CELPIP Reading Practice Test 86

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	Rebuilding Grandpa's Front Porch	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Transit Pass and Parking for a New Commute	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Whooping Cranes Back From The Brink	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Later High School Start Time 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/86, 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

Rebuilding Grandpa's Front Porch

> Dear Aunt Lorraine,
>
> I hope you're enjoying the cooler weather. I've been meaning to write since the summer, but the house has taken over my life. When I bought Grandma and Grandpa's place last spring, I planned to start by replacing the drafty old windows. Then the home inspector crawled under the front porch and came out shaking his head. Several of the support beams had rotted, and he warned me that the whole thing could give way under a heavy load of snow. The windows will have to wait until next year; the porch simply couldn't.
>
> The contractor I hired, Dale, has been wonderful, though he did give me a surprise when he pulled up the old floorboards. Tucked between two beams was a rusty tin box full of letters and black-and-white photographs. Some of them show you and Uncle Ray as kids, sitting on those very steps with a dog I don't recognize. I've put everything in a dry folder for now. The paper is so brittle that I don't dare mail it, so I'll bring the whole box when I come to your place for Thanksgiving.
>
> That brings me to a favour. Dale suggested composite boards for the new porch, since they never need painting and would cost less over the years. I know he's right, but I can't bring myself to do it. Grandpa built that porch with his own hands, and I want it to look the way it did when he finished it, right down to the railings. The trouble is that I can't remember their pattern. Were the spindles plain, or did they have the diamond cut-outs I keep picturing? If you have a photo that shows the front of the house clearly, could you send me a copy? Dale's crew will start on the railings in the third week of October, and after that they're booked solid until spring.
>
> As you can imagine, the rot pushed me well past my budget, by about $3,000. Kevin kindly offered to lend me the money, but I'd rather not owe my little brother anything, so I've told Dale I'll do all the painting and staining myself. My evenings are going to be busy! Once it's finished, though, I hope you'll come and sit on the porch with me, just like old times.
>
> Love,
>
> Meghan

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

A to ask her aunt to lend her some money
B to share news and ask for a family photo
C to invite her aunt for Thanksgiving dinner
D to complain about her contractor's work

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2. Meghan repaired the porch before the windows because

A it might collapse under winter snow.
B the windows cost more to replace.
C her contractor had time for only one job.
D her aunt wanted it restored first.

3. It can be inferred that Aunt Lorraine

A hid the tin box under the porch.
B owned the dog in the photographs.
C helped her father build the original porch.
D spent part of her childhood at the house.

4. Why does Meghan turn down Dale's suggestion of composite boards?

A They would be more expensive over time.
B They would need to be painted regularly.
C She wants it to look like her grandfather's work.
D Dale has little experience installing them.

5. Meghan needs the photo soon because

A she plans to frame it for the new porch.
B the railings will be built in a few weeks.
C Dale needs it to work out the final cost of the job.
D she wants to show it to her brother.

6. How is Meghan dealing with the extra $3,000?

A by doing some of the work herself
B by accepting a loan from her brother
C by choosing less costly materials
D by asking Dale to lower his price

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 Meghan,
>
> What a lovely surprise to get your letter! I had no idea the porch was in such poor shape. It's lucky your inspector **(7)** _____ before winter, or someone could have been hurt.
>
> I went through my albums last night and found exactly what you need: a picture of Dad on the front steps the summer he finished building. You can see every one of the **(8)** _____, and yes, they had the diamond cut-outs you remember. I'll post a copy tomorrow so it reaches you well **(9)** _____.

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> As for the letters in that tin box, I'm so glad you **(10)** _____; some of them must be seventy years old! And good for you for **(11)** _____. Kevin means well, but you've always liked to stand on your own two feet.
>
> Of course I'll come and sit on that porch with you. Just save me the chair by the door!
>
> Love,
>
> Aunt Lorraine

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** replaced the old beams **B** looked at the windows **C** checked underneath it **D** recommended your contractor

8. **A** floorboards **B** support beams **C** window frames **D** spindles

9. **A** before Dale's crew starts the railings **B** ahead of the Thanksgiving weekend **C** before the new windows are installed **D** in time for the work next spring

10. **A** have already shown them to Dale **B** aren't trusting them to the post **C** put them back under the porch **D** are planning to have them framed

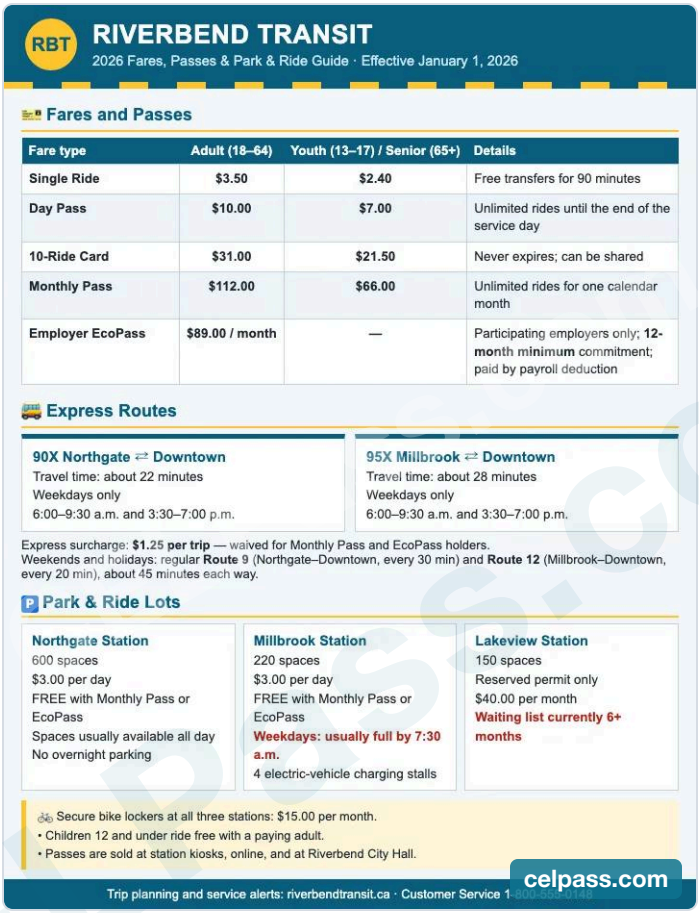
11. **A** choosing the composite boards **B** hiring a second contractor **C** refusing your brother's offer **D** putting off the porch repairs

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Transit Pass and Parking for a New Commute



RBT

RIVERBEND TRANSIT

2026 Fares, Passes & Park & Ride Guide · Effective January 1, 2026

Fares and Passes

Fare type	Adult (18–64)	Youth (13–17) / Senior (65+)	Details
Single Ride	$3.50	$2.40	Free transfers for 90 minutes
Day Pass	$10.00	$7.00	Unlimited rides until the end of the service day
10-Ride Card	$31.00	$21.50	Never expires; can be shared
Monthly Pass	$112.00	$66.00	Unlimited rides for one calendar month
Employer EcoPass	$89.00 / month	—	Participating employers only; 12-month minimum commitment; paid by payroll deduction

Express Routes

90X Northgate ⇄ Downtown
Travel time: about 22 minutes
Weekdays only
6:00–9:30 a.m. and 3:30–7:00 p.m.

95X Millbrook ⇄ Downtown
Travel time: about 28 minutes
Weekdays only
6:00–9:30 a.m. and 3:30–7:00 p.m.

Express surcharge: **$1.25 per trip** — waived for Monthly Pass and EcoPass holders.
Weekends and holidays: regular **Route 9** (Northgate–Downtown, every 30 min) and **Route 12** (Millbrook–Downtown, every 20 min), about 45 minutes each way.

Park & Ride Lots

Northgate Station
600 spaces
$3.00 per day
FREE with Monthly Pass or EcoPass
Spaces usually available all day
No overnight parking

Millbrook Station
220 spaces
$3.00 per day
FREE with Monthly Pass or EcoPass
Weekdays: usually full by 7:30 a.m.
4 electric-vehicle charging stalls

Lakeview Station
150 spaces
Reserved permit only
$40.00 per month
Waiting list currently 6+ months

- Secure bike lockers at all three stations: $15.00 per month.
- Children 12 and under ride free with a paying adult.
- Passes are sold at station kiosks, online, and at Riverbend City Hall.

Trip planning and service alerts: riverbendtransit.ca · Customer Service 1-800-555-0148

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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: Getting downtown from the new place
>
> To: Elena Vasquez
>
> From: Marcus Byrne
>
> Hi Elena,
>
> Your sister tells me you've finally signed the lease in Millbrook, so congratulations! Your sister and I did that commute for years before the kids were born, so I picked up the new transit guide for you.
>
> I know the hospital takes part in the EcoPass program, but with only a six-month contract you won't qualify, so the **(12)** _____ is your best bet. It also means you won't have to pay an extra **(13)** _____ on the express bus.

> You might think the Millbrook lot is the obvious choice since it's two minutes from your apartment, but your shift starts at 9:00, and by the time you get there **(14)** _____. I'd drive the extra ten minutes to **(15)** _____ instead. You'll have plenty of spaces to choose from, and the longer drive is a small price to pay for not circling a full lot every morning.
>
> One more thing: the express buses don't run on the Saturdays you work, so you'll need to **(16)** _____. It takes longer, so leave yourself some extra time.
>
> Come for dinner once you've unpacked. The kids keep asking when their aunt is visiting!
>
> Marcus

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** Employer EcoPass **B** 10-Ride Card **C** Day Pass **D** Monthly Pass

13. **A** $1.25 per trip **B** $3.00 per day **C** $40.00 per month **D** $2.40 per ride

14. **A** the express will have stopped **B** the lot will probably be full **C** the parking fee will be higher **D** the bike lockers will be taken

15. **A** Lakeview Station **B** Millbrook Station **C** Northgate Station **D** the downtown terminal

16. **A** pay the express surcharge **B** catch the 95X before 9:30 **C** buy a separate Day Pass **D** take the regular Route 12

17. Marcus and Elena know each other because

A they work at the same hospital.
B they used to be neighbours in Millbrook.
C Marcus is married to Elena's sister.
D Marcus helped her find the apartment.

18. Why can't Elena use the Employer EcoPass?

A Her contract is shorter than the required commitment.
B The hospital does not take part in the program.
C It does not include free parking at the Park & Ride lots.
D It is more expensive than buying a Monthly Pass.

19. When Marcus says the longer drive is "a small price to pay," he means that

A parking at Northgate costs a little more.
B the inconvenience is worth the benefit.
C Elena will need to pay for extra gas.
D the drive is shorter than it seems.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Whooping Cranes Back From The Brink

Paragraph A

Standing about one and a half metres tall, the whooping crane is the tallest bird in North America. Adults are bright white, with black wingtips that can be seen only when the wings are spread and a patch of red skin on the crown. The species takes its name from its loud, trumpeting call, which can be heard from a great distance across open marshland. The cranes were once found across much of the continent's interior, but as settlers drained wetlands to create farmland and hunters shot the birds for food and feathers, their numbers collapsed. By the early 1940s, fewer than two dozen whooping cranes survived in the wild, and many experts expected the species to disappear.

Paragraph B

One of the greatest obstacles to saving the birds was that no one knew where they raised their young. Each autumn the remaining flock arrived on the Gulf Coast of Texas, but its summer home remained a mystery for years. The answer came unexpectedly in 1954, when people working on a forest fire in a remote part of Wood Buffalo National Park spotted cranes from the air. The park, which straddles the border between Alberta and the Northwest Territories, is still the only natural nesting ground of the original wild flock. Every spring, the birds fly roughly 4,000 kilometres north to its isolated wetlands, returning to Texas in the fall.

Paragraph C

Recovery has depended on close cooperation between Canada and the United States. Both countries gave the cranes legal protection and worked to safeguard important habitat. Biologists also made use of a simple observation: although a pair usually lays two eggs, it rarely raises more than one chick. Beginning in the late 1960s, researchers removed one egg from some nests in Wood Buffalo and hatched the chicks in captivity, building up breeding flocks without reducing the number of young produced in the wild. Captive-bred birds were later released in an effort to establish new flocks elsewhere. In one well-known project, young cranes learned a migration route by following a small, slow-flying aircraft.

Paragraph D

Today, the wild flock that travels between Wood Buffalo and Texas numbers more than 500 birds, making the whooping crane one of North America's best-known conservation success stories. Experts warn, however, that the job is not finished. Whooping cranes do not breed until they are several years old and raise few young, so the population can only grow slowly. Collisions with power lines kill birds during migration, and because almost all of the only self-sustaining wild flock depends on the same two areas, a single disaster, such as a major storm or an oil spill on the Texas coast,

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> could undo decades of progress. For now, the species remains listed as endangered in both countries.

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. Turning wetlands into fields was one cause of the bird's decline. _____

21. The cranes' breeding area was found by people who were not searching for it. _____

22. Canada protected the cranes by law before the United States did. _____

23. Taking eggs for captive breeding did not lower the number of chicks raised in the wild. _____

24. One bad event in a particular place could badly hurt the wild population. _____

25. Visitors to Wood Buffalo National Park can watch nesting cranes from viewing areas. _____

26. The birds make a long journey between their summer and winter homes twice a year. _____

27. Some young birds were taught where to fly with human assistance. _____

28. Some of the crane's markings are hidden while the bird is standing still. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Later High School Start Time Debate

> Parents in the Prairie Ridge School Division have until month's end to comment on a proposal that would push the first bell at its six high schools from 8:15 to 9:10 a.m. next September. Later starts are hardly novel, and results elsewhere have been inconclusive. Fresh urgency comes from a division survey in which roughly two-thirds of high school students endorsed a later bell.
>
> Dr. Anika Sorensen, a paediatrician specializing in adolescent sleep, grounds the case in biology, not preference. During puberty the body's internal clock shifts, leaving most teenagers physiologically incapable of falling asleep before eleven. "Demanding alertness at 8:15 is comparable to expecting an adult to write a mathematics exam at four in the morning," she maintains. Sorensen is careful not to oversell, though. "If the phone stays under the pillow until one, we've simply moved the problem."
>
> Board chair Gordon Feist does not contest the research, but bus logistics preoccupy him. The same buses currently complete the high school routes first and the elementary runs afterward. Delaying secondary classes would require either adding about twelve vehicles, at an estimated $1.4 million annually, or reversing the sequence, which would leave young children waiting beside country roads in January darkness. "I refuse to resolve one group's difficulty by bequeathing a worse one to another," says Feist.
>
> Marisol Quintero's objections are domestic. Her son, a Grade 11 student, works three afternoons weekly at a grocery store, plays junior hockey and, saving for college, cannot reduce his hours. He also supervises his eight-year-old sister until Quintero returns from her shift. "He's hardly cheerful at breakfast," she concedes. "But our schedule's a puzzle, and this proposal would remove the load-bearing piece."
>
> Devin Achterberg, student council president at Prairie Ridge Collegiate, favours a later start in principle but distrusts a division-wide switch. "Plenty of my classmates would merely stay up later," he concedes. The council has instead proposed a one-year pilot in which one school begins at 9:10 every Wednesday, with sleep and attendance monitored throughout. Encouraging data would give trustees evidence persuasive to parents; disappointing results would cost little.

29. Whose objection, like Feist's, involves a younger child?

A Anika Sorensen's
B Devin Achterberg's
C the surveyed students'
D Marisol Quintero's

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30. Sorensen's phone remark suggests that

A puberty shifts the body's internal clock.

B a one-school pilot should come first.

C a later bell isn't enough alone.

D most teenagers can't sleep before eleven.

31. How does the council's approach differ from the board's?

A It starts at one school.

B It rests on a student survey.

C It begins classes at 9:10 a.m.

D It adds buses to elementary runs.

32. What can be inferred from the article?

A Most students would sleep longer.

B Unchanged elementary runs would require more buses.

C Quintero's son would have to quit.

D The board rejects the sleep research.

33. Which headline best fits the article?

A "Later Bell: Science Divided, Families Delighted"

B "Prairie Ridge Parents Back a Later Bell"

C "Later School Starts Have Failed, Research Shows"

D "Later Bell: Biology Agrees, Buses Don't"

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.

> Having taught first-period chemistry for fifteen years, I can vouch for Dr. Sorensen's main argument: at 8:15, half my students are **(34)** _____. Still, Mr. Feist persuaded me more than I expected. No plan is worth adopting if it **(35)** _____, and $1.4 million would otherwise reach classrooms.
>
> I sympathize with Ms. Quintero too, though I suspect her real worry is **(36)** _____, not hockey. The student council's idea strikes me as wisest: a **(37)** _____ would cost little and replace opinion with hard evidence. I also admire the students for admitting **(38)** _____. If the pilot succeeds, I will happily back the full change next year.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** still on night time **B** glued to their phones **C** short of study time **D** worn out by part-time jobs

35. **A** costs teenagers their part-time jobs **B** burdens the youngest instead **C** shortens the teenage school day **D** ignores what students voted for

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36. **A** paying for hockey **B** the price of new buses **C** who will watch her young daughter **D** her own shift schedule

37. **A** survey of every parent **B** Wednesday-only trial **C** division-wide switch **D** second bus fleet

38. **A** the limits of the division's survey **B** the cost to the board **C** their families' objections **D** the weak spot in their own case

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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: Rebuilding Grandpa's Front Porch

1 B to share news and ask for a family photo

2 A it might collapse under winter snow.

3 D spent part of her childhood at the house.

4 C She wants it to look like her grandfather's work.

5 B the railings will be built in a few weeks.

6 A by doing some of the work herself

7 C checked underneath it

8 D spindles

9 A before Dale's crew starts the railings

10 B aren't trusting them to the post

11 C refusing your brother's offer

Part 2: Transit Pass and Parking for a New Commute

12 D Monthly Pass

13 A $1.25 per trip

14 B the lot will probably be full

15 C Northgate Station

16 D take the regular Route 12

17 C Marcus is married to Elena's sister.

18 A Her contract is shorter than the required commitment.

19 B the inconvenience is worth the benefit.

Part 3: Whooping Cranes Back From The Brink

20 A

21 B

22 E

23 C

24 D

25 E

26 B

27 C

28 A

Part 4: Later High School Start Time Debate

29 D Marisol Quintero's

30 C a later bell isn't enough alone.

31 A It starts at one school.

32 B Unchanged elementary runs would require more buses.

33 D "Later Bell: Biology Agrees, Buses Don't"

34 A still on night time

35 B burdens the youngest instead

36 C who will watch her young daughter

37 B Wednesday-only trial

38 D the weak spot in their own case

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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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