CELPIP Reading Practice Test 131

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 Letter to a Conversation Partner	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Eye Exams and Glasses Before School Starts	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Cave and Basin: Where Canada's National Parks Began	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Bike Lanes on Front Street in Kelsey Harbour 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/131, 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 Letter to a Conversation Partner

> Dear Tuan,
>
> I have some news that I wanted to share with you in writing rather than at the end of one of our Wednesday sessions, when there is never quite enough time to talk properly. At the end of next month, I will be moving to Victoria to be closer to my son and his family. My first grandson was born in March, and after another winter of shovelling my own driveway, I have finally admitted that life on the coast might suit me better.
>
> That means our conversation sessions at the Millbrook library will have to end, and I want you to know how much I have enjoyed them. When we first met eighteen months ago, you apologized after nearly every sentence. Last week you argued with me for twenty minutes about whether hockey or soccer is the better sport, and you didn't apologize once. I think that says more about your progress than any test could.
>
> I have spoken to our volunteer coordinator, Priya Nanda, and she has found you a new partner, a retired engineer named Walter Kowalski. Walter spent thirty years designing electrical systems for hospitals and schools, so I suspect he will have plenty to say about the electrician program you are hoping to apply for. He is also free on Wednesday afternoons, although he would prefer to meet at four o'clock rather than three. Priya will phone you this week to confirm the details.
>
> Before I go, I have two pieces of advice. First, please keep reading the newspaper on your breaks. I know the articles are long, but your vocabulary has grown enormously since you started. Second, don't wait until you feel "ready" to apply to the college. The deadline is in February, and the admissions office can tell you exactly which language test score the program requires. You may find that you already have it.
>
> I am also leaving you the box of mystery novels you always admired on my shelf. Priya has agreed to keep it behind the library's front desk until you can pick it up.
>
> I hope we can stay in touch by email. And if you ever find yourself on Vancouver Island, I will expect a visit, and a rematch on the hockey question.
>
> With warm wishes,
>
> Margaret Ellison

1. Margaret is writing mainly to

A invite Tuan to visit her in Victoria.
B explain why their sessions are ending.
C recommend a college program to Tuan.
D complain about the library's new schedule.

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2. Why is Margaret moving to Victoria?

A She wants to live near her family.
B She has been offered a job on the coast.
C Her doctor has told her to avoid the cold.
D Her son needs help running his business.

3. What does Margaret suggest about the argument over hockey and soccer?

A It made their session run much later than usual.
B Tuan finally convinced her that soccer is better.
C Tuan apologized afterward for raising his voice at her.
D It showed how much more confident Tuan has become.

4. Why does Margaret think Walter is a good partner for Tuan?

A He used to teach at the college.
B He also learned English as an adult.
C His career is connected to Tuan's plans.
D He lives close to Tuan's workplace.

5. Margaret encourages Tuan to

A take another language test before applying.
B contact the college only after February.
C ask Walter to help him prepare his application.
D apply to the college without further delay.

6. We can reasonably conclude that Tuan

A has a job with regular breaks.
B prefers soccer to hockey.
C has already met Walter.
D has been accepted to the college.

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 Margaret,
>
> Thank you for your kind letter. I was sad to read your news, but I understand. I know how much you will enjoy being near your **(7)** _____.
>
> It is funny to remember our first sessions, when I said "sorry" **(8)** _____. Now I can argue about sports for twenty minutes!
>
> Priya called me yesterday. I will meet Mr. Kowalski next Wednesday, one hour **(9)** _____ than our usual time. I am glad that he worked as **(10)** _____, because I have many questions about the program.

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> I also called the college, as you suggested, and I will send my application this week. Thank you for the novels too. I will collect them from **(11)** _____ on Saturday.
>
> I promise to visit, and to win the rematch.
>
> Your friend,
>
> Tuan

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** volunteer coordinator **B** new grandson **C** former students **D** old neighbours

8. **A** whenever we talked about hockey **B** almost every time I spoke **C** only when I arrived late **D** before every language test

9. **A** later **B** earlier **C** longer **D** shorter

10. **A** an electrician **B** a college instructor **C** a library volunteer **D** an engineer

11. **A** Priya's office **B** Margaret's house **C** the front desk **D** the admissions office

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Eye Exams and Glasses Before School Starts



Clearview Family Optometry

Eye care for every age · 88 Hurontario Street, Collingwood

MON–WED & FRI 9–5 · THURSDAY 9–8 · SATURDAY 9–1 (CHILDREN'S EXAMS ONLY)

Eye Exams

Exam	Who it's for	Price
Child exam	Ages 5–17 · includes a school vision report	$75
Adult exam	Ages 18–64	$110
Senior exam	Ages 65 and over	$90
Contact lens fitting	Added to any exam above	$45

Glasses Packages

Package	What you get	Price	Ready in
Value Pair	Any frame from our Value Wall + single-vision lenses	$149	3 days
Kids' Tough Pack Ages 5–17	Bendable frames, scratch-resistant lenses, **free replacement if broken within 1 year**	$129	2 days
Reader Pair Adults	Reading-only lenses in a frame of your choice	$99	Same day
Progressive Package	Designer frame + no-line lenses: **one pair for reading and distance**	$399	7–10 days

+ Second Pair: add any Value Wall frame with lenses to a package for $79.

Back-to-School Bonus

- Free glasses case and cleaning cloth with every Kids' Tough Pack, Aug. 17–31
- Bring your child's old glasses and we'll donate them to a local charity

Good to Know

- Free adjustments and cleaning, any time
- Exams by appointment; walk-ins for repairs
- Most insurance plans billed directly

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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: Eye exams for Dad and Leo
>
> To: Sami Haddad
>
> From: Nadia Brooks
>
> Hi Sami,
>
> You asked me to look into eye exams for Leo before school starts, and since our dad keeps complaining that he can't read the newspaper any more, I thought we could book the two of them together. I picked up this flyer from the new clinic on Hurontario Street.
>
> You're at work until six on weekdays, and you said you wanted to be there for Leo's exam, so the best time for both of them is probably **(12)** _____.

> Leo's old glasses are too small now, and he snapped the arms twice playing soccer last year, so I think the **(13)** _____ is the obvious choice for him. I suggested the cheapest glasses to Dad, but he won't hear of it. He's tired of switching between his reading glasses and his distance glasses all day, so he wants the **(14)** _____.
>
> Since Dad turned seventy in the spring, his exam will be **(15)** _____. And Leo won't have to wait long for his new pair either. His should be ready in **(16)** _____, well before the first day of school.
>
> Shall I call and book?
>
> Nadia

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** Saturday morning **B** Monday afternoon **C** Thursday evening **D** Friday at noon

13. **A** Value Pair **B** Second Pair **C** Reader Pair **D** Kids' Tough Pack

14. **A** Progressive Package **B** Value Pair **C** Reader Pair **D** Second Pair

15. **A** $110 **B** $90 **C** $75 **D** $45

16. **A** the same day **B** two days **C** three days **D** 7 to 10 days

17. Nadia and Sami are

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

18. Why does Nadia mention the newspaper?

A to suggest Leo should read more
B to explain where she saw the flyer
C to show their father needs his eyes checked
D to complain about the size of the print

19. When Nadia says Dad "won't hear of" the cheapest glasses, she means he

A refuses to consider them.
B hasn't been told about them.
C can't understand the price.
D already owns a pair.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Cave and Basin: Where Canada's National Parks Began

Paragraph A

In 1883, three men working on the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway were exploring the lower slopes of Sulphur Mountain, near what is now the town of Banff, Alberta. They came across a hole in the ground and, lowering themselves inside, found a cave holding a pool of warm mineral water. A second pool lay in the open air just outside. The men quickly understood that such a place might attract paying visitors, and they set about claiming the land so that they could build a bathing business there.

Paragraph B

Their plans soon ran into difficulty. Other people also claimed the springs, and the dispute drew the attention of the federal government. Rather than let the springs become private property, Ottawa set aside a small reserve around them in 1885 for the benefit of the public. The idea of protecting wild land so that everyone could enjoy it was still quite new; the United States had created Yellowstone, the world's first national park, only in 1872. Two years later, the protected area was greatly enlarged and became Rocky Mountains Park, known today as Banff National Park. For this reason, the Cave and Basin is often called the birthplace of Canada's national park system, which now includes parks in every province and territory.

Paragraph C

As the railway brought more tourists west, the springs became a popular place to bathe. Many early visitors believed that soaking in the warm, mineral-rich water could ease aches and illnesses, and the railway was eager to promote Banff as a mountain resort. At first, visitors could only enter the cave by climbing down through the opening in its roof, but a tunnel was later dug through the hillside so that people could simply walk in. Bathhouses were built beside the pools, followed by a large outdoor swimming pool that drew crowds of swimmers for decades. The pool eventually closed, however, and bathing at the Cave and Basin is no longer permitted. Visitors who want to soak in mineral water now go to the Banff Upper Hot Springs, higher up the same mountain.

Paragraph D

Today, the warm pools are home to a creature most visitors never notice. The Banff Springs snail, which is smaller than a kernel of corn, lives in only a handful of hot springs on Sulphur Mountain and nowhere else in the world. It is listed as endangered, and even a visitor dipping a hand into the water can disturb the conditions it depends on, so signs at the site ask people to stay out of the pools entirely. The Cave and Basin is now a national historic site run by Parks Canada, where visitors can walk through the tunnel into the cave, view the pools and learn how the park system began.

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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 government decision kept the springs from becoming privately owned. _____

21. The people who found the cave hoped to make money from it. _____

22. A new way into the cave made it easier for the public to visit. _____

23. The outdoor pool closed because it had become too costly to repair. _____

24. Touching the water can put a rare species at risk. _____

25. The area first protected was much smaller than the park it grew into. _____

26. Visitors can still go inside the cave today. _____

27. The number of snails in the springs has increased since swimming ended. _____

28. Bathing in mineral water is still possible elsewhere on Sulphur Mountain. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Bike Lanes on Front Street in Kelsey Harbour Debate

Front Street has long been Kelsey Harbour's commercial heart: a narrow two-lane road lined with shops, cafés and angled parking. The transportation committee's recommendation to eliminate about forty spaces in favour of protected bike lanes along the downtown strip, largely funded by a provincial grant, has become the most acrimonious issue at town hall in years.

Councillor Dana Whitcombe, the committee's chair, calls the lanes an overdue safety investment. Two cyclists have suffered serious injuries on Front Street in three years, each after colliding with a suddenly opened car door. "This isn't about punishing drivers," she says. "My yardstick is whether a twelve-year-old could ride to the library without parental anxiety." The grant covers eighty percent of construction but must be spent by next year's close, failing which it passes to another municipality.

Merchants display considerably less enthusiasm. Luis Ferreira, proprietor of a Front Street hardware store for twenty-two years, serves older residents and contractors who could hardly transport lumber or soil by bicycle. "Every space we lose is a customer who drives out to the big-box store on the highway instead," he contends. Professing no hostility toward cycling, he advocates Mill Road, a quieter parallel street one block north, where considerably less parking would disappear.

Amira Boateng of the local cycling club finds that compromise inadequate, since cyclists frequent Front Street for the same reason as everyone else: the shops. "Sending us to Mill Road is like building the sidewalk behind the stores," she remarks. She also disputes the assumption that parking generates sales, citing a count by university students last summer: nearly half of Front Street's shoppers had arrived on foot or by bicycle, substantially exceeding merchants' own estimates.

Graham Osei, the planning consultant retained to review the recommendation, accepts that the street endangers cyclists and that protected lanes generally benefit local commerce eventually. The first year, however, frequently proves difficult for shopkeepers while drivers adjust. He therefore recommends short-term parking on two side streets and a one-year trial using temporary barriers before permanent concrete. "The loudest initial complainers often become the staunchest supporters," he adds drily.

29. Osei shares Ferreira's concern that

A older customers cannot transport heavy goods.

B the grant may be lost.

C shops could lose trade.

D permanent concrete would be premature.

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30. Boateng's "sidewalk behind the stores" remark targets those who favour

A temporary barriers

B a quieter parallel street

C short-term side-street parking

D a delay to count shoppers

31. Why does Boateng cite the students' count?

A to show merchants overrate drivers

B to show most shoppers walk or cycle

C to show Mill Road would draw few

D to show the big-box store is losing

32. Which saying sums up Whitcombe's view of the grant?

A "Better safe than sorry."

B "The squeaky wheel gets the grease."

C "Too many cooks spoil the broth."

D "He who hesitates is lost."

33. Which headline best suits the article?

A "Front Street Lanes: Who Pays?"

B "Front Street Lanes: Can the Province Be Persuaded?"

C "Front Street Lanes: Whose Safety, Whose Sales?"

D "Front Street Lanes: Is Mill Road Ready?"

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.

> My two children ride along Front Street to school, so I read this article with mounting alarm. Both accidents it describes came down to **(34)** _____, and the same could befall any cyclist there today.
>
> I understand Mr. Ferreira's worry, but sending cyclists **(35)** _____ misses the point. Like everyone else, we go downtown to shop. And merchants' fears about parking may be **(36)** _____, judging by last summer's numbers.
>
> I was slow to warm to the consultant, but **(37)** _____ would at least keep the lanes on Front Street.
>
> What council must not do is dither. Put this off a year and the **(38)** _____ will simply go to some other town.
>
> Helen Arsenault, Kelsey Harbour

Choose the best option for each gap.

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34. **A** cyclists going too fast **B** a careless driver's door **C** contractors unloading lumber **D** cars backing out of angled spaces

35. **A** toward the highway **B** to the library **C** one block over **D** onto the sidewalk

36. **A** understated **B** well founded **C** exaggerated **D** outdated

37. **A** a trial run **B** a shift to Mill Road **C** another count of shoppers **D** a larger provincial grant

38. **A** shoppers **B** consultant **C** young cyclists **D** provincial money

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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 Letter to a Conversation Partner

1 B explain why their sessions are ending.

2 A She wants to live near her family.

3 D It showed how much more confident Tuan has become.

4 C His career is connected to Tuan's plans.

5 D apply to the college without further delay.

6 A has a job with regular breaks.

7 B new grandson

8 B almost every time I spoke

9 A later

10 D an engineer

11 C the front desk

Part 2: Eye Exams and Glasses Before School Starts

12 C Thursday evening

13 D Kids' Tough Pack

14 A Progressive Package

15 B $90

16 B two days

17 D brother and sister.

18 C to show their father needs his eyes checked

19 A refuses to consider them.

Part 3: Cave and Basin: Where Canada's National Parks Began

20 B

21 A

22 C

23 E

24 D

25 B

26 D

27 E

28 C

Part 4: Bike Lanes on Front Street in Kelsey Harbour Debate

29 C shops could lose trade.

30 B a quieter parallel street

31 A to show merchants overrate drivers

32 D "He who hesitates is lost."

33 C "Front Street Lanes: Whose Safety, Whose Sales?"

34 B a careless driver's door

35 C one block over

36 C exaggerated

37 A a trial run

38 D provincial money

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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.

What is your level in all four skills? Create a free account at celpass.com for a free diagnostic with a predicted CLB in Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking, and AI scoring of your Speaking and Writing.

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