CELPIP Reading Practice Test 112

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 Lost Bag and a Long Drive	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Volunteering at a Penticton Music Festival	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	The Last Spike and the Railway to the Pacific	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Taking Down the Carrow Mills Dam 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/112, 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 Lost Bag and a Long Drive

Dear Mr. MacLeod,

I hope this letter finds you and Moira well. We arrived home in Red Deer on Tuesday, and I promised myself that the first thing I would do was write to you properly. A quick thank-you on the doorstep of the inn hardly seemed enough.

I'm still embarrassed when I think about that afternoon. Dad and I had stopped to rest on a bench near the Charlottetown waterfront, and somehow, while we were busy watching the sailboats, we walked off without his canvas bag. We didn't notice it was missing until we reached the inn, forty minutes away, and by then I was sure we would never see it again. You can imagine our relief when you appeared at the door that evening with the bag in one hand and a tin of Moira's oatcakes in the other.

I don't think you realized how much you had returned to us. The spare hearing aids could have been replaced, though not cheaply. The photo album could not. It holds the only copies of the pictures of my mother from their early years together, and since she passed away, Dad has not gone anywhere without it. When he saw it, he had to sit down on the steps, and he couldn't speak for a minute.

I was also impressed by your detective work. There was no name or phone number anywhere in the bag, and if you hadn't noticed the inn's receipt tucked inside the album, I don't know how you would ever have found us.

When I tried to give you something for your trouble, you refused and said that anyone would have done the same. I'm not sure that's true, but I respect your wishes. Instead, I've made a donation to the volunteer fire department you've served with for so many years. I hope you'll accept that as our thanks.

Dad has told the story to everyone at his seniors' residence at least twice, and the other residents have started calling you "the Island detective." He has also bought a luggage tag for every bag he owns.

I've enclosed a photo of the two of you on the inn's porch. Please also thank Moira for the oatcakes. They lasted us halfway home.

If you ever find yourselves in Alberta, there will always be a room for you in our home.

With heartfelt thanks,

Sunita Rao

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1. Why did Sunita write this letter?

A to ask Mr. MacLeod to send back a lost bag
B to offer Mr. MacLeod a reward for his help
C to invite Mr. MacLeod to her father's residence
D to thank Mr. MacLeod more fully than before

2. Where was the bag left behind?

A at the inn's front desk
B on a seat by the harbour
C on the porch of the inn
D aboard a sailboat on a tour

3. What mattered most to Sunita's father?

A his spare hearing aids
B the canvas bag itself
C Moira's homemade oatcakes
D photos of his late wife

4. How did Mr. MacLeod find Sunita and her father?

A He read a name tag on the bag.
B He spotted a clue inside the bag.
C He phoned their seniors' residence.
D He asked people at the waterfront.

5. What did Sunita do instead of giving Mr. MacLeod a reward?

A She mailed him a cheque for his trouble.
B She bought him a new luggage tag.
C She donated to an organization he belongs to.
D She paid for a meal for him at the inn.

6. What can we infer about Sunita's father since he returned home?

A He has stopped carrying the old photo album.
B He plans to move to Prince Edward Island.
C He is taking more care of his belongings.
D He has written to Mr. MacLeod 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 Sunita,
>
> What a kind letter. Moira and I were glad to hear you both made it home safely, and she was tickled that her baking **(7)** _____.

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I must say that your gift to the **(8)** _____ was far too generous, though everyone there was thrilled. It will go toward new equipment.

Please tell your father I'm flattered by my new nickname, but I'm no detective. If that **(9)** _____ hadn't fallen out when I opened the album, I would have had to take the bag to the police.

I was sorry to read about your mother. I could see how much those pictures meant to your dad when he **(10)** _____.

And I'm pleased to hear that he has **(11)** _____, though I hope he never needs them.

All the best,

Ewan MacLeod

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** was shared with the other residents **B** reminded your father of his wife **C** was eaten before you left the inn **D** fed you for much of the drive

8. **A** seniors' residence **B** Charlottetown police **C** local firefighters **D** inn's owners

9. **A** luggage tag with your name **B** business card of your father's **C** photo of you on the porch **D** slip of paper from the inn

10. **A** asked me to stay for dinner **B** tried to pay me for my trouble **C** told the story to his friends **D** needed to sit and recover

11. **A** put tags on all of his bags **B** made extra copies of the photos **C** joined a hearing clinic **D** bought a new canvas bag

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Volunteering at a Penticton Music Festival



Lakeshore Roots Music Festival

Penticton, BC · Friday, July 25 – Sunday, July 27

JOIN THE VOLUNTEER CREW · SIGN UP BY JUNE 30

Volunteer Roles

Role	Minimum age	Shift length	Requirements
Gate & Wristbands	16	4 hours	Online training video
Recycling & Compost Crew	14 *	3 hours	Gloves provided
Parking	16	4 hours	Safety vest provided
Kids' Zone	16	3 hours	Criminal record check
First Aid Tent	18	4 hours	Current first aid certificate
Artist Hospitality	19	5 hours	FoodSafe certificate

* Volunteers aged 14–15 must work the same shift as an adult family member.

Volunteer Perks

Every volunteer	**Crew T-shirt**
Each shift worked	**1 meal voucher**
2 shifts	**1-day pass**
3 or more shifts	**Full weekend pass**

Volunteer campground (3+ shifts only): **$20 per person** for the whole weekend

Orientation (required, attend one)

Saturday, June 28 · 10:00 a.m.
Penticton Community Centre

Wednesday, July 9 · 7:00 p.m.
Online (link emailed after sign-up)

Need to swap a shift? Contact the volunteer coordinator at least 48 hours ahead.

Volunteers who miss a shift without notice lose their pass.

Lakeshore Roots Music Festival · Penticton, BC
Sign up: volunteers@lakeshoreroots.ca
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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: Festival this summer?
>
> To: Mateo Rossi
>
> From: Jasmine Kaur
>
> Hi Mateo,
>
> Remember how we were grumbling on our break on Monday that festival tickets had gone up again? I think I've found a way around it. The festival is looking for volunteers, and the perks are pretty good.
>
> Since you just renewed your first aid certificate, you could help out at the **(12)** _____. I'm going to sign up for the recycling crew, mostly because my brother Arjun wants to come along. He's only fifteen, so that's the only job open to him, and he can do it only **(13)** _____.

> Here's the best part. If we each do at least **(14)** _____ shifts, we get a pass for the whole weekend, not just one day. Camping at the volunteer site is also **(15)** _____, so we wouldn't have to drive home at midnight.
>
> The only catch is the orientation. We're both on the schedule at the store on Saturday the 28th, so we'd have to go to the **(16)** _____ session instead. I'll also ask Mr. Dhillon tomorrow whether he can give us both the festival Friday off.
>
> Honestly, it's a no-brainer. Let me know before the sign-up deadline at the end of the month!
>
> Jasmine

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** Kids' Zone **B** front gate **C** First Aid Tent **D** artist hospitality area

13. **A** after an online training video **B** if he brings his own gloves **C** alongside an adult relative **D** during the daytime shifts

14. **A** three **B** two **C** four **D** five

15. **A** only $20 each for the whole weekend **B** free for anyone who volunteers **C** $20 a night for each tent **D** open only to festival staff

16. **A** Saturday morning in-person **B** Wednesday evening online **C** Sunday afternoon online **D** Friday morning in-person

17. Jasmine and Mateo know each other because they

A are cousins.
B volunteered at last year's festival.
C live in the same building.
D work at the same store.

18. Why does Jasmine suggest volunteering?

A to see the festival without paying for tickets
B to gain some work experience for a future career
C to meet the musicians playing at the festival
D to earn extra money during the summer

19. When Jasmine says signing up is "a no-brainer," she means that it is

A an easy choice.
B a silly thing to do.
C a job needing no training.
D a risky decision.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

The Last Spike and the Railway to the Pacific

Paragraph A

When British Columbia joined Confederation in 1871, it did so on one key condition: within ten years, a railway would link it to the rest of the country. At the time, the idea seemed almost impossible. The line would have to cross thousands of kilometres of rock, forest, prairie and mountains, through land with very few settlers, and many critics argued that the cost was far too high for such a young country. Political scandal and economic trouble delayed the project, and the ten-year deadline passed with little track laid. Serious construction began only in 1881, when the Canadian Pacific Railway company took on the job. It hired William Van Horne, an experienced American railway manager, to lead the work, and progress soon sped up dramatically.

Paragraph B

The route presented enormous challenges. North of Lake Superior, crews had to blast through the hard rock of the Canadian Shield and lay track across swampy muskeg that sometimes swallowed sections of the line. In the West, the railway had to climb through steep mountain passes in the Rockies and the Selkirks. Much of the most dangerous work in British Columbia was done by thousands of Chinese labourers, who were paid less than other workers and given the riskiest jobs. Many died from accidents, rockslides and illness, and their contribution was long left out of the official story. In 1885, the year the line was finished, the federal government imposed a head tax on Chinese immigrants, and in 2006 it formally apologized for that tax.

Paragraph C

The tracks being built from the east and the west finally met at Craigellachie, in the mountains of British Columbia, on November 7, 1885. Donald Smith, one of the company's main financial backers, was given the honour of driving the last spike. According to most accounts, his first blow bent the spike, which had to be replaced before he could finish the job. Unlike the gold spikes used at some American railway ceremonies, it was a plain iron one. Van Horne, who was present, was asked to make a speech and kept it to a single sentence, saying that the work had been well done in every way. A photograph of the moment, showing a crowd of men in dark coats gathered around Smith, became one of the best-known images in Canadian history. The railway had been completed years ahead of the deadline set in the company's contract.

Paragraph D

The first scheduled passenger train set out from the East in June 1886 and reached Port Moody, on the Pacific coast, less than a week later. The railway transformed the country. It carried settlers and supplies to the Prairies, moved grain to eastern markets and helped tie the distant provinces together. New towns sprang up along the line, many of them built around a station. To earn money

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> from passengers, the company also built grand hotels in the mountains, encouraging tourists to come and admire the scenery. Today, the line is used mainly for freight, but the story of the last spike remains a symbol of national ambition.

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 promise made to one province was not kept on time. _____

21. A government later expressed regret for its treatment of one group of people. _____

22. The final step of the project did not go smoothly at first. _____

23. The company built places to stay in order to attract visitors. _____

24. The idea of the railway was first suggested by a British Columbia premier. _____

25. Some sections of the route crossed ground that was hard to build on. _____

26. The man who drove the last spike was born in the United States. _____

27. The work was finished earlier than the company had agreed to. _____

28. Crossing the country by train took only a matter of days. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Taking Down the Carrow Mills Dam Debate

> For nearly 150 years, a dam has restrained the Carrow River in the heart of Carrow Mills, creating the millpond that gives the community its postcard view. A recent engineering inspection, however, discovered serious cracks in the concrete spillway, and councillors must soon choose between repairing the structure and dismantling it.
>
> Public works director Raymond Osei has tabulated the alternatives without advocating either. Restoring the dam to current safety standards would demand an estimated $4.2 million, with no assistance available. Removal would require about $1.6 million, sixty percent of it recoverable through a provincial and federal river restoration grant, provided the application arrives before next March. “Inaction is unavailable. The spillway won’t survive another decade,” he warns, and crews have already lowered the pond slightly as a precaution.
>
> Fisheries biologist Leah Morrissette finds the choice self-evident. The barrier denies brook trout and American eels many kilometres of upstream habitat, the shallow pond overheats beyond what trout tolerate, and removal would eliminate the danger of a catastrophic failure during spring flooding. Comparable rivers have rebounded within a few years. “Residents should nevertheless brace themselves for a season or two of exposed mud along the former pond bottom before grasses and shrubs recolonize the valley,” she cautions.
>
> Gord Halvorsen, who has overlooked the millpond for thirty-one years, has no appetite for a river valley. “Removal would reduce my waterfront to a muddy creek bank and eliminate the water where my grandchildren swim and paddle,” he says, and he suspects it would depress property values along the shore. Accepting that the spillway cannot remain as it is, he insists that the municipality find the money for repairs. “People move here for that pond,” he declares.
>
> Eileen Thibodeau, president of the historical society, sees the dam as the final link to the grist mill that named the community. The society proposes extracting the failing concrete section while retaining the original stone wall on the east bank and the wheel pit as a heritage site, maintained through its own fundraising. This compromise, she allows, would also drain the pond. “We can’t save everything,” she reasons, “but we shouldn’t erase our history either.”

29. Besides Halvorsen, who resists the dam’s complete removal?

A Eileen Thibodeau
B Leah Morrissette
C the grant’s sponsors
D fish-habitat advocates

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30. What follows from Osei's figures?

A Grants would cover all removal costs.

B Removal is the cheaper course.

C The decision can wait ten years.

D Repairs would qualify for federal money.

31. Why does Morrissette mention exposed mud?

A to warn fish may return slowly

B to admit temporary ugliness

C to concede values may fall

D to explain why the pond overheats

32. Which statement holds for everyone taking a side?

A All accept draining the pond.

B All would rely on grant money.

C None wants the dam unchanged.

D All want the east bank wall kept.

33. An apt title would be

A "Carrow Mills' Dam: Mend It or End It?"

B "Dam Removal Would Bankrupt Carrow Mills"

C "Carrow Mills Votes to Drain Its Millpond"

D "Trout Return as Carrow Mills Takes Down Its Dam"

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 grew up swimming in that millpond, and my own children learned to paddle there, so this debate pains me. Even so, Mr. Osei's numbers settle it: repair would **(34)** _____, a considerable imposition on a community our size. Dr. Morrissette is upfront that **(35)** _____, and residents deserve such candour.
>
> Ms. Thibodeau's proposal also appeals to me, because retaining those old stones **(36)** _____ while the river runs free. Mr. Halvorsen's distress about **(37)** _____ is one I would share in his place, but millions cannot be spent protecting a view.
>
> Councillors should not dawdle: delay, and **(38)** _____, making removal far costlier as well.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** take longer than removal **B** cost far more, with no outside help **C** drain the pond for several years **D** satisfy only history buffs

35. **A** the valley will look worse first **B** the fish may need a decade **C** the eels may stay away **D** the work will drag on

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36. **A** keeps the pond level **B** costs less than full removal **C** salvages part of our past **D** lets fish survive summer

37. **A** the spillway's safety **B** the grant's size **C** the old mill's fate **D** the water at his doorstep

38. **A** trout will lose a season **B** the grant will lapse **C** the pond will drop further **D** the society's fundraising will falter

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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 Lost Bag and a Long Drive

1 D to thank Mr. MacLeod more fully than before

2 B on a seat by the harbour

3 D photos of his late wife

4 B He spotted a clue inside the bag.

5 C She donated to an organization he belongs to.

6 C He is taking more care of his belongings.

7 D fed you for much of the drive

8 C local firefighters

9 D slip of paper from the inn

10 D needed to sit and recover

11 A put tags on all of his bags

Part 2: Volunteering at a Penticton Music Festival

12 C First Aid Tent

13 C alongside an adult relative

14 A three

15 A only $20 each for the whole weekend

16 B Wednesday evening online

17 D work at the same store.

18 A to see the festival without paying for tickets

19 A an easy choice.

Part 3: The Last Spike and the Railway to the Pacific

20 A

21 B

22 C

23 D

24 E

25 B

26 E

27 C

28 D

Part 4: Taking Down the Carrow Mills Dam Debate

29 A Eileen Thibodeau

30 B Removal is the cheaper course.

31 B to admit temporary ugliness

32 C None wants the dam unchanged.

33 A “Carrow Mills’ Dam: Mend It or End It?”

34 B cost far more, with no outside help

35 A the valley will look worse first

36 C salvages part of our past

37 D the water at his doorstep

38 B the grant will lapse

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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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