CELPIP Reading Practice Test 104

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	An Offer for Grand-maman's Cottage	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	A Fall Farm Outing with the Grandkids	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Spirit Bears of the British Columbia Coast	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Corner Stores in Residential Neighbourhoods 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/104, 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

An Offer for Grand-maman's Cottage

> Dear Paul,
>
> I hope the move to Calgary has gone smoothly and that the boys are settling into their new school. Aunt Louise tells me Étienne has already made the hockey team, which doesn't surprise me in the least.
>
> I'm writing about something I've been putting off for months: Grand-maman's cottage. I went over to the Island in June to open it up, and I'm afraid the roof won't survive another winter. Two contractors have quoted about $14,000 to replace it, and both said the work should be done before November. Under the arrangement we made after Grand-maman passed away, we each pay half of any major repair, but I know things have been tight for you since the move, and I don't want this to become a burden.
>
> So I'd like to make you an offer, and please read it as exactly that, not as pressure. I would like to buy your half of the cottage. I had it appraised in July at $260,000, so I would pay you $130,000, and I would cover the new roof myself. If you'd like a second opinion on the value, I'll gladly split the cost of another appraiser. I would need to pay in two instalments, half this fall and the rest by the end of next June, once the sale of my condo in Ottawa goes through.
>
> I should be honest about why I'm asking. Daniel and I plan to retire next year, and we would like to spend May to October at the cottage every year. The rest of the year we'd rent something small in town, closer to the hospital, which matters more to us now than it used to.
>
> None of this would change what the place means to our family. You, Natalie and the boys would always be welcome for two weeks every summer, free of charge, and I'd be happy to put that in writing. The canoe and Grand-papa's old fishing rods would stay exactly where they are.
>
> Please take your time and talk it over with Natalie. If you'd rather keep your share, I'll understand completely, and we'll find a way to deal with the roof together.
>
> With love,
>
> Marguerite

1. Why is Marguerite writing to Paul?

A to remind him to pay his share of a repair
B to tell him that she is selling her condo
C to offer to buy out his share of a property
D to invite his family to the cottage this summer

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2. How did Marguerite and Paul come to own the cottage?

A They both inherited it from their grandmother.
B They bought it together as an investment.
C Paul's parents left it to the two of them.
D Marguerite bought half of it from Aunt Louise.

3. What does Marguerite suggest about Paul's situation?

A He has lost all interest in the old cottage.
B His sons are unhappy at their new school.
C He has already agreed to sell his share.
D His finances have been under strain lately.

4. If Paul accepts, Marguerite would

A pay the full price in a single payment this fall.
B take on the full cost of the new roof by herself.
C hire a second appraiser and pay for it alone.
D give the canoe and fishing rods to Paul's sons.

5. Why does Marguerite want the cottage?

A She wants to rent it out to tourists.
B She hopes to spend half of each year there.
C She wants to be closer to a hospital.
D Her husband wants to winterize it for year-round use.

6. What does Marguerite want Paul to understand?

A The offer will expire at the end of June.
B The appraisal is final.
C Her husband insisted she write the letter.
D He is free to turn the offer down.

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 Marguerite,
>
> Thank you for such a thoughtful letter, and for being so **(7)** _____ about your reasons. Natalie and I talked it over for most of the weekend. You're right that money has been tight since we moved, and to be honest, finding my half of **(8)** _____ would have been very hard this year.
>
> Your price seems fair to us, and I don't think we need **(9)** _____. Paying in two parts is fine, as long as **(10)** _____, because we are counting on that money for a down payment on a house here.

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> I told the boys about your plans, and they were relieved to hear that **(11)** _____. They have already started arguing about whose turn it will be to paddle.
>
> Love,
>
> Paul

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** candid **B** secretive **C** vague **D** hesitant

8. **A** the appraisal fee **B** Étienne's hockey costs **C** the roof replacement **D** the condo in Ottawa

9. **A** to put the summer visits in writing **B** to wait until your condo is sold **C** to keep the fishing rods **D** a second opinion on the value

10. **A** the roof is replaced before our visit **B** the rest arrives by the end of June **C** you pay the whole amount this fall **D** Daniel agrees to retire next year

11. **A** the canoe isn't going anywhere **B** the cottage will soon be winterized **C** they can stay all summer **D** the rods will be sold

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

A Fall Farm Outing with the Grandkids



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: Red Willow Farm on the holiday Monday?
>
> To: Gail Thompson
>
> From: Helen Dubois
>
> Hi Gail,
>
> Remember the farm near Selkirk I told you about over the back fence last week? I picked up their flyer at the library, and I'm planning to take Chloé and little Sam on Thanksgiving Monday. They're normally closed on Mondays, but on the holiday they're **(12)** _____.
>
> Would you and Tyler like to come with us? Sam is only two, so his admission won't cost a thing, and Chloé just turned eight, so her ticket is **(13)** _____. The two of us old-timers get the seniors' price, of course.

> I know Tyler has been begging to try the flashlight maze, but it only runs on **(14)** _____, so that will have to wait. The wagon ride out to the pumpkin field does run that day, though, so each of the kids can pick a pumpkin to take home. Since my stroller would never make it through the corn maze, I'll **(15)** _____ for Sam instead.
>
> Sadly, you'll have to leave Pepper at home, because **(16)** _____. I know he'll sulk.
>
> If it rains, we can simply go another weekend. Let me know by Wednesday, and I'll buy everything at the gate when we get there. I'll take care of the tickets and the cocoa. You bring your famous butter tarts, and we'll call it even.
>
> Helen

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** closed for the holiday **B** open from 10 to 6 **C** open from 3 to 7 **D** only open for school groups

13. **A** $16 **B** $12 **C** $52 **D** $13

14. **A** Friday nights in October **B** weekends and holidays **C** Thursday and Friday afternoons **D** Saturday and Sunday evenings

15. **A** book a pony ride **B** pay for a jumping pillow pass **C** borrow one of their pull wagons **D** bring along my own small flashlight

16. **A** only service dogs are allowed **B** pets must stay in the car **C** dogs frighten the barn animals **D** the maze is too crowded for dogs

17. Helen and Gail are most likely

A sisters.
B co-workers.
C neighbours.
D former classmates.

18. Why will Tyler not be able to do the flashlight maze on this trip?

A He is too young to be allowed in.
B It costs too much on top of admission.
C Helen is nervous about being out after dark.
D It does not run on the day they are visiting.

19. When Helen says "we'll call it even," she means

A they should split the ticket costs equally.
B Gail's baking will make up for what Helen pays.
C the cocoa and the tarts will cost the same.
D Gail should not bring any food this time.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Spirit Bears of the British Columbia Coast

Paragraph A

Along the rugged coast of northern British Columbia lives one of the rarest large mammals in North America. The Kermode bear, better known as the spirit bear, is not a separate species but a subspecies of the American black bear, and most members of the subspecies are in fact black. A minority, however, have coats ranging from cream to almost pure white. These bears are not albinos; they have the dark eyes, noses and paw pads of ordinary black bears. Their colour comes from a recessive gene, which means a cub is white only if it inherits a copy from each parent. As a result, two black bears that both carry the gene can produce a white cub, and a white mother may raise black cubs.

Paragraph B

White bears are found mainly on a handful of islands and nearby coastal valleys, where isolation has allowed the gene to become unusually common. On some islands, roughly one bear in ten is white. The English name comes from Francis Kermode, an early director of the provincial museum in Victoria, who helped bring the bear to the attention of scientists in the early 1900s. Coastal First Nations had known the animal for far longer. In one widely shared story, Raven made every tenth black bear white as a reminder of the time when the land was covered in ice and snow. For generations, some communities are said to have kept the bear's existence quiet to protect it from outsiders.

Paragraph C

Researchers have found that the white coat may be more than a curiosity. In studies of bears fishing for salmon in coastal streams, white bears caught fish more successfully than black bears during the day, probably because a pale shape is harder for fish to detect against a bright sky. At night, the difference disappeared. Salmon are especially important in autumn, when bears must build up fat reserves before their long winter sleep. Like other coastal bears, spirit bears also play an important part in the life of the forest itself. They often carry salmon away from the water to eat in the shelter of the trees, and the remains they leave behind release nutrients that help the surrounding plants grow.

Paragraph D

In 2006, the spirit bear was named British Columbia's official provincial mammal. A decade later, after years of negotiations involving First Nations, environmental groups, forestry companies and the provincial government, an agreement protected about 85 percent of the forest in the region now known as the Great Bear Rainforest from industrial logging. Today, small groups of visitors travel to the area each autumn hoping to glimpse a white bear, often accompanied by local Indigenous guides

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> who share their knowledge of the land. Scientists and communities continue to monitor both the bears and the salmon runs on which they depend.

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. Some bears' colouring may help them find food at certain times. _____

21. A white cub can be born to two parents with black fur. _____

22. White bears tend to grow larger than black members of the same subspecies. _____

23. Most of the bears' forest home is now off limits to large-scale logging. _____

24. The bear's English name honours a museum official. _____

25. According to a traditional story, the white coat recalls an icy period in the past. _____

26. The number of spirit bears has been falling in recent years. _____

27. By leaving fish remains among the trees, bears help the forest to grow. _____

28. The white coat is not the result of the condition known as albinism. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Corner Stores in Residential Neighbourhoods Debate

> For seven decades, anyone hoping to open a shop in Ashbury's residential neighbourhoods has encountered the same obstacle: the zoning bylaw forbids it. A motion now before city politicians would permit small shops and cafés of up to 150 square metres on corner lots throughout this Ontario city's residential areas. Businesses would close by 10 p.m., drive-throughs would be prohibited and, unlike commercial-street premises, they would need no parking.
>
> Councillor Priya Raman, the motion's sponsor, characterizes it as a correction, not a revolution. Pre-war neighbourhoods, she notes, retain houses that were obviously once grocery stores, shops that vanished because regulations changed, not because demand evaporated. "Today a senior who no longer drives needs two buses to purchase a loaf of bread," she says. Gas stations and supermarkets are not contemplated, she adds; this is "the corner shop your grandparents walked to."
>
> Doug Feeney, chair of the Glenholme Homeowners' Association, raises practical objections: customers circling for parking, delivery trucks idling at seven in the morning, and uncertainty over which tenants might materialize. "Everyone imagines a charming café, and I'd probably be one of its regulars," he remarks, "but zoning can't distinguish it from an outlet selling lottery tickets and vapes until two in the morning." Reminded of the 10 p.m. closing, he yielded the point, adding that regulations "have a way of being relaxed."
>
> Hana Kowalczyk, proprietor of a main-street bakery for twelve years, welcomes the idea while doubting its practical consequences. Insurance, equipment and staffing cost identical amounts anywhere, she calculates, and corners attract a fraction of the passing trade. "In most neighbourhoods, the economics would simply fail." Her larger apprehension is that the rare successes could divert customers from main streets already afflicted with vacant storefronts.
>
> Dr. Samuel Osei, who teaches urban planning at a nearby university, has examined comparable reforms elsewhere. Corner shops do reduce short car trips, but only where sufficient households live within a brief walk: older wards with narrow lots and garage apartments can sustain one, while a suburban crescent's store would probably languish. He recommends a two-year trial in the three densest wards before any citywide decision. Mayor Tom Reddick is awaiting the public consultation.

29. Who is closest to Kowalczyk on the shops' prospects?

A Samuel Osei
B Doug Feeney
C Priya Raman
D Mayor Tom Reddick

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30. Feeney's attitude toward a café itself is

A openly contemptuous
B deeply suspicious
C quietly receptive
D thoroughly indifferent

31. Why does Raman mention former grocery stores?

A to show seniors depend on buses
B to rule out supermarkets
C to argue demand moved to main streets
D to present the motion as restoration

32. What does the article suggest about the effects?

A Suburban crescents would gain the most.
B Older wards and suburbs would differ.
C Empty shopfronts would soon fill up.
D Driving would decline everywhere.

33. A fitting title: "Corner Stores in Ashbury:

A Welcome Return or Residential Nuisance?"
B A Certain Cure for Empty Main Streets"
C Neighbours United Against Change"
D Seven Decades of Zoning Comes to an End"

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.

> I have lived in the east end for sixty years, and I find Councillor Raman's own framing persuasive: this motion is **(34)** _____. Since surrendering my car, fetching milk consumes most of a morning. Mr. Feeney frets about vapes at two in the morning, but the motion already **(35)** _____.
>
> Still, Ms. Kowalczyk raises what supporters ignore: on a side street, running costs **(36)** _____. That is why I favour Dr. Osei's suggestion of **(37)** _____. And who knows? Mr. Feeney may discover, as he half admits, that **(38)** _____ makes a rather pleasant neighbour. I'd be there every morning.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** a danger to established merchants **B** turning back the clock **C** a recipe for parking woes **D** a gamble best tested first

35. **A** bans gambling products **B** demands off-street spots **C** confines shops to downtown **D** bans such hours

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36. **A** shrink on a quiet corner lot **B** matter less than the parking **C** swallow any margin **D** fall once regulars appear

37. **A** testing the likeliest wards **B** prohibiting stores in outer areas **C** waiting for City Hall's hearing **D** limiting shops to bakeries

38. **A** an idling delivery truck **B** a late-night vape outlet **C** the café he imagines **D** the bakery on the main street

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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: An Offer for Grand-maman's Cottage

1 C to offer to buy out his share of a property

2 A They both inherited it from their grandmother.

3 D His finances have been under strain lately.

4 B take on the full cost of the new roof by herself.

5 B She hopes to spend half of each year there.

6 D He is free to turn the offer down.

7 A candid

8 C the roof replacement

9 D a second opinion on the value

10 B the rest arrives by the end of June

11 A the canoe isn't going anywhere

Part 2: A Fall Farm Outing with the Grandkids

12 B open from 10 to 6

13 D $13

14 A Friday nights in October

15 C borrow one of their pull wagons

16 A only service dogs are allowed

17 C neighbours.

18 D It does not run on the day they are visiting.

19 B Gail's baking will make up for what Helen pays.

Part 3: Spirit Bears of the British Columbia Coast

20 C

21 A

22 E

23 D

24 B

25 B

26 E

27 C

28 A

Part 4: Corner Stores in Residential Neighbourhoods Debate

29 A Samuel Osei

30 C quietly receptive

31 D to present the motion as restoration

32 B Older wards and suburbs would differ.

33 A Welcome Return or Residential Nuisance?"

34 B turning back the clock

35 D bans such hours

36 C swallow any margin

37 A testing the likeliest wards

38 C the café he imagines

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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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