CELPIP Reading Practice Test 124

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 Shared Driveway in Need of Repair	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	A First Bank Account in Red Deer	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Emily Carr: Recognition Late in Life	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Online Voting in Dunmore 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/124, 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 Shared Driveway in Need of Repair

Dear Mr. Petrakis,

I hope you and Mrs. Petrakis have settled in comfortably since the spring. We haven't had much chance to talk beyond a wave over the fence, so I apologize for raising a practical matter in a letter. I thought you might like to have the details in writing, and some time to think them over before we speak.

As your lawyer may have told you, the driveway between our houses is shared. Under an agreement registered when the houses were built in 1962, each owner may use its full width, and we are jointly responsible for its upkeep, with the cost split equally. In the twenty-six years I've lived here, that arrangement has worked without difficulty. Mr. Dhillon, who owned your house before you, and I resurfaced it together in 2003.

As you have probably noticed, that surface is now near the end of its life. The frost has opened several long cracks, and the section near the street has sunk to the point that water collects there and freezes in winter. In January, my wife slipped on that ice and, though she wasn't seriously hurt, she has been nervous about walking to the car ever since. I asked three paving companies for estimates this summer, and I've enclosed them all. Two recommend tearing out the old asphalt entirely, at $9,400 and $11,200. The third, Lakeview Paving, proposes a cheaper overlay at $5,800, but its own estimate notes that this wouldn't correct the sunken section and may last only five to seven years. I lean toward the $9,400 quote, which includes new drainage and a ten-year guarantee, but I haven't committed to anything and wouldn't without your agreement.

I appreciate that this may be an unwelcome expense so soon after your move, and I don't want to put you in a difficult position. If paying your half all at once would be a problem, I'd be willing to cover the full amount now and let you pay me back over a year or so. The one thing I would ask is that we have the work done before the ground freezes, as the company can't start after mid-October and its price is good only until the end of September.

My wife and I are home most evenings, and you'd be welcome to come over for coffee to look through the estimates together. You can also reach me at the number below.

Yours truly,

Gordon Whitlock

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1. Gordon put this matter in a letter because he

A had quarrelled with his neighbour over the fence.
B wanted Mr. Petrakis to have time to consider it.
C had been advised to do so by his lawyer.
D is rarely at home in the evenings.

2. Under the agreement made when the houses were built, the owners

A each own half the width of the driveway.
B must hire the same company for all repairs.
C have to replace the driveway surface every ten years.
D are equally liable for keeping the driveway up.

3. Why has Gordon's wife become uneasy about walking to the car?

A She lost her footing on a frozen patch.
B She was struck by a car backing out.
C She tripped over a crack in the asphalt.
D She hurt her back during the January snow.

4. Gordon seems to favour the $9,400 estimate partly because it

A comes from a company he has used before.
B was recommended to him by Mr. Dhillon.
C would deal with the water and come with a guarantee.
D could be finished well before the ground freezes in the fall.

5. What does Gordon offer to do for Mr. Petrakis?

A Hire a cheaper company than the ones he contacted.
B Cover the whole bill and accept repayment later.
C Do some of the paving work himself.
D Put off the work until next summer, when costs may be lower.

6. We can reasonably conclude that Mr. Petrakis

A helped to resurface the driveway in 2003.
B has already met with Lakeview Paving.
C often talks with Gordon over the fence.
D has not lived next door for very long.

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 Mr. Whitlock,
>
> Thank you for your letter, and please call me Dimitri. I was so sorry to hear about **(7)** _____, and I hope she feels steadier on her feet soon.

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To be honest, I had not realized that **(8)** _____. Our lawyer must have mentioned it, but it slipped past me during the move, and I'm grateful you took the trouble to explain.

Having read the estimates, I agree that **(9)** _____. It would be money spent on a problem we would face again in a few years, and the low spot by the street would still be there.

It is generous of you to **(10)** _____, but there's no need, as the sale of our last house left us with a little cushion. Since the price you were quoted holds only **(11)** _____, why don't I come by on Thursday evening with my chequebook?

With thanks,

Dimitri Petrakis

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** the fall your wife had **B** the dispute with Mr. Dhillon **C** the flooding in your basement **D** your own injury last winter

8. **A** the driveway belongs only to you **B** Mr. Dhillon still owned a share **C** the lawyer had to sign the estimates **D** the driveway's upkeep was a shared cost

9. **A** removing the old surface is needless **B** the highest price means the best work **C** a thin layer on top would be poor value **D** ten-year guarantees mean very little

10. **A** look for a cheaper company **B** carry my half for a while **C** do all of the paperwork yourself **D** bring the total price down

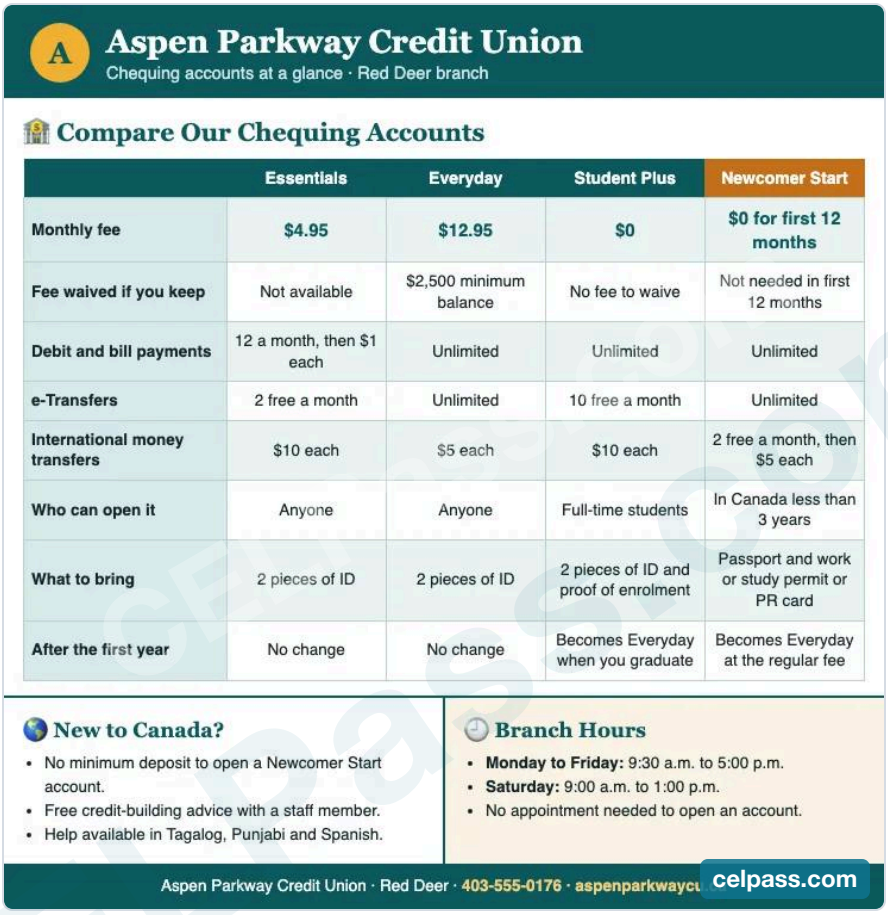
11. **A** until mid-October **B** until the first frost **C** until October begins **D** for ten more years

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

A First Bank Account in Red Deer



Aspen Parkway Credit Union
Chequing accounts at a glance · Red Deer branch

Compare Our Chequing Accounts

	Essentials	Everyday	Student Plus	Newcomer Start
Monthly fee	$4.95	$12.95	$0	$0 for first 12 months
Fee waived if you keep	Not available	$2,500 minimum balance	No fee to waive	Not needed in first 12 months
Debit and bill payments	12 a month, then $1 each	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
e-Transfers	2 free a month	Unlimited	10 free a month	Unlimited
International money transfers	$10 each	$5 each	$10 each	2 free a month, then $5 each
Who can open it	Anyone	Anyone	Full-time students	In Canada less than 3 years
What to bring	2 pieces of ID	2 pieces of ID	2 pieces of ID and proof of enrolment	Passport and work or study permit or PR card
After the first year	No change	No change	Becomes Everyday when you graduate	Becomes Everyday at the regular fee

New to Canada?
- No minimum deposit to open a Newcomer Start account.
- Free credit-building advice with a staff member.
- Help available in Tagalog, Punjabi and Spanish.

Branch Hours
- **Monday to Friday:** 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- **Saturday:** 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- No appointment needed to open an account.

Aspen Parkway Credit Union · Red Deer · 403-555-0176 · aspenparkwaycu

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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: Your bank account when you get here
>
> To: Liza Ramos
>
> •
>
> From: Ana Villanueva
>
> Hi Liza,
>
> Only five weeks until you land! I can hardly believe it's been twelve years since we shared that tiny dorm room in nursing school, and now you'll be working ten minutes from my house.
>
> You asked about banking, so I picked up this chart from my credit union. The Student Plus account looks tempting, but you're coming here to work, not to study. Since you'll be arriving on a work permit and want to send money to your mom every month, I'd go with **(12)** _____. There's no

monthly fee **(13)** _____, and after that it switches to **(14)** _____. You won't pay anything to send money overseas, as long as you stick to **(15)** _____.

When you go in, make sure you bring **(16)** _____, as they won't open the account without them. I'm off on Saturdays, so I can come with you on your first weekend here. The staff are lovely, and they'll walk you through everything. Don't worry about bringing a lot of cash, since there's no minimum deposit.

I've already cleared out the spare room for you. Bring a real winter coat!

Ana

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** Essentials **B** Everyday **C** Student Plus **D** Newcomer Start

13. **A** for your first 12 months **B** if you keep $2,500 in it **C** for as long as you study **D** for your first 6 months

14. **A** the Essentials plan at $4.95 **B** the Student Plus plan at $0 **C** the Everyday plan at $12.95 **D** a basic plan at $9.95

15. **A** one transfer a month **B** two transfers a month **C** five transfers a month **D** one transfer a year

16. **A** your passport and work permit **B** proof you are a full-time student **C** a letter from your employer **D** a deposit of at least $2,500

17. Ana and Liza know each other because they

A are cousins from the same family.
B will work at the same care home.
C lived together as nursing students.
D met at the credit union last year.

18. Why does Ana suggest going to the branch on a Saturday?

A The branch is closed during the week.
B She is free to go along with Liza.
C Transfers cost less on weekends.
D Appointments are needed on weekdays.

19. When Ana says the staff will "walk you through everything," she means they will

A show Liza around the town on foot.
B take Liza to the branch in person.
C handle the transfers on Liza's behalf.
D explain each step of the process.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Emily Carr: Recognition Late in Life

Paragraph A

Emily Carr, now regarded as one of Canada's most important painters, was born in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1871, when the city was still a small colonial outpost. Orphaned as a teenager, she persuaded her guardian to let her study art in San Francisco, and later training took her to England, where she spent several years, and then to France. Her early work, mostly careful watercolours, gave little hint of what was to come. In France, she absorbed the bright colours and bold forms of modern European painting. The new style set her apart when she returned home, where it earned her more puzzlement than praise.

Paragraph B

Carr's chief subject emerged on her visits to Indigenous villages along the coast. In 1912, she made an extensive journey north to Haida Gwaii and the Skeena River, sketching totem poles and village sites that she believed were disappearing, a view that historians have since questioned. The following year, she showed the work in Vancouver and offered the collection to the provincial government, which declined to buy it. Unable to live by her art, she built a small apartment house in Victoria and for many years earned her income as a landlady, making pottery and raising sheepdogs on the side. She painted very little during this period.

Paragraph C

The turning point came in 1927, when Carr was in her mid-fifties and the National Gallery of Canada invited her to take part in an exhibition of West Coast art. Travelling east for the show, she met members of the Group of Seven, among them Lawren Harris, whose encouragement restored her confidence. She returned home determined to paint again, turning increasingly from villages to the forests and skies of British Columbia. She developed a method of thinning oil paint with gasoline and working on paper, which was cheap and allowed her to record the movement of trees quickly in the open air. In the 1930s, she even bought an old caravan, which she called the Elephant, so that she could live and work in the woods for weeks at a time. Solo exhibitions followed during that decade.

Paragraph D

In her final years, a series of heart attacks limited her ability to go out and paint, so she turned to writing, with the help of a friend and editor, Ira Dilworth. Her first book, Klee Wyck, a collection of stories drawn from her time in the coastal villages, won the Governor General's Award for non-fiction in 1941. Other books followed before her death in Victoria in 1945, including an account of her years as a landlady, The House of All Sorts. Today, a Vancouver art university bears her name, and her paintings have sold for millions of dollars at auction, although her portrayals of Indigenous subjects are now viewed more critically than they once were.

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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. A change of materials allowed Carr to paint more rapidly outdoors. _____

21. Carr's family encouraged her from childhood to become a painter. _____

22. For a long period, Carr supported herself through work that had little to do with painting. _____

23. Declining health led Carr to take up a different creative outlet. _____

24. The unfamiliar style Carr brought back from abroad did not win her much admiration at first. _____

25. Members of the Group of Seven helped Carr to sell her first paintings in Eastern Canada. _____

26. Carr's hopes for a public purchase of her work came to nothing. _____

27. An invitation from a national institution revived a career that had stalled. _____

28. Carr's first published book grew out of what she experienced on the coast. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Online Voting in Dunmore Debate

> When Dunmore tallied its ballots after the last municipal election, turnout stood at 27%. Town staff have been told to prepare a change some consider an obvious remedy and others a reckless gamble: replacing paper ballots with internet voting next fall. Residents would receive personal codes by mail and could vote from any device during a ten-day window; two help centres would open on the final day, and all other polling stations would close. A private vendor would operate the system for about $85,000.
>
> Town clerk Marguerite Doyle presents the change as a question of access, not ideology. Her office regularly hears from shift workers, people with disabilities and students who found the polls unreachable. “Turnout gains elsewhere have been modest,” she acknowledges, and she would retain paper as an option for an election or two before phasing it out.
>
> Computer science professor Ravi Menon has testified against the plan. “My objection isn’t that an attack is probable, but that one could never be excluded retrospectively,” he stresses. “With a paper ballot, you can recount,” he explains, whereas a server obliges voters to trust a company’s account of its own software. Menon grants that too many residents find the polls inaccessible, and has no quarrel with mail-in ballots, which would widen access while preserving a physical record.
>
> Councillor Beth Arsenault, who moved the motion, accuses critics of imposing an impossible standard. Paper elections have suffered lost ballot boxes and counting errors without anyone demanding abolition. “Security experts are paid to imagine the worst.” The genuine peril, in her view, is a council elected by barely a quarter of voters, its legitimacy eroding with each election. She sees no justification for financing two systems.
>
> Walter Nkemelu, 78, who drives older neighbours to the polls for the seniors’ association, is unmoved by appeals to convenience. Many acquaintances lack home internet and would depend on relatives, compromising the secrecy of the ballot. “You take away the polling stations and then call it access,” he remarks. Still, the current arrangements fail people too, including housebound friends he cannot transport; internet voting would be welcome as a supplement, never a replacement.

29. Who would accept losing paper ballots, though not yet?

A Marguerite Doyle
B Walter Nkemelu
C Ravi Menon
D Beth Arsenault

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30. Menon and Nkemelu would both acknowledge that

A a breach is likely.
B seniors lack home internet.
C the polls shut some out.
D internet voting should be ruled out.

31. Arsenault thinks Menon is

A “crying over spilled milk”
B “making a mountain out of a molehill”
C “locking the stable after the horse has bolted”
D “biting the hand that feeds him”

32. Doyle’s stance is best described as

A openly hostile
B wholly optimistic
C indifferent to the outcome
D supportive but doubtful

33. An apt headline would be

A “Online Voting Sends Dunmore Turnout Soaring”
B “Seniors and Students Split Over Paper Ballots”
C “Can Dunmore Trust an Easier Ballot?”
D “Dunmore Turns Toward Mail-In Ballots”

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.

> A poll clerk for three elections, I have seen this debate from inside. Councillor Arsenault is right that paper is imperfect, but she misses Professor Menon’s point: when something goes wrong on paper, **(34)** _____. No company’s assurance can replace that.
>
> It is also peculiar to **(35)** _____ and then describe this as widening access. **(36)** _____, and I cannot call that a free vote.
>
> None of this means I am satisfied with **(37)** _____; that should embarrass us all. But to reach shift workers and students, why not try **(38)** _____? That would offer the same convenience while leaving something checkable by hand. Turnout matters to me as much as to anyone.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** the ballots can be recounted **B** the vendor pays **C** voters get new personal codes **D** the polls stay open longer

35. **A** hire a vendor for $85,000 **B** mail each voter a code **C** keep paper for another election **D** close all but two sites

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36. **A** As Ms. Doyle warns, many would vote through relatives
B As Mr. Nkemelu warns, many would vote through relatives
C Contrary to Mr. Nkemelu, many would vote through relatives
D As Mr. Nkemelu warns, many would pay for computer time

37. **A** a clerk opposing the motion **B** a vendor guarding its software **C** a council so few chose
D a ten-day voting window

38. **A** ballots sent by post **B** a shorter voting window **C** a different software vendor
D more drivers for seniors

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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 Shared Driveway in Need of Repair

1 B wanted Mr. Petrakis to have time to consider it.

2 D are equally liable for keeping the driveway up.

3 A She lost her footing on a frozen patch.

4 C would deal with the water and come with a guarantee.

5 B Cover the whole bill and accept repayment later.

6 D has not lived next door for very long.

7 A the fall your wife had

8 D the driveway's upkeep was a shared cost

9 C a thin layer on top would be poor value

10 B carry my half for a while

11 C until October begins

Part 2: A First Bank Account in Red Deer

12 D Newcomer Start

13 A for your first 12 months

14 C the Everyday plan at $12.95

15 B two transfers a month

16 A your passport and work permit

17 C lived together as nursing students.

18 B She is free to go along with Liza.

19 D explain each step of the process.

Part 3: Emily Carr: Recognition Late in Life

20 C

21 E

22 B

23 D

24 A

25 E

26 B

27 C

28 D

Part 4: Online Voting in Dunmore Debate

29 A Marguerite Doyle

30 C the polls shut some out.

31 B "making a mountain out of a molehill"

32 D supportive but doubtful

33 C "Can Dunmore Trust an Easier Ballot?"

34 A the ballots can be recounted

35 D close all but two sites

36 B As Mr. Nkemelu warns, many would vote through relatives

37 C a council so few chose

38 A ballots sent by post

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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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