CELPIP Reading Practice Test 125

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	An Invitation to a Citizenship Ceremony	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Hemming Dresses Before a June Wedding	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Laura Secord and the Walk to Beaver Dams	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	No Mow May in Haldon Creek 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/125, 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

An Invitation to a Citizenship Ceremony

> Dear Mrs. Kowalchuk,
>
> You may be surprised to hear from me after nine years. I was the quiet woman who sat by the window in your evening English class at the Saskatoon newcomer centre and brought her baby along whenever the sitter cancelled. You told me the baby could stay as long as I kept doing my homework. I kept doing it, and that baby is now in Grade 4.
>
> I am writing with wonderful news. After a long wait, I passed my citizenship test in November, and I have just been told that I will take the oath on Tuesday, March 9, at 10:00 a.m. at Riverside Community Hall. Each new citizen may bring two guests. My husband, Karim, will be one of them, although he became a citizen two years ago and enjoys reminding me that he got there first. My mother lives too far away to make the trip, and my daughter will be at school. I would be honoured if you would be my second guest.
>
> You may not remember it, but you once changed the course of my life. When I told you that I had been a pharmacist in Afghanistan and was now stocking shelves at a grocery store, you did more than sympathize. You stayed after class on three evenings to help me write the letter that got me into a bridging program for foreign-trained pharmacists. It took four years, two failed exams and a great many night shifts, but I have now worked as a licensed pharmacist here in Saskatoon for three years. When people ask who helped me most, I always give your name.
>
> Mrs. Dhaliwal at the centre tells me that you moved to Prince Albert after you retired and no longer drive on the highway in winter. Please don't let that stop you. Karim and I would be glad to collect you the evening before, and you could stay in our spare room. We would drive you home after a lunch at our house. Please let me know by February 12, as I must give the office my guests' names by then. If you can't come, I will understand completely, but I would still love to visit you in the spring, when the roads are better.
>
> With deep respect and gratitude,
>
> Farida Noori

1. Farida is writing mainly to

A request a reference for a pharmacy job in Saskatoon.
B tell her former teacher about her move to Prince Albert.
C ask her former teacher to attend an important event.
D offer to help with evening classes at the centre.

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2. During Farida's English course, her baby

A sometimes came to class with her.
B stayed at home with Karim every evening.
C slept at the centre's daycare.
D was minded by Mrs. Dhaliwal.

3. What does Karim tease Farida about?

A She needed two tries to pass the test.
B She has failed two pharmacy exams.
C He passed his test with a higher mark.
D He became a Canadian before she did.

4. Farida feels indebted to Mrs. Kowalchuk because she

A found her a job at a local grocery store.
B helped with an application to a training program.
C coached her for her pharmacy licensing exams.
D spoke up for her at the pharmacy where she now works.

5. Farida has a guest place to offer partly because

A her daughter is too young to attend.
B Karim will have to be at work that morning.
C her mother cannot make the long journey.
D the office allowed her an extra seat.

6. We can reasonably conclude that Mrs. Kowalchuk

A no longer lives in Saskatoon.
B has stayed in touch with Farida.
C still teaches at the centre.
D has often met Karim and Farida's family.

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 Farida,
>
> Of course I remember you, and the little girl who slept through my lessons on the past tense! Your letter made me cry at my kitchen table. When I think that you were **(7)** _____ with all that training behind you, and then of what came after, including **(8)** _____, I can't accept much of the credit. A few evenings of my time were nothing beside your years of effort.
>
> I would be delighted to **(9)** _____, and I'm touched that you thought of me. You heard correctly about me and the highway, so I will gratefully take you up on **(10)** _____. I'll telephone you this weekend, since the office needs my name by **(11)** _____.

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> Please tell Karim that being first isn't everything, and that I look forward to meeting him at last. I can hardly wait to hear you say the oath.
>
> Warmly,
>
> Irene Kowalchuk

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** sweeping floors at a hotel **B** filling supermarket shelves **C** minding a baby at home **D** working night shifts at a clinic

8. **A** a nine-year citizenship wait **B** the two years of Karim's teasing **C** a long move from Prince Albert **D** two exams you didn't pass

9. **A** sit with you as your guest **B** help you study for the test **C** speak to the new citizens **D** cook the lunch at your house

10. **A** your idea of a visit in the spring **B** the bus ticket you mentioned **C** your offer of a ride and a bed **D** Mrs. Dhaliwal's offer to drive me

11. **A** the beginning of March **B** the middle of February **C** the end of November **D** the first days of spring

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Hemming Dresses Before a June Wedding



Thimble & Thread Alterations

Formal wear and everyday clothing · Elm Street, Sudbury

WEDDING SEASON IS HERE. BOOK YOUR FITTING EARLY!

Price List

Service	Standard (10 business days)	Rush* (3 business days)
DRESSES & GOWNS		
Hem, plain skirt	$28	$42
Hem, layered or lace skirt	$48	$70
Take in waist or bodice	$38	$55
Shorten straps	$15	$25
Add a bustle	$45	$65
SUITS		
Hem pants	$18	$28
Shorten jacket sleeves	$35	$50
FINISHING		
Press and steam, per garment	$12	$18

*Rush service is not available in June. All prices include one fitting; extra fittings are $10 each.

Wedding Party Deal

- 4 or more garments dropped off together: **10% off standard prices**
- Does not apply to rush service
- 25% deposit at drop-off (debit or credit only)

Hours & Fittings

Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat.	10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Sunday, Monday	Closed

- Fittings by appointment only
- **Bring the shoes you will wear** to your fitting

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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: Our dresses for Maya's wedding
>
> To: Tess Lavoie
>
> From: Naomi Bergeron
>
> Hi Tess,
>
> I tried my dress on last night and, like yours, it drags on the floor. I told Auntie Claire that we cousins would sort this out ourselves, so I picked up the attached price list from a shop near my office.
>
> All four of us have the same layered skirt, so a hem will run us **(12)** _____ each at the regular price. That won't break the bank, especially since taking them in together gets us **(13)** _____. We can't put this off, though. Maya's wedding is on June 20, and **(14)** _____, so anything we leave until the last minute may not get done.

> You can't get into town before 6:30 on weekdays, and the kids have soccer all day Saturday, so it will have to be **(15)** _____. I'll phone tomorrow to book a fitting for the four of us. When you come, please bring **(16)** _____, or they can't pin the hem at the right length. My straps need shortening too, and I suspect yours will as well.
>
> Talk soon,
>
> Naomi

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** $28 **B** $42 **C** $70 **D** $48

13. **A** 10% off the standard prices **B** free steaming for each dress **C** one hem at no charge **D** rush service at no charge

14. **A** the shop closes for all of June **B** prices go up on the first of June **C** no rush work is taken in June **D** fittings stop at the end of May

15. **A** a Monday evening **B** a Thursday evening **C** a Friday evening **D** a Sunday afternoon

16. **A** the shoes you'll be wearing **B** a deposit in cash **C** the receipt for your dress **D** your own matching thread

17. Naomi and Tess know each other because they

A work in the same office.
B coach the same soccer team.
C met at the alteration shop.
D are related to each other.

18. What does Naomi plan to do tomorrow?

A drop all four dresses at the shop.
B shorten the straps on her own dress.
C phone the shop to arrange a time.
D ask Auntie Claire to pay the deposit.

19. When Naomi says the cost "won't break the bank," she means it

A must be paid at the bank.
B is not too much to pay.
C is lower than at other shops.
D has to be paid all at once.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Laura Secord and the Walk to Beaver Dams

Paragraph A

Laura Secord is among the best-known heroines in Canadian history, although for most of her life few people outside her own community knew her name. Born Laura Ingersoll in Massachusetts in 1775, she came to Upper Canada in the 1790s, when her father moved the family north to take up land. She soon married James Secord, a merchant from a Loyalist family, and they settled in the village of Queenston on the Niagara River, where they raised their children. Because the river formed the border with the United States, the family's home stood directly in the path of the fighting when war broke out in 1812.

Paragraph B

The war reached them quickly. In October 1812, at the Battle of Queenston Heights, James Secord was badly wounded, and Laura went out to the battlefield to find him and bring him home. By the following spring, American troops had occupied much of the Niagara area. In June 1813, Laura learned of a planned American attack on a British outpost at Beaver Dams. Accounts differ on how she found out, although the traditional story holds that she overheard American officers talking at her own house. With James still unable to travel, she set off herself early on the morning of June 22 to warn the British commander, Lieutenant James FitzGibbon.

Paragraph C

Her route covered about 30 kilometres and took most of the day, leading through fields, woods and swampy ground in the summer heat as she kept away from the main roads. It was a demanding journey for a woman of 37 with children at home. Near the end of the journey, she came upon a camp of Indigenous warriors allied with the British, and they led her to FitzGibbon. Two days later, an American column was ambushed near Beaver Dams by Indigenous warriors, most of them Mohawk, and it surrendered to FitzGibbon after several hours of fighting. Historians still debate how much difference her warning made, since Indigenous scouts may already have told the British that the Americans were coming.

Paragraph D

Recognition came very slowly. After James died in 1841, Laura struggled with money, and for a time she ran a small school in her home. FitzGibbon wrote statements in later years confirming her walk, but her requests for a reward brought little result. Then, in 1860, when the Prince of Wales toured Canada, she added her story to a list of veterans presented to him, and he later sent the 85-year-old widow a gift of £100. She died in 1868, and monuments to her appeared in the decades that followed. Her home in Queenston has also been restored as a museum. In 1913, a hundred years

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> after the walk, a Toronto candy maker named his new chocolate business after her, and her name has been familiar in Canadian homes ever since.

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 British may have known about the American plan before Laura Secord arrived. _____

21. Laura Secord's family moved to Upper Canada so that they could settle on land there. _____

22. In her old age, Laura Secord received money from a member of the royal family. _____

23. A relative joined Laura Secord for part of her journey. _____

24. Laura Secord personally helped her husband after he was injured in battle. _____

25. Laura Secord was taken to the British commander by people she met along the way. _____

26. James Secord was granted a pension because of his war wound. _____

27. A company's name was chosen in the centennial year of Laura Secord's walk. _____

28. It is not certain how Laura Secord found out about the American attack. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

No Mow May in Haldon Creek Debate

> Haldon Creek's bylaw officers spend every spring issuing warnings to homeowners whose grass exceeds 20 centimetres. A motion before council would suspend that rule throughout May, leaving dandelions and clover to feed bees emerging from winter. The campaign, imported from Britain, has delighted gardeners and exasperated homeowners who regard it as a licence for neglect. Because boulevards and parks would likewise go unmown, the town would save approximately $40,000.
>
> Councillor Anneke Visser, the motion's sponsor, calls it an inexpensive experiment whose failure would be apparent by June. Measuring the benefit to pollinators over a single season, she acknowledges, is practically impossible. "Still, residents who abandon their mowers for a month frequently begin wondering what else their property might grow," she maintains.
>
> Dr. Luc Tremblay, an entomologist at the regional university, might be presumed an ally. Although he accepts that bees require additional habitat, he regards a May lawn as a feeble substitute: dandelions provide a limited diet, and many native species depend on indigenous plants flowering well into autumn. "A month of long grass makes people feel virtuous, and then the mower comes out on June 1," he remarks. Permanent native plantings along the boulevards, he suggests, would make better use of that $40,000.
>
> Carol Hutchings, a retired nurse whose bungalow backs onto Millrace Park, frames her opposition in practical terms. "Long grass shelters ticks, my grandchildren play in the yard, and a late first cut leaves heavy clumps that smother the turf." Yet she tends a milkweed bed herself. Her grievance concerns careful neighbours paying for those who "simply can't be bothered," and the far corners of the parks, she allows, could stay as they are.
>
> Landscaper Dev Ramgoolam openly expects to lose a month of contracts, although customers have lately been requesting wildflower beds in place of lawn, work considerably more lucrative than mowing. His objection concerns the blanket application of the rule. He adds, "Many elderly clients could never manage knee-high growth in June, and my own crews would hardly enjoy it." Participation should be voluntary, he contends, with a small sign on each lawn; otherwise "nobody can tell a bee garden from an abandoned house."

29. Who'd still back the pause if bees gained little?

A Anneke Visser
B Luc Tremblay
C Carol Hutchings
D Dev Ramgoolam

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30. Hutchings and Ramgoolam would both accept that

A long grass shelters ticks.

B a lawn sign would settle it.

C the savings belong in native plantings.

D the first cut could be hard.

31. How would Visser answer Tremblay's complaint about June 1?

A Emerging bees need dandelions and clover.

B Residents may start to grow more.

C Any failure will show by then.

D The month saves money either way.

32. For Ramgoolam, the pause would mean

A a loss the town should compensate.

B a windfall from overgrown lawns.

C a loss partly offset.

D little change for him.

33. An appropriate title would be

A "Haldon Creek Debates the Cost of Mowing"

B "Can Haldon Creek's Lawns Feed Native Bees?"

C "A May Without Mowers Splits Haldon Creek"

D "Haldon Lets Homeowners Choose When to Mow"

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 kept bees outside Haldon Creek for eleven years, and this quarrel frustrates me. Dr. Tremblay, I suspect, has identified the flaw that Councillor Visser glosses over: **(34)** _____.
>
> Ms. Hutchings deserves fairer treatment, too. Her detractors call her a bee-hater, but anyone who noticed **(35)** _____ would know better. Even so, the money question is where the entomologist wins me over: I would prefer the town's savings **(36)** _____.
>
> The most sensible idea, oddly enough, comes from the person **(37)** _____. Letting homeowners **(38)** _____ would reveal how much genuine interest exists, and nobody would wonder whether the house next door had been abandoned.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** dandelions are worse than nothing **B** the savings are too meagre **C** no season can prove anything **D** one month can't meet the need

35. **A** her worry about the ticks **B** what she tends herself **C** the clumps from a late cut **D** the neighbours she defends

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36. **A** spent on permanent roadside plantings **B** paid to landscapers losing income **C** returned as a tax credit **D** used to sow more clover

37. **A** who tabled the motion **B** who studies insects for a living **C** who grumbles about careless neighbours **D** with contracts at stake

38. **A** choose their own month **B** pay a fee to opt out **C** opt in and announce it **D** plant wildflowers

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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: An Invitation to a Citizenship Ceremony

1 C ask her former teacher to attend an important event.

2 A sometimes came to class with her.

3 D He became a Canadian before she did.

4 B helped with an application to a training program.

5 C her mother cannot make the long journey.

6 A no longer lives in Saskatoon.

7 B filling supermarket shelves

8 D two exams you didn't pass

9 A sit with you as your guest

10 C your offer of a ride and a bed

11 B the middle of February

Part 2: Hemming Dresses Before a June Wedding

12 D $48

13 A 10% off the standard prices

14 C no rush work is taken in June

15 B a Thursday evening

16 A the shoes you'll be wearing

17 D are related to each other.

18 C phone the shop to arrange a time.

19 B is not too much to pay.

Part 3: Laura Secord and the Walk to Beaver Dams

20 C

21 A

22 D

23 E

24 B

25 C

26 E

27 D

28 B

Part 4: No Mow May in Haldon Creek Debate

29 A Anneke Visser

30 D the first cut could be hard.

31 B Residents may start to grow more.

32 C a loss partly offset.

33 C "A May Without Mowers Splits Haldon Creek"

34 D one month can't meet the need

35 B what she tends herself

36 A spent on permanent roadside plantings

37 D with contracts at stake

38 C opt in and announce it

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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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