CELPIP Reading Practice Test 129

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 Ride the Train West	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	A Balloon Flight for a Sixtieth Birthday	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Snowy Owls: Hunters of the Tundra	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Dogs on Restaurant Patios in Wexley 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/129, 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 Ride the Train West

> Dear Celeste,
>
> I hope your first term of teaching is going well. Your mother tells me you have twenty-eight Grade 4 students and a principal who actually answers emails, which sounds like a promising start.
>
> I am writing with a proposal, and I want you to take your time before answering. For as long as I can remember, your Uncle Doug and I talked about taking the train across the country to Vancouver. We kept putting it off: first it was the mortgage, then the children, then his knee. Now that he is gone, I have realized that if I keep waiting for the perfect moment, I will never go. So I have decided to go next summer, and I would love for you to come with me.
>
> The trip takes nearly four days, and I am thinking of leaving Toronto in the second week of July, once your school year is over. I would pay for both tickets and for a sleeper cabin, and I would book you a flight home whenever you are ready to leave. I know a first-year teacher's salary doesn't leave much room for holidays, and honestly, I would be getting the better end of the deal. My eyesight isn't what it used to be, and I would feel far more confident with someone to help me with the luggage and the changes of platform.
>
> Once we arrive, I would like to spend a week in Vancouver. My old friend Marguerite has offered us her guest suite in Kitsilano, and she has promised to take us to Granville Island and over to the gardens in Victoria. You would be free to explore on your own whenever you like. I won't need company every minute, and I suspect you will want a break from your old aunt after four days in a small cabin.
>
> There is one more thing I should mention. The cabin price I was quoted is only available if I book before the end of January, so I would need your answer by the middle of the month. If the timing doesn't suit you, please don't feel guilty. I would simply ask your cousin Hugo, although, between us, I expect he would spend the whole trip looking at his phone.
>
> With love,
>
> Aunt Mira

1. Mira is writing mainly to

A ask Celeste for advice about train travel.
B invite Celeste on a trip she will pay for.
C thank Celeste for helping her after Doug died.
D ask Celeste to help her move to Vancouver.

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2. Why did Mira and Doug never take the trip together?

A Doug did not enjoy travelling by train.
B They could not agree on a destination.
C Mira's eyesight made travelling difficult.
D Other concerns kept getting in the way.

3. Why does Mira say she "would be getting the better end of the deal"?

A Celeste's help would mean more to her than the cost.
B Two tickets would cost less than one sleeper cabin.
C Celeste could pay her back from her next salary.
D Marguerite would cover the cost of the gardens.

4. What does Mira say about their week in Vancouver?

A They will stay in a hotel near Granville Island.
B Celeste will need to stay with her at all times.
C Celeste can spend some of the time on her own.
D They will travel to Victoria by themselves.

5. By when does Mira need Celeste's answer?

A the end of January
B the middle of January
C the end of the school year
D the second week of July

6. We can reasonably conclude that Hugo

A has already refused to make the trip.
B is a teacher at Celeste's school.
C lives near Marguerite in Vancouver.
D would not be Mira's first choice of companion.

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 Aunt Mira,
>
> Your letter made my whole week. I know how many years you and Uncle Doug **(7)** _____, and I'm honoured that you would want me to share it with you.
>
> I've checked my calendar, and the timing is perfect: **(8)** _____, so leaving in the second week of July is no problem at all. I do have one condition, though. Please let me pay for **(9)** _____. I would feel much better contributing something.
>
> I'll happily look after the suitcases and make sure we don't miss **(10)** _____. And once we reach Vancouver, I promise to give you plenty of time with Marguerite, and to spend less time on my phone

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> than **(11)** _____ would.
>
> So my answer, well before your deadline, is yes!
>
> Love,
>
> Celeste

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** saved up for a sleeper cabin **B** argued about the best route **C** kept postponing this trip **D** lived together in Vancouver

8. **A** my classes end in late June **B** I have the whole winter off **C** my principal retires in July **D** I start a new school in July

9. **A** both of our train tickets **B** a hotel in Kitsilano **C** Hugo's share of the cabin **D** my own flight home

10. **A** your appointments with the eye doctor **B** any of our changes of platform **C** a single class in the summer **D** the gardens in Kitsilano

11. **A** Marguerite **B** Uncle Doug **C** Hugo **D** my principal

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

A Balloon Flight for a Sixtieth Birthday



Valley Sky Balloon Adventures

See the Fraser Valley the way the hawks do · Flights from Milner Meadows, Langley

FLYING MAY 1 – OCTOBER 15, WEATHER PERMITTING

Choose Your Flight

Flight	When	Time aloft	Ages	Price
Sunrise Flight Hot breakfast at the field after landing	Daily meet 5:30 a.m.	about 1 hour	8+	$289 per person
Sunset Flight Landing toast (sparkling juice for under-19s)	Daily meet 2½ hrs before sunset	about 1 hour	8+	$319 per person
Private Basket for Two Just you, your guest and your pilot	Sunset only	about 1 hour	16+	$899 per couple
Tethered Ride Rise 25 m on a rope and float back down. Children under 12 ride with an adult.	Saturdays & Sundays only 4–7 p.m.	15 minutes	All ages	$49 per person

Photo Package: $40 per basket, emailed the same day. All flights depart from Milner Meadows; free parking.

$ Save on Your Flight

- **Seniors (60+):** $25 off any Sunrise or Sunset Flight
- **Groups of 6 or more:** 10% off (not with other offers)
- **Gift certificates:** good for any flight and valid for **18 months** from purchase. Discounts apply.

Good to Know

- Flights cancelled for weather may be rebooked within **12 months**, or fully refunded.
- To change a booking, give us **48 hours'** notice.
- Wear flat shoes and warm layers. It's chilly up there at dawn!

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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: An idea for Mom's birthday
>
> To: Theo Lindqvist
>
> From: Nadia Okafor
>
> Hi Theo,
>
> I think I've finally found the perfect present for Mom's sixtieth. Remember how she's always said she'd love to see the valley from the air? This flyer came in the mail last week.
>
> Mom's an early riser, and she'll never say no to a meal she doesn't have to cook, so I'm leaning towards the **(12)** _____. Dad says he'd rather keep his feet on the ground, so it would be just you, Mom and me in the basket. And since Mom is turning sixty, she qualifies for the seniors' discount, which brings her ticket down to **(13)** _____.

> Your boys could still join in. At five and seven, they're too young for a real flight, but the **(14)** _____ is open to all ages. The only catch is that it runs **(15)** _____, so we'd have to plan around their Saturday hockey games.
>
> Since the weather can be so unpredictable, I'd rather buy a gift certificate than choose a date now. That way, Mom will have **(16)** _____ to pick a day that suits her.
>
> Shall we split the cost with Jenna, the way we did for Dad's new bike?
>
> Nadia

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** Sunrise Flight **B** Sunset Flight **C** Private Basket for Two **D** Tethered Ride

13. **A** $289 **B** $264 **C** $294 **D** $25

14. **A** Sunset Flight **B** Photo Package **C** Tethered Ride **D** Private Basket for Two

15. **A** every morning **B** on weekends only **C** for children only **D** on weekdays only

16. **A** 48 hours **B** a full year **C** until October 15 **D** a year and a half

17. Nadia and Theo are

A co-workers.
B neighbours.
C brother and sister.
D husband and wife.

18. Why does Nadia want to buy a gift certificate?

A The weather makes it hard to choose a date now.
B She wants to wait until Jenna has paid her share.
C The company sells flights only as certificates.
D Their mother doesn't like surprises.

19. When Nadia says that Dad would "rather keep his feet on the ground," she means that he

A wants to go hiking in the valley instead.
B needs flat shoes for the flight.
C will watch the boys' hockey game.
D prefers not to go up in the balloon.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Snowy Owls: Hunters of the Tundra

Paragraph A

With its bright yellow eyes and thick white feathers, the snowy owl is one of the most recognizable birds in North America, and in 1987 it was named the official bird of Quebec. It is also one of the continent's largest owls, with wings that can stretch about one and a half metres from tip to tip, and it is generally considered the heaviest. Adult males are often almost pure white, while females and young birds are marked with dark bars and spots, a difference that allows experienced birdwatchers to tell them apart from a distance. The owl's feathers are unusually dense and cover even its legs and toes, which helps it survive temperatures far below freezing.

Paragraph B

Snowy owls nest on the open Arctic tundra, well beyond the tree line. The female chooses a slight rise in the ground, from which she can watch for danger, and scrapes a shallow hollow there; she does not build a nest of sticks or grass as many birds do. During the breeding season, the sun barely sets in the far north, so unlike most owls, snowy owls do much of their hunting in daylight. Their main prey in summer is the lemming, a small rodent whose numbers rise and fall dramatically from year to year. When lemmings are plentiful, a pair may raise a large family, but when they are scarce, the owls may lay only a few eggs or not breed at all.

Paragraph C

Most snowy owls move south for the winter, although how far they travel varies greatly. Some remain surprisingly far north, while others reach the southern Prairies, the Great Lakes region and beyond. In certain winters, unusually large numbers appear well south of their normal range, an event known as an irruption. For many years, it was assumed that hunger drove the owls south after lemming populations crashed. More recent research, however, suggests that irruptions often follow a very successful breeding season, when many young owls must spread out to find territories of their own. Indeed, most of the snowy owls seen in the south during these winters are young birds, and scientists have begun fitting some of them with small tracking devices to learn more about where they go.

Paragraph D

Once they arrive in the south, snowy owls are drawn to wide, open spaces that resemble the tundra, such as farm fields, shorelines and, more surprisingly, airports. Large airports offer flat ground, few trees and plenty of small animals to hunt, but owls near runways can be a danger to aircraft. Several airports in Canada and the United States have therefore trapped owls and released them in safer areas far away. Wildlife experts also urge the public to watch owls from a distance. A bird that is

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> repeatedly disturbed uses up energy it needs to survive the winter, and photographers who put out food to attract owls can teach them to approach people and vehicles.

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 pattern of a snowy owl's feathers can help observers identify its sex. _____

21. Snowy owls hunt mostly at night once they reach their winter range. _____

22. An older explanation of why owls sometimes travel far south has been called into question. _____

23. Long hours of sunlight help explain an unusual habit of the snowy owl. _____

24. Feeding owls to get a better picture can change the way they behave. _____

25. Owls moved away from airports usually find their way back within a few weeks. _____

26. How many young a pair raises depends partly on the food available. _____

27. Birds in their first years make up most of the owls seen in the south during an irruption. _____

28. No other owl in North America is heavier on average. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Dogs on Restaurant Patios in Wexley Debate

> Wexley's dog owners have long tethered their pets to lampposts or left them at home while enjoying a downtown coffee. Councillor Dana Whitcombe now asks council to permit leashed dogs on the sidewalk patios restaurants rent from the town each summer, though never inside the premises. Each establishment would decide independently, with a sign at the entrance announcing its policy.
>
> Whitcombe presents this as overdue catching up. Visitors from the city, she recounts, arrive with their animals, discover nowhere to sit, and continue to the next town, taking their spending with them. She considers objections overwrought, given that dogs already occupy the adjoining sidewalk: "We're not talking about dogs in kitchens." "A further year of study would merely revive identical arguments next spring," she warns.
>
> Luis Ferreira, owner of the Lantern Café on Main Street, is cautiously sympathetic but suspects the councillor underestimates the logistics. His patio accommodates only eight tables, and servers manoeuvre hot plates through narrow gaps. "One dog asleep under a table is charming. Three dogs who don't get along is a disaster." He favours beginning with weekday afternoons, and wants council to state unequivocally that owners, not restaurants, answer for any bite.
>
> Priya Natarajan, who chairs the town's accessibility committee, displays considerably less enthusiasm. "Those most affected haven't been consulted," she contends: residents with serious allergies, others frightened of dogs, people for whom a downtown patio represents a rare comfortable place to eat outdoors. Service animals, already permitted everywhere, concern her too, since an excited pet at a neighbouring table can distract one and thereby endanger its handler. She insists on a survey of residents preceding any vote.
>
> Dog trainer Grant Holloway, with fifteen years' experience among Wexley families, finds merit in the idea while noting how much depends on temperament. "Plenty of dogs are perfectly calm in public. Plenty aren't, and their owners are usually the last to admit it." Instead of restaurant-by-restaurant discretion, he recommends that council establish simple regulations, such as short leashes and no dogs on chairs, applicable wherever customers go. A trial season, he adds, would reveal whether complaints materialize.

29. Which two people hold the most similar positions?

A Whitcombe and Natarajan
B Natarajan and Ferreira
C Ferreira and Holloway
D Whitcombe and Holloway

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30. What lies behind Natarajan's opposition?

A Service animals would be barred.

B Residents at risk weren't heard.

C Restaurants would lose regular customers.

D Owners should answer for bites.

31. How does Holloway's suggestion differ from Whitcombe's plan?

A He favours common rules everywhere.

B He'd begin with weekdays.

C He'd survey residents first.

D He'd hold owners liable for bites.

32. If the motion passes, what can we conclude?

A Service dogs would face new limits.

B Owners would be liable for bites.

C Leash rules would be uniform.

D Some patios might refuse dogs.

33. The most suitable title would be

A "Patio Dogs: New Rules Now in Force"

B "Patio Dogs: Worth a Careful Try"

C "Patio Dogs: Mostly a Question of Profits"

D "Patio Dogs: Little Support Beyond Council"

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.

> As someone who walks a large retriever downtown most mornings, I welcome this motion, though the councillor makes it sound easier than it is. Mr. Ferreira is right that a crowded patio **(34)** _____ is no place for a nervous animal.
>
> Not unlike **(35)** _____, I suspect that some dogs should simply stay home, and that too many people misjudge their own animals.
>
> Nor am I convinced by the argument that visitors **(36)** _____ if they can't bring a dog to lunch. People choose a town for its shops and scenery.
>
> Still, Ms. Natarajan alone has noticed that an excited pet can **(37)** _____. So before any vote, council should **(38)** _____.
>
> Martin Desjardins, Wexley

Choose the best option for each gap.

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34. **A** where servers squeeze by **B** open only on weekday afternoons **C** full of allergic diners **D** beside a busy sidewalk

35. **A** Councillor Whitcombe **B** Mr. Ferreira **C** Ms. Natarajan **D** Mr. Holloway

36. **A** will leave their dogs home **B** will sit on the sidewalk instead **C** will keep on driving **D** will ask to sit indoors

37. **A** unsettle an animal on duty **B** trip a server carrying food **C** start a fight under the tables **D** slip off a slack leash

38. **A** settle who pays for a bite **B** canvass those she speaks for **C** run a season-long trial **D** limit dogs to weekdays

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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 Ride the Train West

1 B invite Celeste on a trip she will pay for.

2 D Other concerns kept getting in the way.

3 A Celeste's help would mean more to her than the cost.

4 C Celeste can spend some of the time on her own.

5 B the middle of January

6 D would not be Mira's first choice of companion.

7 C kept postponing this trip

8 A my classes end in late June

9 D my own flight home

10 B any of our changes of platform

11 C Hugo

Part 2: A Balloon Flight for a Sixtieth Birthday

12 A Sunrise Flight

13 B $264

14 C Tethered Ride

15 B on weekends only

16 D a year and a half

17 C brother and sister.

18 A The weather makes it hard to choose a date now.

19 D prefers not to go up in the balloon.

Part 3: Snowy Owls: Hunters of the Tundra

20 A

21 E

22 C

23 B

24 D

25 E

26 B

27 C

28 A

Part 4: Dogs on Restaurant Patios in Wexley Debate

29 C Ferreira and Holloway

30 B Residents at risk weren't heard.

31 A He favours common rules everywhere.

32 D Some patios might refuse dogs.

33 B "Patio Dogs: Worth a Careful Try"

34 A where servers squeeze by

35 D Mr. Holloway

36 C will keep on driving

37 A unsettle an animal on duty

38 B canvass those she speaks for

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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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