CELPIP Reading Practice Test 109

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	Coming Home After Three Weeks Away	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Booking a Party at the Trampoline Park	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Atlantic Puffins of Witless Bay	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Self-Checkout Lanes at Brockfield Grocery Stores 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/109, 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

Coming Home After Three Weeks Away

Dear Mr. Okafor,

I have started this letter three times, because every version seemed too small for what you did for us. Tomás and I got back from Lisbon on Sunday night, and we are still discovering how much worse things could have been if you had not been keeping an eye on the house.

As you know, we left you our spare key only so that you could bring in the mail and water my plants. I never imagined you would need it for an emergency. The furnace technician who came on Monday told us that our furnace shut down during the cold snap that hit Kamloops in the second week of January, probably because of a worn-out part. With no heat, the pipe under the kitchen sink froze and split. According to the insurance adjuster, if you had not noticed water running out under the garage door that morning and turned off the main valve, the whole basement would have flooded within a day.

I also know that you tried to call my brother-in-law, Rui, three times before you went in, and I'm sorry he didn't answer. He was working night shifts that week and kept his phone switched off during the day, which is exactly why we should have given you a second number. That mistake was ours, not yours.

You did much more than shut off the water. Grace told me that you spent most of that afternoon carrying our boxes of family photographs from the basement up to the dining room, and that you waited for the plumber in a house without heat. The adjuster says the damage is limited to the kitchen floor and the lower cabinets. Our insurance will cover the repairs, which should be finished by the end of March.

I know you won't let us pay you back for the plumber's emergency visit, since you already refused over the phone. So instead, I would like to invite you and Grace to dinner in our new kitchen as soon as it is ready. Tomás also asked me to say that he hasn't forgotten the raised garden beds you were planning to build this spring, and he would be glad to bring his tools over and help.

Finally, would you be willing to hold on to our spare key? Next time, you will have two numbers to call, though I hope there is never a next time.

With deep gratitude,

Lucia Ferreira

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1. Lucia is writing mainly to

A apologize for not leaving a second phone number.
B ask Mr. Okafor to help with the kitchen repairs.
C thank Mr. Okafor and suggest ways to repay him.
D explain how the insurance claim was settled.

2. Why did the pipe under the kitchen sink break?

A The plumber had left the main valve partly open.
B The house lost its heat during very cold weather.
C Water had been leaking under the garage door.
D Rui forgot to turn up the heat when he visited.

3. Mr. Okafor had a key to the house because he

A was asked to check the furnace while they were away.
B needed to let the insurance adjuster inside.
C had looked after the house for its previous owners.
D had agreed to take care of a few small tasks.

4. What does Lucia admit about the emergency?

A She and Tomás had not given Mr. Okafor enough ways to reach them.
B She and Tomás had not told Rui that they were going to Lisbon.
C She was upset that Mr. Okafor had entered the house without asking.
D She doubted the furnace technician's explanation of the problem.

5. We can infer from the letter that the damage to the house

A will mostly be paid for by Mr. Okafor.
B reached the boxes of family photographs.
C will take until the summer to repair.
D was kept small by Mr. Okafor's quick action.

6. What does Tomás offer to do?

A repay the cost of the plumber's visit
B help Mr. Okafor with a building project
C replace the worn-out part in the furnace
D rebuild the kitchen cabinets himself

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 Lucia,
>
> Your letter made Grace and me smile, though you really didn't need to write it. Anyone on this street would have done the same after seeing **(7)** _____ on such a cold morning.

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> Please don't be hard on Rui, either. Someone who works **(8)** _____ needs his sleep, and I would have switched off my phone too.
>
> Dinner in your new kitchen sounds wonderful. We're happy to wait until **(9)** _____, and Grace has already asked whether she can bring dessert.
>
> As for Tomás's offer, I won't say no. My back has not been the same since I **(10)** _____, so an extra pair of hands will be very welcome when the lumber is delivered in April.
>
> Of course I'll keep the key, as long as you leave me **(11)** _____ before your next trip.
>
> Welcome home,
>
> Daniel

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** a stream of water leaving your garage **B** smoke coming from your furnace vent **C** the plumber's van parked in your driveway **D** a stranger trying the handle of your door

8. **A** for an insurance company **B** as a furnace technician **C** through the night **D** from his home office

9. **A** your furnace has been replaced **B** the floor and cabinets are redone **C** the basement has finally dried out **D** the plumber has sent you his bill

10. **A** shovelled the snow from your front steps **B** crawled under your kitchen sink **C** drove across town to fetch the plumber **D** carried all those boxes upstairs

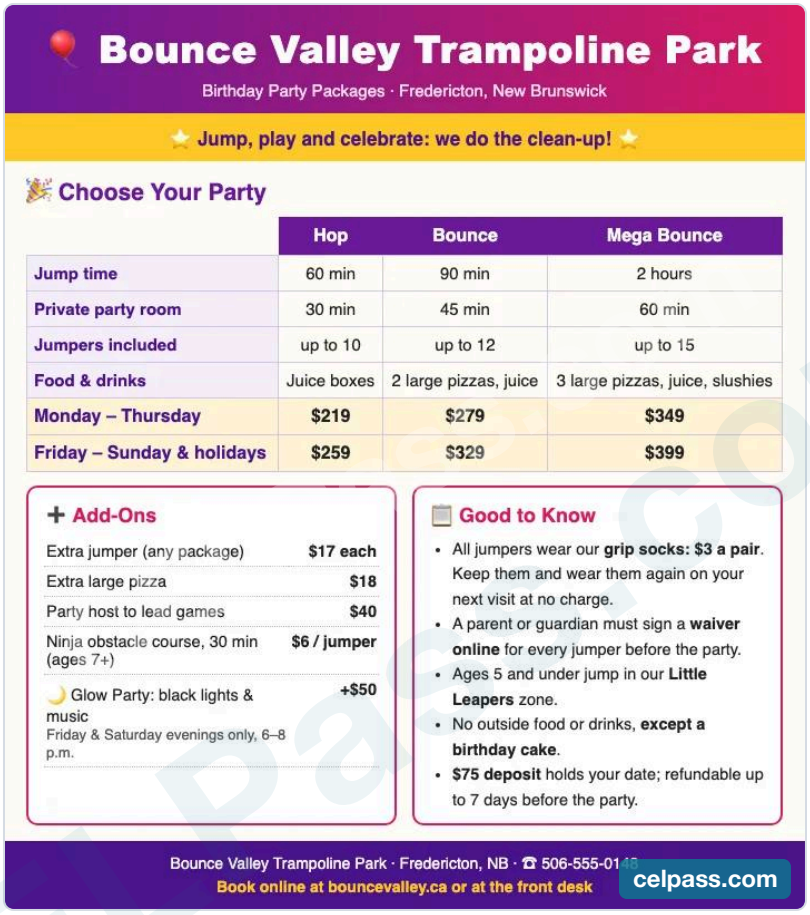
11. **A** another person's phone number **B** a list of plants to water **C** the furnace technician's card **D** a copy of Rui's work schedule

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Booking a Party at the Trampoline Park



Bounce Valley Trampoline Park

Birthday Party Packages · Fredericton, New Brunswick

⭐ Jump, play and celebrate: we do the clean-up! ⭐

Choose Your Party

	Hop	Bounce	Mega Bounce
Jump time	60 min	90 min	2 hours
Private party room	30 min	45 min	60 min
Jumpers included	up to 10	up to 12	up to 15
Food & drinks	Juice boxes	2 large pizzas, juice	3 large pizzas, juice, slushies
Monday – Thursday	$219	$279	$349
Friday – Sunday & holidays	$259	$329	$399

Add-Ons

Extra jumper (any package)	$17 each
Extra large pizza	$18
Party host to lead games	$40
Ninja obstacle course, 30 min (ages 7+)	$6 / jumper
🌙 Glow Party: black lights & music Friday & Saturday evenings only, 6–8 p.m.	+$50

Good to Know

- All jumpers wear our **grip socks: $3 a pair**. Keep them and wear them again on your next visit at no charge.
- A parent or guardian must sign a **waiver online** for every jumper before the party.
- Ages 5 and under jump in our **Little Leapers** zone.
- No outside food or drinks, **except a birthday cake**.
- **$75 deposit** holds your date; refundable up to 7 days before the party.

Bounce Valley Trampoline Park · Fredericton, NB · ☎ 506-555-0146

Book online at bouncevalley.ca or at the front desk

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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: Owen's party
>
> To: Patrick Doiron
>
> From: Julie Arsenault
>
> Hi Patrick,
>
> You asked me to look into a place for Owen's eighth birthday, so I stopped at Bounce Valley on my way home from work yesterday. I'll drop the flyer off at your place tonight, but here's what I found. Since the party is on Saturday the 14th, we'll be paying the weekend price.
>
> Owen has invited eleven friends, so that makes twelve jumpers with him. Owen's heart is set on pizza, so I think the **(12)** _____ package makes the most sense, since it includes food and covers exactly that many kids. That comes to **(13)** _____ before any extras.

> I know he would have loved the glow party, but it only runs **(14)** _____, and we've already told the other parents it's an afternoon party.
>
> Mom says she'll bake one of her chocolate cakes, just like the ones she made for our birthdays when we were little, and luckily the park lets us **(15)** _____.
>
> Two more things for the invitations: every parent has to sign a waiver online ahead of time, and the kids will each pay **(16)** _____ unless they still have theirs from an earlier visit.
>
> The $75 deposit holds the date, and we can get it back if anything changes more than a week before. Should I go ahead and book?
>
> Julie

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** Hop **B** Mega Bounce **C** Bounce **D** Glow Party

13. **A** $329 **B** $279 **C** $399 **D** $259

14. **A** for children seven and over **B** with the Mega Bounce package **C** from Monday to Thursday **D** on Friday and Saturday evenings

15. **A** order pizza from another restaurant **B** bring a homemade birthday cake **C** keep the party room all afternoon **D** skip the online waivers for family

16. **A** $17 as an extra jumper **B** $6 for the ninja course **C** $3 for grip socks **D** a share of the deposit

17. Julie and Patrick are most likely

A neighbours.
B husband and wife.
C co-workers.
D sister and brother.

18. Why did Julie visit Bounce Valley?

A She was doing a favour for Patrick.
B She wanted to book a party for one of her own children.
C Owen had enjoyed a party there the previous year.
D She had heard that the park offered a weekday discount.

19. When Julie says that Owen's "heart is set on pizza," she means that he

A doesn't mind what food is served.
B really wants pizza at his party.
C wants to choose the toppings himself.
D would rather have pizza than cake.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Atlantic Puffins of Witless Bay

Paragraph A

With its black back, white chest and large, brightly striped bill, the Atlantic puffin is one of the most recognizable seabirds in the North Atlantic, and its comical appearance has earned it the nickname "clown of the sea." It is also the official bird of Newfoundland and Labrador. Many visitors are surprised to learn that the bird's famous orange-and-yellow bill is a seasonal feature: once the breeding season ends, its colourful outer layers are shed, leaving a smaller, duller bill for the winter. Puffins spend most of their lives far out on the open ocean, often well out of sight of land, coming ashore only to raise their young in spring and summer.

Paragraph B

When they do come ashore, a great many of them gather at the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve, a group of small islands off the eastern coast of the Avalon Peninsula, south of St. John's. The reserve is home to North America's largest Atlantic puffin colony, and each summer the islands are crowded with hundreds of thousands of nesting seabirds of several different species. Because the colonies are easily disturbed, the islands themselves are protected, and landing on them requires a permit. Most visitors therefore see the birds from tour boats that leave from nearby coastal communities, often with whales feeding in the same waters. These trips run mainly during the summer months, when the birds are busiest.

Paragraph C

Puffins usually breed with the same partner year after year, and many pairs return to the very same nest each spring. Rather than building nests on bare cliffs, they dig burrows into the soft soil of grassy slopes, using their bills to loosen the earth and their feet to push it out. The female lays a single egg, and both parents take turns keeping it warm and, after it hatches, flying back and forth with food for the chick, which is known as a puffling. Puffins are also strong swimmers, using their wings to "fly" underwater in pursuit of prey. A parent can carry several small fish at once, held crosswise in its bill, and capelin, a small silvery fish, makes up much of the diet around Newfoundland.

Paragraph D

In late summer, the young birds leave their burrows, usually under cover of darkness, and head for the sea. Some, however, are drawn toward the lights of nearby towns and end up stranded on roads and in parking lots. In the communities around Witless Bay, volunteers patrol the streets at night during this period, gently gathering the lost pufflings and releasing them at the shore. Scientists also keep a close watch on the colony. Because capelin arrive near the coast at different times depending

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> on ocean conditions, researchers are concerned that warming waters could leave parents without enough food at the very moment their chicks need it most.

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. Both members of a pair share the work of raising their only chick. _____

21. The look of a puffin's bill changes over the course of a year. _____

22. Local people help young birds that have lost their way. _____

23. The number of puffins nesting in the reserve has fallen sharply in recent years. _____

24. Visitors are not free to walk around on the islands. _____

25. Changes in the sea could affect whether chicks get enough to eat. _____

26. For most of the year, puffins live away from land. _____

27. A pair may come back to the same home for many seasons. _____

28. The puffin was named the province's official bird because of its colourful bill. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Self-Checkout Lanes at Brockfield Grocery Stores Debate

> For years, the checkout area at Harvest Basket on Wellington Road resembled any other grocer's: eight lanes, each with a cashier. Last spring, self-service machines replaced six of them. Brockfield councillors are now debating a bylaw obliging every grocery store exceeding 1,500 square metres to keep at least two staffed checkouts open throughout its business hours.
>
> Councillor Denise Kowalczyk, its drafter, disclaims any ambition to turn back the clock; she uses the machines herself for a carton of milk. "But groceries aren't an optional service," she contends, "and an elderly cash customer abandoned in a twenty-minute queue, or retreating home empty-handed, represents a problem the whole community owns." Dozens of complaints reached her office following the change, predominantly from residents over seventy.
>
> Arjun Mehra, the franchise owner, dismisses the bylaw as a solution in search of a problem. "Automation enabled me to remain open until eleven without raising prices," he explains; his payroll has not shrunk, and the online orders now consuming his staff's shifts were scarcely possible before. Queues at the staffed lane, he concedes, initially ran "longer than they should have been," hence a second weekend cashier, though he bristles at the notion that legislation was needed to prompt it.
>
> Retail consultant Hélène Gagnon, an adviser to several grocery chains, suspects the controversy may resolve itself. Numerous large North American retailers have scaled back self-checkouts, she notes; what a machine saves in wages, it may give back in goods reaching the parking lot unscanned, whether through carelessness or intent. A bylaw, in her view, would entrench a rule just as stores begin rebalancing voluntarily, although the correction "won't happen overnight, and some shoppers can't wait."
>
> Walter Byrne, 81, who drives a volunteer van for the seniors' centre, taps through the screens without difficulty. His weekly passengers are another matter: some, with poor eyesight or stiff hands, find them bewildering and are too embarrassed to request assistance. What they crave, he maintains, is "a person who will look them in the eye," and if legislation alone can guarantee that, he will reluctantly endorse it.

29. On the bylaw, Mehra would find support from

A Denise Kowalczyk
B Hélène Gagnon
C Walter Byrne
D residents over seventy

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30. What does Mehra suggest about his former cashiers?

A They moved to late-night hours.
B They now cover Saturdays.
C They were given different duties.
D They learned to fix equipment.

31. Gagnon suggests retailers are retreating from machines because

A too many goods go unscanned
B screens have bewildered their older customers
C local governments have begun imposing rules
D customer complaints have piled up

32. Byrne's stance is best characterized as

A resentful of the new automated lanes
B hostile to regulation
C impatient with younger shoppers
D protective of others, not himself

33. An appropriate headline would be

A "Self-Checkouts Cost Brockfield Cashiers Their Jobs"
B "Brockfield Grocers Rush Back to Staffed Lanes"
C "Council or Market: Who Decides at the Checkout?"
D "Can Seniors Learn to Trust the Machines?"

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 lost a till job to these machines after eleven years, which gave me a particular interest in this article. I have no wish to return to those tills. The franchise owner deserves some credit: unlike many owners, he **(34)** _____.
>
> I still cannot accept that the bylaw is superfluous. Those complaints came mostly from **(35)** _____, so dozens of calls signify more than they might from anyone else.
>
> The consultant may be correct that the machines won't **(36)** _____. Her own caveat undercuts her, however: the correction **(37)** _____. What struck me most was the volunteer driver's remark. A guaranteed staffed till would offer his passengers **(38)** _____, and councillors should approve it.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** kept his displaced staff on **B** kept his prices steady
C added a second weekend cashier **D** stayed open later than his rivals

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35. **A** shoppers paying with cash **B** passengers in volunteer vans **C** late-evening customers **D** residents past seventy

36. **A** shorten the queues **B** deliver the promised economies **C** appeal to older customers **D** survive in larger chains

37. **A** depends on municipal pressure **B** may never reach smaller grocers **C** will take a while **D** has barely registered with retailers

38. **A** a person to deal with **B** a chance to pay in cash **C** a shorter wait in the line **D** help with reading the screens

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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: Coming Home After Three Weeks Away

1 C thank Mr. Okafor and suggest ways to repay him.

2 B The house lost its heat during very cold weather.

3 D had agreed to take care of a few small tasks.

4 A She and Tomás had not given Mr. Okafor enough ways to reach them.

5 D was kept small by Mr. Okafor's quick action.

6 B help Mr. Okafor with a building project

7 A a stream of water leaving your garage

8 C through the night

9 B the floor and cabinets are redone

10 D carried all those boxes upstairs

11 A another person's phone number

Part 2: Booking a Party at the Trampoline Park

12 C Bounce

13 A $329

14 D on Friday and Saturday evenings

15 B bring a homemade birthday cake

16 C $3 for grip socks

17 D sister and brother.

18 A She was doing a favour for Patrick.

19 B really wants pizza at his party.

Part 3: Atlantic Puffins of Witless Bay

20 C

21 A

22 D

23 E

24 B

25 D

26 A

27 C

28 E

Part 4: Self-Checkout Lanes at Brockfield Grocery Stores Debate

29 B Hélène Gagnon

30 C They were given different duties.

31 A too many goods go unscanned

32 D protective of others, not himself

33 C "Council or Market: Who Decides at the Checkout?"

34 A kept his displaced staff on

35 D residents past seventy

36 B deliver the promised economies

37 C will take a while

38 A a person to deal with

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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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