had a duty to help solve it.

Paragraph B

Working with two colleagues, Dr. Frederick Tisdall and Dr. Theodore Drake, Brown set out to create a cereal that was nourishing, easy to digest and simple to prepare. The team combined wheat, oat and corn meal with ingredients that sound surprising today, including bone meal, dried brewer's yeast and alfalfa, in order to supply vitamins and minerals that ordinary cereals lacked. The mixture was cooked and dried before it was packaged, so a parent needed only to stir in milk or water and serve it. At a time when preparing cereal for a baby usually meant a long session at the stove, this was a considerable convenience.

Paragraph C

The cereal reached store shelves in the early 1930s under the name Pablum, from the Latin word pabulum, meaning food. An American company was licensed to manufacture and sell it, and before long it was a familiar sight in kitchens across North America. For many parents, the box on the pantry shelf became a symbol of modern, scientific child care. The doctors did not keep the royalties for themselves. Instead, the payments went to the hospital, where for roughly twenty-five years they helped pay for research into children's health. Toronto had already drawn international attention a decade earlier, when insulin was discovered at the city's university, and Pablum gave its medical community a second success that ordinary families could see on their own tables.

Paragraph D

In the decades that followed, Pablum faced competition from many other infant cereals, and the brand passed through the hands of more than one company. Its most lasting influence, however, may be on the English language. Because the cereal was soft, smooth and deliberately mild, the word "pablum" came to describe speeches, writing or ideas that are bland and say nothing challenging. Many people who use the word this way have no idea that it began as a brand name. Yet for the

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> doctors who created it, mildness was entirely the point: a food that any infant could digest and any parent could prepare was exactly what their young patients needed.

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 senior doctor at the hospital felt that the medical profession should take responsibility for how babies were fed. _____

21. The new product shortened the time parents spent preparing their children's meals. _____

22. The hospital profited from the cereal's success for a limited period. _____

23. Like the team that discovered insulin, the cereal's creators received a Nobel Prize. _____

24. Some ingredients were chosen to provide nutrients that typical grain products did not contain. _____

25. A term that started as a product name is now often used to criticize. _____

26. The cereal was sold in Britain before it became available in North America. _____

27. A childhood illness was more widespread among those who received less daylight. _____

28. The product's lack of strong flavour was intentional. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Cruise Ship Visits to Cape Merrow Debate

On summer mornings, a white wall of steel dominates the view from the wharf in Cape Merrow, a Nova Scotia fishing village of about 900. On peak days, two ships anchor in the bay and as many as 5,000 passengers are ferried ashore, more than five times the population. A plan before the village's councillors would limit arrivals to one ship daily and impose a $6 harbour levy on every disembarking passenger.

Mayor Colleen Barteaux denies any antagonism toward tourism. The wharf, washrooms and sewage system, she contends, were engineered for a village, not "a small city that appears at nine in the morning and vanishes by five," while residents absorb the deterioration through property taxes. The cap concerns safety as much as comfort: on two-ship days, ambulances have struggled along the main street.

Rafi Haddad, whose café and gift shop stand steps from the wharf, derives roughly 40 percent of his summer sales from passengers and expects the cap to cost far more than the levy yields. Yet he concedes the crowding has become difficult to defend, having watched neighbours abandon their own post office in July. "A fee I could tolerate, if it's earmarked for the wharf and washrooms," he says. "A cap is different. Cruise lines plan itineraries years ahead, and a village that refuses them on Tuesdays may be dropped altogether."

Dr. Ingrid Solberg, a Halifax scholar of coastal tourism, has observed comparable disputes elsewhere. Per-passenger charges almost never discourage visitors, she reports, since companies quietly absorb them into ticket prices. Caps can succeed, though only when negotiated with the industry and combined with efforts to distribute visits across the season. Communities announcing limits unilaterally, she cautions, "tend to discover how little bargaining power they actually have."

For retired fisherman Wendell Price, whose family has occupied the harbour for four generations, the economic reasoning misses the point. He endorses the cap unreservedly but distrusts the levy. "Once each passenger represents six dollars, councillors will start counting them as income, and someone will soon propose a bigger wharf," he predicts. The village, he fears, could become a stage set: "Pretty to look at, but nobody really lives here anymore."

29. Who fears the levy could undermine the cap?

A Mayor Colleen Barteaux
B Rafi Haddad
C Ingrid Solberg
D Wendell Price

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30. On a cap, Haddad and Solberg would warn that

A fees rarely put anyone off.

B arrivals should be staggered.

C acting alone could backfire.

D proceeds should be earmarked for repairs.

31. How would Solberg rate the levy as crowd control?

A It would likely prove toothless.

B It's a fairer way to pay.

C It would tempt officials to court ships.

D It should go toward the pier.

32. We may infer that at present

A most locals prefer the charge.

B villagers help pay for visitors' wear.

C passengers provide most of Haddad's annual income.

D operators have threatened to stay away.

33. An apt title: "Cape Merrow's Cruise Plan:

A A Harbour Finally United"

B An End to Cruise Ships in the Bay"

C Relief at What Price?"

D A Windfall With No Drawbacks"

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.

> After twenty years in Cape Merrow, I can confirm the mayor isn't exaggerating; on two-ship days I don't attempt the drive. When **(34)** _____, something has to give. Still, I doubt the levy is the answer. If Dr. Solberg is right, the companies will simply **(35)** _____, and the crowds won't thin.
>
> Worse, I share Mr. Price's fear that council will come to see every passenger as **(36)** _____. Mr. Haddad deserves credit for his candour, given that passengers represent **(37)** _____. Before voting, council should **(38)** _____. Otherwise we may get the worst of both worlds: fewer ships, but no fewer complaints.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** lunch counters sell out by noon **B** emergency vehicles are left crawling **C** the last launch leaves people stranded **D** a horn wakes everybody at dawn

35. **A** send their travellers elsewhere **B** refuse to pay altogether **C** lobby to have it reduced **D** build it into fares

36. **A** a cash cow **B** a safety hazard **C** a welcome guest **D** a burden on taxpayers

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37. **A** most of his annual income **B** scarcely any real profit **C** a healthy slice of sales **D** the post office's main trade

38. **A** keep only the levy **B** earmark the levy for washrooms **C** double the levy **D** sit down with cruise lines

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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 First-Month Update for a Mentor

1 B to update her mentor and ask for his advice

2 D is normally a talkative person.

3 A She reported it to her editor without delay.

4 C It would let her learn from senior colleagues.

5 B It would take up some of her free weekends.

6 D She feels he helped her reach this point.

7 A teaching you to work quickly under pressure

8 C the names of two places

9 D a mistake is admitted and fixed

10 B your most experienced colleagues

11 A quarter-century anniversary

Part 2: Eye Exams and New Glasses at Birchgrove

12 B $95

13 C progressive lenses

14 D 10 to 14 business days

15 A a $25 pair of ready-made readers

16 C Kids' Flex

17 B father and son.

18 D They will do until the new pair is ready.

19 A very expensive.

Part 3: Pablum and the Hospital for Sick Children

20 A

21 B

22 C

23 E

24 B

25 D

26 E

27 A

28 D

Part 4: Cruise Ship Visits to Cape Merrow Debate

29 D Wendell Price

30 C acting alone could backfire.

31 A It would likely prove toothless.

32 B villagers help pay for visitors' wear.

33 C Relief at What Price?"

34 B emergency vehicles are left crawling

35 D build it into fares

36 A a cash cow

37 C a healthy slice of sales

38 D sit down with cruise lines

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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.

What is your level in all four skills? Create a free account at celpass.com for a free diagnostic with a predicted CLB in Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking, and AI scoring of your Speaking and Writing.

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