CELPIP Reading Practice Test 128

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 Offer to Take Over the Hardware Store	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Booking an Escape Room for Ten	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Montreal's Biosphère: From Expo 67 to Museum	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	A Visitor Tax for Port Sable 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/128, 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 Offer to Take Over the Hardware Store

> Dear Danny,
>
> After forty-one years behind the counter at Brandt's Hardware, I have decided that this winter will be my last. My knees have been telling me so for a while, and Ruth would like to see more of our grandchildren in Halifax before they are too grown up to want to see us. I wanted you to hear it from me first, and in writing, so that you have time to think before we talk.
>
> You have worked here for nine years now, and in that time you have become the person customers ask for by name. When old Mr. Tierney needed to fix his well pump last spring, he waited forty minutes for you to come back from lunch rather than let me help him. I pretended to be offended, but I wasn't.
>
> My children have their own careers and have made it clear that they don't want the store. I could sell to the chain that opened out by the highway; their manager has called twice. But I expect they would close us within a year and use the building as a warehouse. I would much rather the store stay what it is, and I believe you are the right person to run it.
>
> I know you couldn't pay the full price up front, and I wouldn't expect you to. My accountant suggests that you pay a portion now and the rest over ten years out of the store's earnings. I would also stay on for the first six months, two days a week, to introduce you to our suppliers and help with the books, which I know are not your favourite part of the job.
>
> Please don't feel any pressure. If you decide that owning a business isn't for you, I will understand completely, and I will give you the strongest reference I can wherever you go. I would only ask that you let me know by the end of February, as the chain wants an answer by spring.
>
> Talk it over with Priya, and then let's have lunch at the Elm Street Diner. My treat.
>
> Your friend,
>
> Walter Brandt

1. Walter is writing mainly to

A announce that the store will close in the spring.
B ask Danny to work extra days this winter.
C give Danny the chance to buy the business.
D complain about the new chain store.

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2. Why is Walter retiring?

A His health and his family are pulling him away.
B The store has lost customers to the chain.
C His children have asked to run the store themselves.
D His accountant told him to sell this year.

3. What does the story about Mr. Tierney show?

A Walter finds some customers hard to please.
B Mr. Tierney is an impatient customer.
C Walter was hurt to be passed over.
D Customers have come to rely on Danny.

4. What does Walter think would happen if he sold to the chain?

A Danny would be made the manager.
B The store would soon be shut down.
C Prices in the store would go up.
D The store would keep the Brandt name.

5. How does Walter suggest that Danny could pay for the store?

A with a loan from Walter's accountant
B by selling the building to the chain
C partly now and the rest over time
D by working two days a week for free

6. We can reasonably conclude that Danny

A has already agreed to buy the store.
B is not very fond of keeping accounts.
C is planning to move to Halifax.
D has already spoken with the chain's manager.

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 Walter,
>
> I had to read your letter twice. It's hard to imagine Brandt's without you behind the counter, but you've more than earned some time with **(7)** _____.
>
> Priya and I talked it over last night, and we were both surprised by how possible it seems. We could never have come up with **(8)** _____, so your accountant's plan is what makes this work. I'm also very grateful that you'll **(9)** _____. You know how I feel about the paperwork.
>
> Mostly, though, I'd hate to see the store turned into **(10)** _____, and I think Mr. Tierney would agree with me. So my answer, well before your **(11)** _____ deadline, is yes.

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> Lunch at the diner sounds perfect, but this time it's on me.
>
> Danny

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** your old customers **B** the staff at the store **C** the chain's manager **D** the grandkids out east

8. **A** the full amount at once **B** a reference from you **C** an offer from the chain **D** two days a week

9. **A** lend us the money for the building **B** stay on part-time for the first months **C** keep the store open on Sundays **D** find us a new accountant

10. **A** a diner like the one on Elm Street **B** a branch of a Halifax business **C** a family hardware store again **D** a storage space for a big company

11. **A** end-of-February **B** spring **C** six-month **D** ten-year

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Booking an Escape Room for Ten



Lantern Lock Escape Rooms

Downtown Kitchener · You have one hour. Maybe.

NEW THIS FALL: TWO IDENTICAL LABS, SO TWO TEAMS CAN RACE EACH OTHER!

Choose Your Room

Room	Players	Time	Difficulty	Access	Price per person
Grandma's Attic Gentle puzzles; good for ages 8 and up	2–5	45 min.	★	2nd floor, stairs only	$24
The Miner's Secret A lost claim in a 1900s silver mine	2–6	60 min.	★★	Basement, stairs only	$28
Train to Nowhere Solve the mystery before the last stop	4–8	60 min.	★★★	♿ Ground floor, step-free	$30
The Professor's Lab Two teams race in matching rooms	6–12	75 min.	★★★★	♿ Ground floor, step-free	$34

Hours

- Monday to Thursday: **4:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.**
- Friday: 2:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: 10:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m.

Groups

- 10 or more players, Monday to Thursday: **10% off**
- Party room with pizza and pop: **$14 per person**, up to 90 minutes

Booking Rules

- $50 deposit holds your room
- Free cancellation up to **72 hours** before your game
- Please arrive 15 minutes early
- Players under 16 need an adult with them

Parking

- Rear lot: free after 6:00 p.m.

Lantern Lock Escape Rooms · 519-555-0193 · lanternlock.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: Thank-you night for the Tuesday crew
>
> To: Ken Adebayo
>
> From: Marisol Reyes
>
> Hi Ken,
>
> Thanks again for offering to help me plan something for the Tuesday sorting crew. After a whole year of giving up their evenings at the food bank without a cent in return, they deserve a treat. I found a flyer for Lantern Lock downtown, and I think it could be just the thing.
>
> There will be ten of us, including Farid, who uses a wheelchair, and I'd like everyone to play at the same time. That means the **(12)** _____ is our best bet. It's the priciest room at **(13)** _____ a person, but because there are ten of us and we'd go on a Tuesday, we'd get **(14)** _____ off.

> Our shift wraps up at 5:30, and the parking at the back is free after six. Since they want us there 15 minutes early, if we **(15)** _____, nobody will have to pay for parking. I'll put down the deposit, but please let me know if the date is a problem. We can cancel for free up to **(16)** _____ ahead, and I'd hate to lose the money.
>
> Talk soon,
>
> Marisol

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** Grandma's Attic **B** Miner's Secret **C** Train to Nowhere **D** Professor's Lab

13. **A** $30 **B** $34 **C** $28 **D** $14

14. **A** 10% **B** $50 **C** $14 **D** 20%

15. **A** book a game for 5:45 **B** arrive straight after the shift **C** book a game for 6:30 **D** go on a Friday afternoon

16. **A** three days **B** fifteen minutes **C** one full day **D** a whole week

17. Marisol and Ken know each other because they

A work at the escape room.
B volunteer on the same team.
C are both paid food bank staff.
D play on a sports team together.

18. Why is Marisol planning this outing?

A to celebrate Farid's birthday
B to raise money for the food bank
C to welcome new volunteers
D to thank people for a year of help

19. When Marisol says the room is "our best bet," she means that it is

A a risky choice for the group.
B the cheapest room on offer.
C the most suitable choice.
D a room where they could win a prize.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Montreal's Biosphère: From Expo 67 to Museum

Paragraph A

In 1967, Canada celebrated its hundredth birthday, and Montreal marked the occasion by hosting a world's fair, Expo 67. The fair was held on islands in the St. Lawrence River, including Île Sainte-Hélène, which was enlarged for the event, and Île Notre-Dame, which was built largely from rock dug out during the construction of the city's new metro. Dozens of countries put up pavilions, and over six months the fair recorded more than 50 million visits. Among the most popular buildings was the pavilion of the United States: a huge, see-through sphere that seemed almost to float above the trees. Another landmark of the fair, the Habitat 67 housing complex, still stands across the water from the islands.

Paragraph B

The pavilion was designed by the American inventor and architect R. Buckminster Fuller, who was known for his geodesic domes. He had spent years promoting them as an efficient way to cover large spaces using very little material. Such a dome is made of a network of triangles, a shape that spreads weight evenly, so the structure can be both very light and very strong. The Montreal dome was built from thousands of steel tubes and covered with clear acrylic panels. Inside, visitors found displays of American art, film and space exploration, and the fair's elevated Minirail train passed right through the building, giving passengers a view of the exhibits from above.

Paragraph C

After Expo closed, many of its pavilions stayed open for several summers as part of an exhibition called Man and His World, and the sphere remained one of its attractions. Over time, however, some of the other pavilions were closed or taken down. Then, in 1976, a fire broke out during repair work. The acrylic covering caught fire and was destroyed in a short time, but the steel frame survived largely undamaged. Photographs of the blackened skeleton standing against the sky became a sad symbol of how far the site had fallen since the great days of the fair.

Paragraph D

For years afterward, the bare frame stood empty on the island while people debated what to do with it. Proposals came and went, and some feared that the structure would eventually be torn down. In the end, the federal government chose to give it a new life, and the building reopened in 1995 as a museum devoted to the environment. Today, it is known as the Biosphère, a name taken from the word for the part of the Earth where life exists, and its exhibits help visitors understand issues such as climate change, water and biodiversity, while the steel frame itself remains one of Montreal's best-known landmarks. Visitors can still walk beneath it, and on a clear day the views across the river toward downtown are striking.

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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. Part of the fair was held on land made specially for it. _____

21. The shape used in the dome allowed it to be light without being weak. _____

22. Buckminster Fuller returned to Montreal to oversee the dome's repairs. _____

23. Visitors could ride through the pavilion on a raised train. _____

24. The building lost its outer skin but kept its structure. _____

25. The structure went unused for a long period while its future was uncertain. _____

26. The site now aims to teach the public about the natural world. _____

27. The United States pavilion drew more visitors than any other at the fair. _____

28. The fair was held to mark an important national anniversary. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

A Visitor Tax for Port Sable Debate

Each summer, Port Sable's population of 4,000 roughly triples as tourists descend on its beaches, lighthouse and seafood restaurants. Council now contemplates a municipal accommodation tax adding 3 percent to every night in a hotel, inn, campground or short-term rental, or just over five dollars on a $180 room. Staff project annual revenue of about $600,000. Several larger Canadian cities already impose such a charge, and revised provincial rules now permit smaller towns to follow.

Mayor Elaine Cormier regards the tax as correcting an imbalance. Property taxes finance the public washrooms, additional garbage collection and lifeguards on which visitors depend. "Our year-round residents are subsidizing everyone else's vacation," she contends. She would allocate half the proceeds to spring and fall promotion, when local businesses languish, and half to heavily used services.

Gilles Arsenault, proprietor of the six-room Gull Point Inn, remains skeptical. Families booking in July are financially stretched, he maintains, and scrutinize prices to the dollar. "If Port Sable costs more than Cape Morrow up the road, some of them will drive the extra twenty minutes." A regional tax collected along the entire coast, he admits, would dissolve most of his objection. He would also feel easier seeing the revenue materialize "in a new boardwalk, not in a line of a budget nobody reads."

Dr. Nadia Rahman, a provincial university specialist in tourism economics, considers anxieties about lost bookings largely overblown. Comparable taxes, the research suggests, seldom redirect travellers, for whom scenery, beaches and restaurants weigh far more than several dollars. The genuine hazard, she cautions, comes afterward: "Once the money arrives, there is always pressure to use it to plug holes in the general budget." Her remedy is a bylaw that legally reserves the revenue for tourism and mandates a published report annually.

Bev Doucette, a Front Street resident for over fifty years, welcomes the tax yet sees no reason to advertise a community whose streets already congest every August. "Visitors should instead contribute toward the wear and tear," she insists, citing cracked sidewalks and a rental housing shortage she attributes partly to short-term rentals. Every dollar, in her estimation, belongs in roads and residents' housing.

29. Arsenault and Rahman would likely agree that

A a small charge will drive families away.
B the spending should be visible.
C a regional tax would be fairer.
D scenery counts more than dollars.

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30. What does Arsenault assume in mentioning Cape Morrow?

A a regional tax is planned
B July families book late
C small price gaps move families
D the drive would deter most visitors

31. Why would Dr. Rahman want a spending bylaw?

A Council could divert the money.
B Promotion seldom works in spring.
C Small inns would still lose bookings.
D Residents would still pay for washrooms.

32. Where do Doucette and Cormier part ways?

A whether visitors ought to contribute
B whether residents now bear too much
C whether summers are busy
D where the revenue should go

33. What can be inferred from the article?

A The chief critic opposes the tax outright.
B Visitors' choices depend chiefly on price.
C Supporters disagree on the tax's purpose.
D Cape Morrow already draws families.

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.

> For twelve years I have rented a Port Sable cottage every July, so this tax is aimed squarely at people like me. Contrary to Mr. Arsenault's fears, **(34)** _____, at least if my family is typical. And awkward as it is to admit, the mayor's case is hard to rebut: **(35)** _____.
>
> What worries me is Ms. Doucette's plan to **(36)** _____. Here I'm with the innkeeper: what I want to see is **(37)** _____. And the economist's second safeguard, **(38)** _____, would cost next to nothing. A tax I can see at work is a tax I will gladly pay.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** a minor charge seldom changes plans **B** the charge would fall on residents
C the revenue would stay in tourism **D** Cape Morrow would soon follow suit

35. **A** the off-season is slow **B** rentals have squeezed residents
C visitors wear out the sidewalks **D** residents pay for my vacation

36. **A** promote the town off-season **B** spend it all on residents
C ban short-term rentals outright **D** reserve it for tourism by law

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37. **A** cheaper July rooms **B** the mayor's advertising **C** something you can walk on **D** an annual public report

38. **A** a yearly report **B** a regional levy **C** a legal reservation of revenue **D** a lower rate

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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 Offer to Take Over the Hardware Store

1 C give Danny the chance to buy the business.

2 A His health and his family are pulling him away.

3 D Customers have come to rely on Danny.

4 B The store would soon be shut down.

5 C partly now and the rest over time

6 B is not very fond of keeping accounts.

7 D the grandkids out east

8 A the full amount at once

9 B stay on part-time for the first months

10 D a storage space for a big company

11 A end-of-February

Part 2: Booking an Escape Room for Ten

12 D Professor's Lab

13 B $34

14 A 10%

15 C book a game for 6:30

16 A three days

17 B volunteer on the same team.

18 D to thank people for a year of help

19 C the most suitable choice.

Part 3: Montreal's Biosphère: From Expo 67 to Museum

20 A

21 B

22 E

23 B

24 C

25 D

26 D

27 E

28 A

Part 4: A Visitor Tax for Port Sable Debate

29 B the spending should be visible.

30 C small price gaps move families

31 A Council could divert the money.

32 D where the revenue should go

33 C Supporters disagree on the tax's purpose.

34 A a minor charge seldom changes plans

35 D residents pay for my vacation

36 B spend it all on residents

37 C something you can walk on

38 A a yearly report

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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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