CELPIP Reading Practice Test 123

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	Back to School at Forty-Six	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Firewood for the Camp	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Wood Buffalo: Canada's Largest National Park	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Capping Cruise Ships in Port Averill 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/123, 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

Back to School at Forty-Six

Dear Helen,

I hope the move to the lake has been everything you and Tom wanted. I've owed you a letter since Christmas, and I'm afraid that by the end of this one you'll see it's more a request for advice than a proper catch-up.

As you know, I've been driving long-haul for Kessler Freight for twenty-two years. Last spring, I hurt my back unloading a trailer in Thunder Bay, and although it has mostly healed, my doctor has made it plain that another ten years behind the wheel would likely undo all the physiotherapy. Kessler has offered me a desk job in dispatch at about the same pay, and Anita thinks I'd be crazy to turn it down. She may be right. We still have one child in university, and the mortgage has six years left to run.

The trouble is that I spent three weeks in dispatch this winter while the regular clerk was away, and I came home every night with a headache and nothing to show for the day. What I keep thinking about instead is my physiotherapist, a cheerful young woman named Priya who got me walking properly again. I asked her one day how a person gets into that line of work, and she told me about the physiotherapist assistant diploma at the college here. It takes two years, or three in the evening version, which would let me keep working part-time. Applicants need Grade 12 biology, which I never took, so I've signed up for an online course that starts in May, mostly to see whether my brain still works. I've told only Anita, and now you.

This is why I'm writing to you rather than to anyone else. You were forty-four when you left the bank to train as a dental hygienist, and everyone, including me, I'm ashamed to say, told you that you were making a mistake. I'd like to know what you didn't tell people at the time. Was it hard to study alongside classmates young enough to be your children? Did the money ever frighten you? Was there a moment when you wished you had stayed at the bank?

Please don't feel you have to encourage me. I have plenty of people who'd be polite about it. I would much rather have your honest view, even if it's a discouraging one. Applications are due at the end of June, so there's no rush, but I'd be glad of a phone call some weekend if that's easier than writing.

Say hello to Tom, and tell him I haven't forgotten that I still have his fishing rod.

All the best,

Marek

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1. Marek is writing mainly to

A announce that he has been accepted into a college program.
B ask why Helen gave up her job at the bank.
C get a frank opinion from someone who changed careers.
D explain why he refused a position in dispatch.

2. Why is Marek thinking about leaving long-haul driving?

A More years on the road could undo his recovery.
B Kessler Freight is cutting its long-distance routes.
C His physiotherapy has failed to help his back.
D His wife wants him to spend more time at home.

3. What did Marek's three weeks in dispatch show him?

A The pay was lower than what he earned as a driver.
B The regular clerk had been doing the job badly.
C The desk work was harder on his back than driving.
D The work left him tired and unsatisfied.

4. Marek's online biology course is mainly

A a favour to his physiotherapist.
B a test of whether he can still learn.
C a condition of keeping his job at Kessler.
D a way to earn extra money.

5. We can reasonably conclude that when Helen changed careers,

A she was already close to retirement age.
B Marek gave her his full encouragement.
C she mostly studied with people her own age.
D few people thought it was a wise move.

6. When Marek says he has "plenty of people who'd be polite about it," he means that

A many people already know about his plan.
B he does not want Helen just to say nice things.
C people have been rude to him about his plan.
D he is grateful for the good manners of his friends.

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 Marek,
>
> You asked for honesty, so here it is. I understand why the **(7)** _____ doesn't appeal to you after those three weeks, but please don't dismiss it lightly. With **(8)** _____ still ahead of you, a steady

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salary matters, and I remember lying awake over money more than once.

Still, I've never regretted leaving the bank. Being the oldest in the class turned out to be easier than I expected; the younger students came to me whenever they were worried about an exam.

Before you decide anything, see how you get on with **(9)** _____. If you can keep up, you'll have your answer about your brain. I'd also talk again to **(10)** _____, since she works alongside such assistants and can tell you what the work is really like. And remember that the slower program would let you **(11)** _____, which would ease some of the worry.

Call me any Sunday. Tom says you can keep the rod until you've caught something with it.

Warmly,

Helen

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** part-time shifts at Kessler **B** long drives you know so well **C** office work you were offered **D** course at the college

8. **A** a mortgage and tuition bills **B** more months of physiotherapy **C** another decade of driving **D** a move to the lake

9. **A** the June application form **B** the biology class this spring **C** your shifts in dispatch **D** Anita's reaction to the news

10. **A** Anita **B** your doctor **C** the regular clerk **D** the woman who treated you

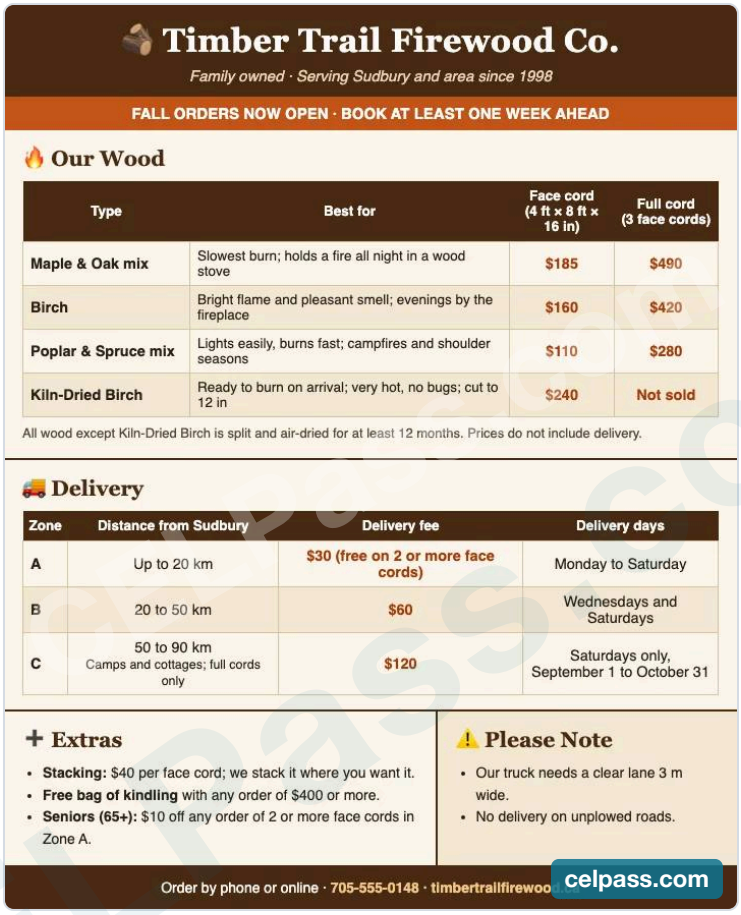
11. **A** hold on to some hours at work **B** finish a full year sooner **C** skip the science requirement **D** attend classes from the lake

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Firewood for the Camp



Timber Trail Firewood Co.

Family owned · Serving Sudbury and area since 1998

FALL ORDERS NOW OPEN · BOOK AT LEAST ONE WEEK AHEAD

Our Wood

Type	Best for	Face cord (4 ft × 8 ft × 16 in)	Full cord (3 face cords)
Maple & Oak mix	Slowest burn; holds a fire all night in a wood stove	$185	$490
Birch	Bright flame and pleasant smell; evenings by the fireplace	$160	$420
Poplar & Spruce mix	Lights easily, burns fast; campfires and shoulder seasons	$110	$280
Kiln-Dried Birch	Ready to burn on arrival; very hot, no bugs; cut to 12 in	$240	Not sold

All wood except Kiln-Dried Birch is split and air-dried for at least 12 months. Prices do not include delivery.

Delivery

Zone	Distance from Sudbury	Delivery fee	Delivery days
A	Up to 20 km	$30 (free on 2 or more face cords)	Monday to Saturday
B	20 to 50 km	$60	Wednesdays and Saturdays
C	50 to 90 km Camps and cottages; full cords only	$120	Saturdays only, September 1 to October 31

Extras

- **Stacking:** $40 per face cord; we stack it where you want it.
- **Free bag of kindling** with any order of $400 or more.
- **Seniors (65+):** $10 off any order of 2 or more face cords in Zone A.

Please Note

- Our truck needs a clear lane 3 m wide.
- No delivery on unplowed roads.

Order by phone or online · 705-555-0148 · timbertrailfirewood

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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: Wood for the camp this winter
>
> To: Renée Lalonde
>
> From: Darcy Gauthier
>
> Hi Renée,
>
> Now that Dad has handed us the keys to the camp, one of us has to deal with the wood, so I went through this flyer from Timber Trail. You'll remember how he got up at 3 a.m. all winter to feed that old stove when we were kids. I'd rather sleep, so we want something that keeps burning until morning, which means the **(12)** _____.
>
> We'll be up most weekends until March, and I figure a full cord will get us through. That comes to **(13)** _____ before delivery. The camp is about 70 km out of town, so the truck will add

> **(14)** _____. They only go that far on **(15)** _____, so let's not put this off until the last minute the way we did with the roof.
>
> One small bonus: with an order this size, we'll get **(16)** _____. That should save us from chopping any ourselves for the first few fires.
>
> I'll foot the bill for now, and you can send me your half when you get paid. We can stack it ourselves on Thanksgiving weekend, since I'm not paying extra for that. Let me know if you're okay with all this.
>
> Darcy

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** Birch **B** Poplar & Spruce mix **C** Maple & Oak mix **D** Kiln-Dried Birch

13. **A** $185 **B** $490 **C** $420 **D** $280

14. **A** $30 **B** $40 **C** $60 **D** $120

15. **A** Saturdays until the end of October **B** Wednesdays and Saturdays only **C** any weekday from September to November **D** every day except for Sundays

16. **A** free stacking at the camp **B** free delivery to the camp **C** a free bag of kindling **D** 10% off the whole order

17. Darcy and Renée know each other because

A they are brother and sister.
B they run a firewood business together.
C they are neighbours at the lake.
D they were co-workers on a roofing job.

18. Why does Darcy want to order soon?

A Prices at Timber Trail go up in November.
B The camp's old stove has to be replaced before the first snow.
C The truck stops serving the camp's area after October.
D Renée will be away for the Thanksgiving weekend.

19. When Darcy says "I'll foot the bill for now," he means that he will

A ask the company to send Renée an invoice.
B pay the full amount first.
C walk to the camp to wait for the truck.
D split the cost with their father.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Wood Buffalo: Canada's Largest National Park

Paragraph A

Straddling the border between northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories, Wood Buffalo National Park covers nearly 45,000 square kilometres, which makes it the largest national park in Canada and bigger than Switzerland. Yet despite its size and its status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983, it receives only a small fraction of the visitors who crowd the Rocky Mountain parks. Few roads enter it, and the gateway community of Fort Smith is a long drive from any major city. Those who make the journey find boreal forest, vast wetlands and broad salt plains, where springs carry up minerals left behind by ancient seas, along with sinkholes that formed as underground rock dissolved.

Paragraph B

The park was created in 1922 to protect the last large herd of wood bison, the bigger northern relative of the plains bison. Its early managers soon made a decision that later generations would regret. Between 1925 and 1928, more than 6,000 plains bison were shipped north from an overcrowded park in central Alberta and released there. The newcomers interbred with the wood bison and brought tuberculosis and brucellosis, diseases that still affect the herds today. For years, it was feared that pure wood bison had disappeared altogether, until a small, isolated group was found in a remote corner of the park in 1957. Animals from that group later helped to establish herds elsewhere in Canada, while the park itself remains home to one of the world's largest free-roaming bison herds.

Paragraph C

The park is just as important to birds. Whooping cranes had been in steep decline for decades, and no one could say where the survivors raised their young until 1954, when their nesting grounds were spotted in the park's remote northern wetlands. It remains the breeding area of the only self-sustaining wild flock in the world, which flies roughly 4,000 kilometres to the Texas coast each fall. Farther south, the Peace-Athabasca Delta, one of the largest inland freshwater deltas in the world, lies where all four of North America's major flyways cross, and millions of ducks, geese and other waterfowl stop there each year.

Paragraph D

The health of that delta is now the park's most serious concern. Its wetlands depend on seasonal flooding, and hydroelectric dams and industrial development upstream, in British Columbia and northern Alberta, have raised fears about changes in the flow and quality of the water. In 2014, the Mikisew Cree First Nation, whose people have long relied on the delta, petitioned UNESCO to list the park as a World Heritage Site in Danger. A monitoring mission followed, and in 2019 the federal

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> government released an action plan prepared with Indigenous partners and provincial and territorial governments. Whether it will be enough remains a matter of debate.

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. The park draws far fewer tourists than its international standing might lead one to expect. _____

21. An attempt to relieve pressure on land elsewhere ended up harming the animals the park was meant to protect. _____

22. Diseased bison in the park are being removed to protect healthy herds elsewhere. _____

23. Researchers once had no idea where a rare bird produced its offspring. _____

24. Some of the park's terrain owes its character to waters that vanished long ago. _____

25. The park's most pressing problem may have causes that lie far beyond its boundaries. _____

26. Birds following different routes across the continent all pass through one part of the park. _____

27. An Indigenous community appealed to an international body about the park's condition. _____

28. A population thought to be lost turned out to have survived in an out-of-the-way place. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Capping Cruise Ships in Port Averill Debate

> Each summer, the harbour town of Port Averill, population 9,000, receives as many as 110 cruise ship calls, sometimes two daily, discharging up to 6,000 passengers onto a waterfront built for a fraction of that number. Council has commissioned a study of a cap: one large ship a day and 80 calling days per season. The prospect has divided a town that for two decades regarded the cruise trade as its economic salvation.
>
> Mayor Joanne Fitzgerald, who requested the study, protests that she is no enemy of the industry, crediting cruise revenue with rebuilding the waterfront after the cannery closed. “But there’s a difference between hosting visitors and being overrun by them.” “A cap would protect the character that attracts people here,” she contends, although its price, she admits, remains incalculable.
>
> Theo Anagnos, who owns two Harbour Street gift shops and chairs the business association, finds that admission revealing. Passengers furnish over 60 per cent of his summer sales, and he doubts anyone would replace them. “Council is proposing to fix an irritation with a recession,” he charges. Still, the crush on two-ship days is undeniable, which is why he champions staggered arrivals and wider sidewalks, remedies that turn away no customer.
>
> Tourism researcher Mireille Ouellet, who has studied ports in Canada and Norway, is skeptical of both camps. “Passengers spend little and eat aboard, and much of what they do spend flows to tour operators based elsewhere,” she reports, and wider sidewalks would only move the same crush down the street. Yet towns that restricted ships without courting overnight visitors merely acquired “quieter streets and emptier tills.” The decisive question, she argues, is whether anyone has a reason to stay the night.
>
> For Callum Reid, a ferry engineer now retired and living two blocks from the pier, the argument over spending misses the point. He describes it plainly: “Idling ships foul our air on still days, and tour buses start before seven each morning.” His residents’ group demands a 50-day limit and mandatory shore power, an upgrade the port authority prices at $30 million, which Fitzgerald considers unattainable without federal assistance.
>
> The consultants report in February. Meanwhile, the cruise lines are booking the season after next, and at least one is examining ports farther up the coast.

29. Who thinks the ships enrich the town less than assumed?

A Theo Anagnos
B Callum Reid
C Joanne Fitzgerald
D Mireille Ouellet

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30. Fitzgerald and Anagnos would both accept that

A ship-day crowds are a problem.

B a ship limit is worth any cost.

C a cap's price can be calculated.

D visitors must stay overnight.

31. Which saying sums up Anagnos's view of the cap?

A "a stitch in time saves nine"

B "too many cooks spoil the broth"

C "a sledgehammer to crack a nut"

D "don't count your chickens before they hatch"

32. What does the closing paragraph imply?

A The port favours shore power.

B Cruise lines might go elsewhere.

C Council has settled on the cap.

D Ouellet's research favours a cap.

33. The most accurate headline would be

A "Port Averill Votes to Keep Cruise Ships"

B "Merchants and Residents Unite Against Mayor"

C "Cruise Lines Pull Out as Port Caps Ships"

D "Port Averill Counts Its Cruise Boom's Cost"

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 run a Harbour Street bed and breakfast for eleven years, and I tire of hearing that this town would collapse without the ships. Mr. Anagnos talks as though every passenger were a customer, whereas Ms. Ouellet's research suggests that much of the money **(34)** _____.
>
> His sales might suffer, I grant, but, like Ms. Ouellet, I see wider sidewalks as **(35)** _____. Nor would I follow Mr. Reid, whose **(36)** _____ carries a price the mayor says is unattainable without **(37)** _____.
>
> A cap seems a sensible start, but only alongside what Ms. Ouellet recommends: **(38)** _____. My guests book rooms, not deck chairs. Port towns that think past the next docking tend to do better.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** never reaches the town **B** comes back through port fees **C** pays for waterfront repairs **D** goes to overnight stays

35. **A** a plan the mayor devised **B** costlier than shore power **C** merely shifting the crowd **D** the answer to two-ship days

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36. **A** plan to stagger ship arrivals **B** study of other port towns **C** call for a one-ship limit **D** plug-in rule for ships

37. **A** a vote by the cruise lines **B** money from Ottawa **C** a loan from local merchants **D** a report from the consultants

38. **A** fewer tour buses before breakfast **B** later arrival times for ships **C** keeping visitors overnight **D** a ceiling of fifty days

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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: Back to School at Forty-Six

1 C get a frank opinion from someone who changed careers.

2 A More years on the road could undo his recovery.

3 D The work left him tired and unsatisfied.

4 B a test of whether he can still learn.

5 D few people thought it was a wise move.

6 B he does not want Helen just to say nice things.

7 C office work you were offered

8 A a mortgage and tuition bills

9 B the biology class this spring

10 D the woman who treated you

11 A hold on to some hours at work

Part 2: Firewood for the Camp

12 C Maple & Oak mix

13 B $490

14 D $120

15 A Saturdays until the end of October

16 C a free bag of kindling

17 A they are brother and sister.

18 C The truck stops serving the camp's area after October.

19 B pay the full amount first.

Part 3: Wood Buffalo: Canada's Largest National Park

20 A

21 B

22 E

23 C

24 A

25 D

26 C

27 D

28 B

Part 4: Capping Cruise Ships in Port Averill Debate

29 D Mireille Ouellet

30 A ship-day crowds are a problem.

31 C "a sledgehammer to crack a nut"

32 B Cruise lines might go elsewhere.

33 D "Port Averill Counts Its Cruise Boom's Cost"

34 A never reaches the town

35 C merely shifting the crowd

36 D plug-in rule for ships

37 B money from Ottawa

38 C keeping visitors overnight

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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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