CELPIP Reading Practice Test 83

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	Inviting a Former Debate Coach to Judge	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Choosing a Photography Course for a Retired Uncle	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	The Badlands and Hoodoos of Drumheller	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Doorbell Camera Registry 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/83, 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

Inviting a Former Debate Coach to Judge

Dear Mr. Fairweather,

You may not remember me, but I was on the Lakeside Collegiate debate team from 2009 to 2012. I was the quiet girl who sat in the back row of your history class and turned bright red whenever I had to speak. Jonah Lee, my debate partner in grade twelve, told me last month that you had retired in June, and I realized I had never properly thanked you for everything you did for me.

It was you who talked me into joining the team. I had written a strong essay on the minimum wage, and you said that anyone who could argue that well on paper could learn to do it out loud. My first tournament was a disaster: I froze halfway through my opening speech, and we lost every round. On the bus home, you told me that the best way to beat an argument is to understand it better than the person making it, and from then on, you made us prepare both sides of every topic. I still use that advice almost daily.

These days I teach social studies at Prairie Ridge Collegiate in Regina, and two years ago I started a debate club. We began with four students meeting at lunch in my classroom; now we have fourteen, and this year our school has been chosen to host the regional tournament for the first time. It will take place on Saturday, March 13, from 8:30 a.m. to about 4:00 p.m.

That is the main reason I am writing. We need experienced judges, and I can't think of anyone better qualified than you. Judges listen to three rounds in the morning and two in the afternoon, and they give each speaker brief written feedback. Everyone who judges must also complete a two-hour online training session in February, which covers the scoring rules; I would send you the link. Since Moose Jaw is about an hour's drive away, the school would cover your gas and provide lunch on the day.

I also have a second, smaller favour to ask. My students have heard so many stories about my old coach that they would love you to say a few words before the awards are handed out. Five minutes would be plenty, and of course you are free to say no to that part even if you agree to judge.

Could you let me know by the end of January? Either way, I hope retirement is treating you well. Jonah mentioned that you have taken up woodworking, so I suspect your garage is full of furniture by now.

Warm regards,

Amira Haddad

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1. What is the main purpose of Amira's letter?

A to thank her former coach for persuading her to become a teacher
B to ask her former coach to help out at a contest held at her school
C to invite her former coach to visit her club's lunchtime meetings
D to tell her former coach that her students won a regional title

2. What do we learn about Amira as a high school student?

A She was uncomfortable speaking in front of others.
B She joined the debate team at Jonah Lee's suggestion.
C She found history the hardest of her school subjects.
D She won a writing award for an essay on wages.

3. After Amira's first tournament, Mr. Fairweather advised her to

A practise her opening speech until she knew it by heart.
B choose topics that she personally felt strongly about.
C write her arguments down before saying them aloud.
D study the opposing side's argument as closely as her own.

4. How did Amira learn that Mr. Fairweather had retired?

A She read about it in a school newsletter.
B One of her own students mentioned it.
C A former teammate passed the news on to her.
D A teacher at Lakeside Collegiate wrote to her.

5. According to Amira, what must every judge do before the tournament?

A complete a short training course online
B give feedback to each speaker in writing
C attend a planning meeting at her school
D listen to several practice debates

6. What does Amira say about the talk before the awards?

A It is a condition of judging at the tournament.
B It was requested by the regional organizers.
C It is optional, even if he agrees to judge.
D It should last no more than two minutes.

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 Amira,
>
> Of course I remember you! You were the student who **(7)** _____ and then went on to become one of the most confident speakers I ever coached. Your letter made my week.

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> I would be delighted to judge on March 13. I should warn you that I haven't scored a debate in years, so the **(8)** _____ in February will be very welcome. Please don't worry about **(9)** _____; I have to be in Regina that week to visit my sister anyway, so the trip won't cost me anything extra.
>
> I am also happy to say a few words before the awards. Tell your students not to expect too much, though: since I retired, I have spent more time **(10)** _____ than thinking about debate.
>
> It is wonderful to hear that your club has grown from **(11)** _____ to fourteen members in only two years. You should be very proud.
>
> All the best,
>
> Desmond Fairweather

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** won every round of her very first tournament **B** always sat at the front of my history class **C** taught her teammates to argue both sides **D** lost her words partway through her first speech

8. **A** awards ceremony for students **B** refresher course on scoring **C** practice round at lunch **D** debate club's first meeting

9. **A** finding me a ride **B** sending me the link **C** paying for my fuel **D** cooking a big lunch

10. **A** building furniture in my garage **B** teaching history to new students **C** travelling to tournaments **D** visiting my sister in Regina

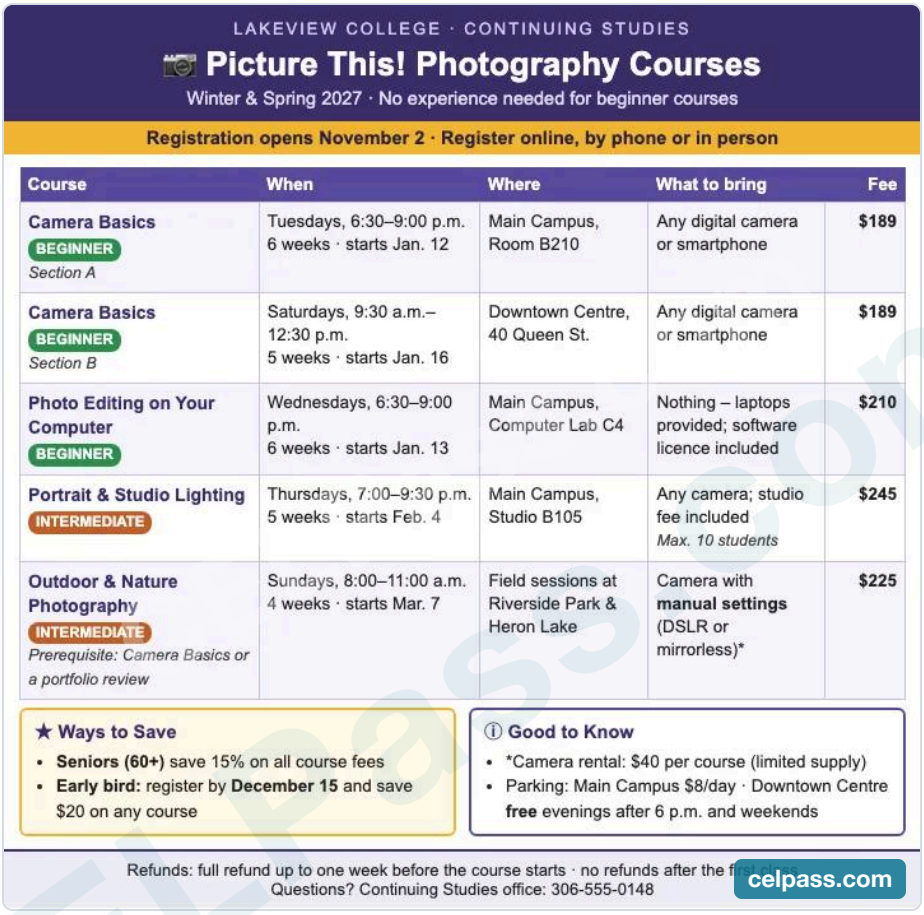
11. **A** two students **B** ten students **C** twelve students **D** four students

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Choosing a Photography Course for a Retired Uncle



LAKEVIEW COLLEGE · CONTINUING STUDIES

Picture This! Photography Courses

Winter & Spring 2027 · No experience needed for beginner courses

Registration opens November 2 · Register online, by phone or in person

Course	When	Where	What to bring	Fee
Camera Basics BEGINNER *Section A*	Tuesdays, 6:30–9:00 p.m. 6 weeks · starts Jan. 12	Main Campus, Room B210	Any digital camera or smartphone	$189
Camera Basics BEGINNER *Section B*	Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. 5 weeks · starts Jan. 16	Downtown Centre, 40 Queen St.	Any digital camera or smartphone	$189
Photo Editing on Your Computer BEGINNER	Wednesdays, 6:30–9:00 p.m. 6 weeks · starts Jan. 13	Main Campus, Computer Lab C4	Nothing – laptops provided; software licence included	$210
Portrait & Studio Lighting INTERMEDIATE	Thursdays, 7:00–9:30 p.m. 5 weeks · starts Feb. 4	Main Campus, Studio B105	Any camera; studio fee included *Max. 10 students*	$245
Outdoor & Nature Photography INTERMEDIATE *Prerequisite: Camera Basics or a portfolio review*	Sundays, 8:00–11:00 a.m. 4 weeks · starts Mar. 7	Field sessions at Riverside Park & Heron Lake	Camera with **manual settings** (DSLR or mirrorless)*	$225

★ Ways to Save

- **Seniors (60+)** save 15% on all course fees
- **Early bird:** register by **December 15** and save $20 on any course

ⓘ Good to Know

- *Camera rental: $40 per course (limited supply)
- Parking: Main Campus $8/day · Downtown Centre **free** evenings after 6 p.m. and weekends

Refunds: full refund up to one week before the course starts · no refunds after the first [illegible]

Questions? Continuing Studies office: 306-555-0148

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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: A course for your new hobby
>
> To: Victor Morales
>
> From: Nadia Kerr
>
> Hi Vic,
>
> Mom says you've been out with your camera every day since your retirement party, so she's convinced her big brother has found a second career! I picked up the Lakeview College photography brochure last week and thought you might like to take a course this winter.
>
> Since you've never had any training, you'll need to begin with Camera Basics, and because you've told me you'd rather not drive after dark anymore, the **(12)** _____ section makes the most sense. It's held at **(13)** _____, where you won't have to pay for parking on weekends. With your

seniors' discount, the fee comes down to about **(14)** _____, and if you register by **(15)** _____, you'll knock another twenty dollars off.

I know you're dreaming of photographing the herons out at the lake. The nature course would be perfect once you've finished the basics, but your little pocket camera doesn't have manual settings, and that course requires them. Don't jump the gun and buy an expensive new camera, though. The college will **(16)** _____, so you can find out whether you really enjoy it first.

Let me know what you think. I'd be happy to help you register online.

Love,

Nadia

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** Tuesday evening **B** Sunday morning **C** Saturday morning **D** Wednesday evening

13. **A** the Main Campus **B** the Downtown Centre **C** Riverside Park **D** the Main Campus computer lab

14. **A** $141 **B** $169 **C** $189 **D** $161

15. **A** December 15 **B** January 16 **C** the first class **D** the end of January

16. **A** lend you a laptop **B** rent you one for $40 **C** refund the difference **D** review your portfolio

17. Nadia and Victor know each other because

A they used to work together.
B they met in a photography class.
C Victor is her mother's brother.
D Victor is Nadia's neighbour.

18. Why does Nadia think the evening course would not suit Victor?

A He avoids driving once it gets dark.
B Parking at the Main Campus is too costly.
C He would rather study with other seniors.
D It is too advanced for a beginner.

19. When Nadia tells Victor not to "jump the gun," she means he should not

A spend more than he can afford.
B rush into a decision too soon.
C choose the wrong kind of camera.
D sign up for too many courses.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

The Badlands and Hoodoos of Drumheller

Paragraph A

Less than two hours' drive northeast of Calgary, the flat wheat fields of southern Alberta suddenly give way to a deep, winding valley. Here, along the Red Deer River near the town of Drumheller, lie some of the most dramatic badlands in Canada. The term "badlands" describes dry land that has been so heavily eroded that very little can grow on it. The valley itself is relatively young. It was carved out at the end of the last ice age, when huge volumes of meltwater from retreating glaciers rushed across the prairie and cut down through the soft ground. In doing so, the water exposed layers of rock that had been laid down tens of millions of years earlier, when the region was a warm, swampy lowland roamed by dinosaurs. The striped hillsides that visitors see today are a record of that distant past, with bands of sandstone, mudstone and dark coal stacked one above another.

Paragraph B

The area's most famous features are its hoodoos: tall, mushroom-shaped columns of rock that can stand several metres high. Each hoodoo is topped by a flat "cap" of harder stone, which acts like an umbrella, shielding the softer sandstone beneath it from the rain. While the unprotected ground around it washes away, the column under the cap is left standing. The process is extremely slow, taking thousands of years. Yet hoodoos do not last forever. Rain, wind and repeated freezing and thawing gradually wear away the base, and once the cap topples off, the remaining pillar can crumble surprisingly quickly. Some of the surrounding slopes also contain bentonite, a clay that swells when it gets wet and cracks as it dries. It gives the surface a lumpy, popcorn-like texture and turns it as slick as soap after a rainstorm.

Paragraph C

Long before tourists arrived, the valley attracted scientists and miners. In 1884, a young geologist named Joseph Burr Tyrrell, who had been sent to survey the region for coal, came across the skull of a meat-eating dinosaur that was later named Albertosaurus. His discovery helped draw fossil hunters from around the world, and the area remains one of the richest sources of dinosaur remains anywhere. Coal, the other resource Tyrrell had noted, shaped the valley in a different way. In the early twentieth century, dozens of mines opened, and small towns grew up around them. When demand for coal fell in the decades after the Second World War, most of the mines closed, and many of those communities shrank or disappeared.

Paragraph D

Today, the badlands are among Alberta's best-known attractions, and Drumheller is home to the Royal Tyrrell Museum, named in honour of the geologist. The hoodoos southeast of town are one of the most visited sites in the valley, and they are now protected by a viewing area with paths, railings

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> and signs. Because climbing on the columns can damage their fragile bases, visitors are asked to admire them from the trails instead. Even with these measures, nature will have the final word: the same erosion that created the hoodoos will one day bring them down. Meanwhile, new ones are slowly taking shape in the surrounding hills, so the landscape is less a finished monument than a work in progress.

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 person behind a major fossil find had come to the area for another purpose. _____

21. The valley is far younger than the rock exposed in its walls. _____

22. Each new hoodoo grows by only a few centimetres per century. _____

23. A hoodoo becomes much more vulnerable after it loses its hard top. _____

24. Steps have been taken to reduce the harm caused by sightseers. _____

25. Travellers arriving by road get little warning of the change in scenery. _____

26. Some settlements in the valley declined once the main local industry faded. _____

27. Tyrrell later became the first director of the museum that bears his name. _____

28. Parts of the ground can be dangerous to walk on in wet weather. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Doorbell Camera Registry Debate

> Millbrook police are asking residents and businesses to disclose something that would have sounded like science fiction a generation ago: the locations of their security cameras. Under a proposal before the police board, owners of doorbell and other exterior cameras could enrol in a voluntary online registry, telling investigators whose door to knock on after a nearby crime. Comparable programs elsewhere have proved similarly divisive.
>
> Inspector Dana Kowalczyk, who heads investigations, insists the initiative is far more modest than critics allege. “Officers would have no live access to anyone’s camera, and nobody’s obliged to surrender footage,” says Kowalczyk. Currently, detectives may spend days canvassing a neighbourhood, by which time many systems have automatically overwritten the relevant recordings. “A registry would tell us whom to ask first, and in a hit-and-run, those hours can distinguish an arrest from a cold file.”
>
> Privacy lawyer Rohan Mistry has no objection to a targeted request after a specific crime. What troubles him is the trajectory of such programs. “Once a list exists, pressure mounts to expand it, from an address today to direct access tomorrow.” The draft, he remarks, is silent on how long footage would be retained and whether images of non-suspects would be deleted. Without written limits subject to independent oversight, he would discourage clients from enrolling.
>
> Gwen Albright, who chairs the Eastgate Neighbourhood Association, finds such apprehensions remote. “My street has endured eleven vehicle break-ins since spring, and we’re exasperated by fruitless reports,” says Albright. Most already supply video when asked; the registry would merely spare police some legwork. Still, she acknowledges that certain neighbours fear retaliation should their footage surface in court, and she wants the list guaranteed confidential.
>
> Councillor Thomas Bellerose, a board member, remains undecided. “Cameras may help solve crime, but do they prevent it?” he asks, worrying that the registry could divert attention from improved street lighting. Nevertheless, he would accept a one-year pilot in two neighbourhoods, followed by a public report on how often footage was requested, how many cases it helped solve and what became of the recordings.

29. Whose plan would address Mistry’s worry about recordings?

A Dana Kowalczyk’s
B Gwen Albright’s
C Thomas Bellerose’s
D the police technology staff’s

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30. Why does Kowalczyk mention days of canvassing?

A to show police lack staff
B to stress reaching footage early
C to justify giving officers live access
D to argue break-ins go unreported

31. Gwen Albright concedes that

A registering could endanger some residents.
B the majority refuse to cooperate.
C people have given up calling police.
D brighter lamps would achieve more.

32. As currently drafted, the proposal

A would compel owners to cooperate.
B allows real-time viewing in emergencies.
C has won approval for a pilot.
D sets no footage retention limit.

33. Which headline sums up the article best?

A “Camera Registry: Police Gain Live Access”
B “Camera Registry: A Modest Step Nobody Should Fear”
C “Cameras or Street Lights? A Board Member Hesitates”
D “Camera Registry: Useful Tool or Start of Something Bigger?”

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 run a bakery on Eastgate Road and, like Ms. Albright, have handed police my footage without a second thought, so I was ready to register. Then Mr. Mistry **(34)** _____: nobody has said what happens to hours of video showing my customers coming and going. Inspector Kowalczyk insists officers will never **(35)** _____, and I believe her, but today’s promises bind no future chief. A trial ending in **(36)** _____, as Councillor Bellerose suggests, seems wise. I part ways with him on one point, though: in my experience, a camera in plain sight **(37)** _____. And unless the list stays **(38)** _____, half my neighbours won’t join.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** gave me pause **B** persuaded me to stop cooperating **C** overstated the thefts **D** convinced me testing it is pointless

35. **A** ask us for footage **B** knock on our front doors **C** delete innocent people’s images **D** watch our cameras live

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36. **A** a vote by residents **B** brighter street lights **C** a full public accounting **D** a bigger police budget

37. **A** solves very few crimes **B** is quickly recorded over **C** makes its owner a target **D** keeps would-be thieves at bay

38. **A** on public view **B** under wraps **C** limited to two districts **D** short and current

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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: Inviting a Former Debate Coach to Judge

1 B to ask her former coach to help out at a contest held at her school

2 A She was uncomfortable speaking in front of others.

3 D study the opposing side's argument as closely as her own.

4 C A former teammate passed the news on to her.

5 A complete a short training course online

6 C It is optional, even if he agrees to judge.

7 D lost her words partway through her first speech

8 B refresher course on scoring

9 C paying for my fuel

10 A building furniture in my garage

11 D four students

Part 2: Choosing a Photography Course for a Retired Uncle

12 C Saturday morning

13 B the Downtown Centre

14 D $161

15 A December 15

16 B rent you one for $40

17 C Victor is her mother's brother.

18 A He avoids driving once it gets dark.

19 B rush into a decision too soon.

Part 3: The Badlands and Hoodoos of Drumheller

20 C

21 A

22 E

23 B

24 D

25 A

26 C

27 E

28 B

Part 4: Doorbell Camera Registry Debate

29 C Thomas Bellerose's

30 B to stress reaching footage early

31 A registering could endanger some residents.

32 D sets no footage retention limit.

33 D "Camera Registry: Useful Tool or Start of Something Bigger?"

34 A gave me pause

35 D watch our cameras live

36 C a full public accounting

37 D keeps would-be thieves at bay

38 B under wraps

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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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