CELPIP Reading Practice Test 120

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	Two Months in Moose Jaw	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Framing Watercolours as Christmas Gifts	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	The Snake Dens of Narcisse	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Ending Free Parking in Downtown Ashcombe 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/120, 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

Two Months in Moose Jaw

> Dear Aiko,
>
> I'm sorry it has taken me so long to write. I meant to send you a proper letter as soon as I arrived in Moose Jaw, but the first two months have gone by in a blur.
>
> The job is everything I hoped it would be. I work in the hospital lab on a rotating schedule, so one week I start at seven in the morning and the next I don't finish until eleven at night. That took some getting used to, but my supervisor, Gail, is patient and generous with her time, and the rest of the team made me feel welcome from the start. They even organized a potluck in my first week, which is how I discovered that people here take their perogies very seriously.
>
> The house has been more of an adventure. Three days after I moved in, a storm flooded the basement, and I spent a whole night carrying boxes upstairs. Luckily, nothing important was ruined except a few paperbacks, and my landlord, Mr. Fehr, had a new sump pump put in the following week. He also took fifty dollars off that month's rent, which I thought was very decent of him.
>
> You'd laugh if you saw how I spend my free time. I, who used to complain every morning about your singing in the shower, have joined a community choir! A woman from work talked me into it, and now I look forward to our Thursday rehearsals more than anything else in my week. We're performing at a seniors' residence in July.
>
> Now for my real reason for writing. Would you like to come and visit at the end of August? I'll have four days off in a row, starting on the 27th, and I'd love to show you the prairie sky I keep boasting about. I have a spare room now, and you won't need to worry about your allergies: Mr. Fehr says no animals have ever lived in the house. Flights from Vancouver to Regina are quite reasonable if you book early, and I can pick you up at the airport, which is less than an hour's drive away.
>
> One last favour: when I moved, I left my winter boots at the back of your hall closet. Could you bring them with you? I have a feeling I'll need them by October.
>
> Love,
>
> Sofia

1. Why has Sofia not written sooner?

A She was waiting to hear about her job.
B Her new life has kept her very busy.
C She lost Aiko's address in the flood.
D She was away on a trip in July.

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2. What does Sofia say about her working hours?

A They change from one week to the next.
B She works only at night.
C Gail lets her choose her own shifts.
D She always starts at seven in the morning.

3. How did Mr. Fehr respond to the flood?

A He moved Sofia into another house.
B He paid for her damaged books.
C He arranged for new equipment and lowered her rent.
D He stayed up all night helping her carry boxes upstairs.

4. Why does Sofia mention Aiko's singing?

A to ask Aiko to join the choir
B to invite Aiko to the choir's concert in July
C to explain why she started singing
D to show how much she herself has changed

5. Sofia suggests that Aiko

A fly to Regina, where Sofia will meet her.
B drive from Vancouver to save money.
C bring her pet with her to Moose Jaw.
D stay in a hotel near the hospital.

6. Sofia asks Aiko to

A send her winter coat before the end of October.
B lend her some books to replace her own.
C bring footwear Sofia left in Aiko's home.
D book a seat at the choir's concert.

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 Sofia,
>
> It was so lovely to get your letter! I'm glad the job is going well and that **(7)** _____ takes the time to help you settle in. I'm very curious about this potluck, too.
>
> I nearly fell off my chair when I read that you've joined a choir. After all those years of **(8)** _____, I may need to hear it to believe it!
>
> I would love to come at the end of August. I've looked at flights, and if I arrive on the **(9)** _____, we'll have every one of your days off together. I'm also relieved to hear **(10)** _____; my last visit to my cousin's place ended with a week of sneezing.

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> And of course I'll bring **(11)** _____. Something tells me you'll be glad of them sooner than you think!
>
> Love,
>
> Aiko

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** your landlord **B** the woman from the choir **C** the hospital's new manager **D** your boss at the lab

8. **A** singing in the shower yourself **B** grumbling about my morning songs **C** refusing to sing at parties **D** taking piano lessons with me

9. **A** morning of the 27th **B** afternoon of the 28th **C** evening of the 30th **D** morning of the 31st

10. **A** that the spare room has a new air filter **B** that your landlord owns a cat **C** that the house has never had pets **D** that the basement has dried out

11. **A** your old paperbacks **B** the boots from my closet **C** your heavy winter coat **D** a dish for the potluck

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Framing Watercolours as Christmas Gifts



Maple & Mitre Custom Framing

Prints · photos · paintings · diplomas · Fredericton, NB

HOLIDAY GIFT SEASON · ORDER EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS

Frame Styles & Prices (per frame)

Frame	Look	Small up to 8 × 10 in	Medium up to 16 × 20 in	Large up to 24 × 36 in
Birch Classic	Natural light wood	$49	$79	$129
Walnut Gallery	Dark wood, thin gold inner edge	$65	$99	$159
Slim Metal	Black or silver aluminum	$39	$59	$95
Heritage Gilt	Ornate carved gold	$89	$139	$219

Every frame includes standard glass, a single mat in your choice of colour, and a hanging wire. Watercolours and works on paper are always matted so the glass never touches the art.

Upgrades

- UV-protective glass — +$25. Blocks 99% of UV light. Recommended for watercolours, photos & documents.
- Non-glare museum glass — +$45. Also UV-protective. Nearly invisible.
- Double mat — +$15.

Framing 5 or more pieces? Double mats are **FREE** on the whole order!

Timing & Pickup

- Ready in **10 business days**.
- Rush (3 business days): **+$30 per order**.
- Pickup in store, or delivery in Fredericton: **$20**.
- Gift wrapping: **free** on every order.
- 50% payment when you order, the rest at pickup.
- Open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

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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: The paintings from the attic
>
> To: Tomas Novak
>
> From: Lena Reyes
>
> Hi Tomas,
>
> I took the four watercolours we found in Mom and Dad's attic to Maple & Mitre on Saturday, and I think framing them would make the perfect Christmas surprise. Do you remember Mom painting at the lake every summer when we were kids? They all measure about 12 by 16 inches, so they count as **(12)** _____ size.
>
> Mom's living room is full of dark wood furniture, so I'd like **(13)** _____, but I don't think she'd want anything as fancy as the gold ones. That works out to $99 a frame. The woman at the shop

warned me that sunlight fades watercolours, and that room gets sun all afternoon, so we should pay the extra **(14)** _____ per frame for protection. I don't think we need the non-glare kind.

If we add Mom's little sketch of the cottage, we'll have five pieces, and **(15)** _____. Since Christmas is still six weeks away, we won't need to pay **(16)** _____, either. I'll pick them up myself, as the shop is near my office.

Could you send me your half by e-transfer? And please don't let the cat out of the bag when you call Mom on Sunday. She thinks I took them in to have them cleaned!

Love,

Lena

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** small **B** medium **C** large **D** oversized

13. **A** the Birch Classic frames **B** the Slim Metal frames **C** the Heritage Gilt frames **D** the Walnut Gallery frames

14. **A** $25 **B** $45 **C** $15 **D** $30

15. **A** the delivery will cost nothing **B** the rush fee will be waived **C** the double mats will be free **D** the UV glass will be half price

16. **A** the $20 delivery charge **B** the $30 rush fee **C** the $15 double-mat charge **D** the $25 glass charge

17. Lena and Tomas are

A co-workers who share an office.
B a husband and wife.
C neighbours of Lena's parents.
D a brother and sister.

18. What does Lena ask Tomas to do?

A send her his share of the cost
B pick up the frames from the shop
C choose the colour of the frames
D find the cottage sketch in the attic

19. When Lena asks Tomas not to "let the cat out of the bag," she means he should not

A forget to call their mother.
B mention the animals at the cottage.
C reveal the surprise to their mother.
D tell their father how much it all costs.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

The Snake Dens of Narcisse

Paragraph A

Each spring, a stretch of aspen woods and limestone in Manitoba's Interlake region, north of Winnipeg, becomes the setting for one of the most unusual wildlife gatherings on the continent. At the Narcisse Wildlife Management Area, tens of thousands of red-sided garter snakes come up from underground over a period of a few weeks, sometimes in such numbers that the ground itself seems to move. Many naturalists consider it the largest concentration of snakes anywhere in the world. Garter snakes are not dangerous to people, and visitors who come to watch tend to be astonished by the sheer numbers rather than frightened by them.

Paragraph B

The snakes gather here because of what lies beneath the surface. The area sits on limestone bedrock that, over thousands of years, has been slowly dissolved by water, leaving cracks, sinkholes and underground chambers. These spaces reach deep enough to stay above freezing even during a prairie winter, when the soil nearer the surface freezes solid. Snakes cannot produce their own body heat, so finding a place where they will not freeze is a matter of life and death. Because places like this are scarce, snakes from a wide surrounding area travel to the same few dens each fall, where they remain inactive, packed closely together, for as long as seven or eight months.

Paragraph C

When the weather warms in late April or May, the males usually leave the dens first and wait near the entrances for the females. As each female appears, she may be surrounded by dozens of males competing for her, forming what observers call a "mating ball." Males are smaller than females, which allows many of them to crowd around a single partner. Once mating is over, the snakes spread out into the surrounding marshes, where they spend the summer hunting, mostly frogs. Unlike many reptiles, garter snakes do not lay eggs; instead, the females give birth to live young in late summer. The newborn snakes are independent from the start and receive no care from their mothers. In early fall, the adults and their offspring make their way back to the dens.

Paragraph D

For years, the journey between the dens and the marshes took a heavy toll. Thousands of snakes were killed each spring and fall while crossing a nearby highway, and some researchers feared the population could not withstand such losses. In response, low fences were put up to guide the snakes toward tunnels built beneath the road, and drivers are asked to slow down during the busiest weeks. Today, a walking trail with viewing areas lets visitors see the dens up close, and they are asked to watch the snakes without handling or disturbing them. Signs along the trail explain the snakes' yearly cycle.

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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. People who visit the site are usually more amazed than afraid. _____

21. Steps were taken to protect the snakes from traffic. _____

22. The snakes spend the winter in spaces formed by water acting on rock. _____

23. Each snake returns to exactly the same den it used the year before. _____

24. Male snakes are generally the first to come out in spring. _____

25. Some experts once doubted the snakes could survive the losses on the road. _____

26. Good places to spend the winter are hard to find in the region. _____

27. Snake numbers have fully recovered since the tunnels were built. _____

28. Young garter snakes are born alive rather than hatched. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Ending Free Parking in Downtown Ashcombe Debate

> Ashcombe's downtown has offered complimentary on-street parking for as long as anyone remembers. Councillor Sandra Whitlock now advocates pay stations along the four busiest blocks of Main and Water streets, charging $2 hourly between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday.
>
> Whitlock contends that free parking has become a casualty of its popularity. A municipal count last summer found most Main Street spaces monopolized by the same vehicles for six hours or longer, frequently belonging to downtown employees. By her calculation, "A space that turns over hourly serves nine customers a day. One occupied all day serves one." The projected $350,000 in annual revenue would be dedicated, she promises, to sidewalk repairs, lighting and benches in the core.
>
> Tony Ferraro, whose family has operated a Water Street hardware store for three generations, shares her exasperation with all-day parkers but disputes the remedy. "The highway retailers have acres of free parking," he observes, "and customers asked to pay will migrate straight there." He would prefer properly enforced two-hour limits, accompanied by a free employee lot at the periphery of the business district.
>
> "Free parking isn't really free," counters Mei-Ling Cho, a transportation planner who has advised several regional municipalities. Every taxpayer subsidizes its construction and maintenance, including pedestrians and transit users. In her experience, a modest charge keeps spaces available more dependably than time limits, which are only as good as the officers patrolling them. Nevertheless, she recommends reviewing the price after the first year, and doubts merchants will acquiesce unless revenue is visibly spent outside their doors.
>
> Gordon Pryce, a retired bus driver who uses a walker, treats the debate as one of accessibility. Driving downtown twice weekly for appointments, he fears that pay stations would prove awkward to reach, particularly in winter. "I don't mind paying, as long as accessible spaces stay free and machines accept coins as well as cards."
>
> Whitlock responds that the stations would accept coins, cards and a phone app, with accessible-permit holders parking free. Ferraro remains skeptical: "Once the meters go in, they never come out." Mayor Doug Tremblay has reserved judgment.

29. Sandra Whitlock's most natural ally is

A Tony Ferraro
B Gordon Pryce
C Mei-Ling Cho
D the highway retailers

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30. On what do Ferraro and Whitlock agree?

A All-day parking is a problem.
B Fees would bring shoppers back downtown.
C Revenue should fund sidewalk repairs.
D Time limits are too hard to police.

31. Cho would object to Ferraro's time limits because

A drivers would find them confusing
B shoppers would drift to the highway
C taxpayers would stop subsidizing spaces
D they depend on patrolling officers

32. How would Pryce view Whitlock's final assurances?

A They fail to keep spaces free.
B They largely answer his concerns.
C They confirm his fear of meters.
D They ignore his objection to paying.

33. Which title suits the article best?

A "Ashcombe Merchants Embrace Paying for Parking"
B "Ashcombe Settles on a Parking Compromise"
C "Free Parking's Days May Be Numbered"
D "Downtown Ashcombe Has More Parking Than It Needs"

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 shop downtown three times a week, and I tire of hearing that parking charges will somehow rescue its businesses. At $2 an hour, retirees on fixed incomes feel every errand. Councillor Whitlock's own figures show that the culprit is **(34)** _____, so why penalize everyone else? Mr. Ferraro's idea of **(35)** _____ addresses those drivers directly.
>
> Ms. Cho's objection to time limits falls flat with me: a town with money for pay stations can surely find it for **(36)** _____. Nor am I reassured that she **(37)** _____; I know how that usually ends.
>
> I also fear, as Mr. Ferraro predicts, that families will simply **(38)** _____, and they won't return. Try time limits for a year first.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** a shortage of benches and lighting **B** too few spaces for permit holders **C** shoppers lingering in stores **D** employees parking there all day

35. **A** free parking for permit holders **B** a free staff lot **C** a phone app for paying **D** a fund for sidewalk repairs

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36. **A** someone to check cars **B** a free employee lot **C** better sidewalks downtown **D** coin machines for older drivers

37. **A** would peg the price for good **B** would tie the price to sidewalks **C** would revisit the price later **D** would waive it for permit holders

38. **A** start taking the bus **B** use the employee lot **C** pay through the phone app **D** head for the highway

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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: Two Months in Moose Jaw

1 B Her new life has kept her very busy.

2 A They change from one week to the next.

3 C He arranged for new equipment and lowered her rent.

4 D to show how much she herself has changed

5 A fly to Regina, where Sofia will meet her.

6 C bring footwear Sofia left in Aiko's home.

7 D your boss at the lab

8 B grumbling about my morning songs

9 A morning of the 27th

10 C that the house has never had pets

11 B the boots from my closet

Part 2: Framing Watercolours as Christmas Gifts

12 B medium

13 D the Walnut Gallery frames

14 A $25

15 C the double mats will be free

16 B the $30 rush fee

17 D a brother and sister.

18 A send her his share of the cost

19 C reveal the surprise to their mother.

Part 3: The Snake Dens of Narcisse

20 A

21 D

22 B

23 E

24 C

25 D

26 B

27 E

28 C

Part 4: Ending Free Parking in Downtown Ashcombe Debate

29 C Mei-Ling Cho

30 A All-day parking is a problem.

31 D they depend on patrolling officers

32 B They largely answer his concerns.

33 C "Free Parking's Days May Be Numbered"

34 D employees parking there all day

35 B a free staff lot

36 A someone to check cars

37 C would revisit the price later

38 D head for the highway

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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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