CELPIP Reading Practice Test 87

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	Proposing a Job Share in Payroll	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Renting Gear for a Labour Day Canoe Trip	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Till and McCulloch: The Discovery of Stem Cells	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Stormwater Fee On Paved Surfaces 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/87, 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

Proposing a Job Share in Payroll

Dear Ms. Okafor,

I am writing to ask whether Harbourline would consider letting me share my position as payroll coordinator with a colleague, starting in January. I have already discussed the idea with my supervisor, Martin Lachance. He thinks it could work, but he explained that a change of this kind has to be approved by Human Resources.

Some background may help. This fall I was accepted into a part-time accounting diploma at Eastview College. Classes are held on Thursday and Friday mornings, and the program runs for two years. My first thought was to ask for unpaid leave, but after six years here I am not ready to walk away from a job I enjoy, especially with the new timekeeping system being introduced next spring.

That is where Kenji Mori comes in. As you know, Kenji works two days a week in accounts receivable, and he has told me he would happily move to payroll for three days a week, although he does not want a full-time schedule. Before joining us, he spent four years handling payroll for a hospital in Saint John, and he looked after my desk during both of my vacations last year without a single error.

Under my plan, I would work Monday to Wednesday and Kenji would work Wednesday to Friday. Our staff are paid every second Friday, and the payroll file must reach the bank by noon the day before, so Kenji would handle those deadlines, while I would take care of the month-end reports, which are always due early in the week. We would both be in the office on Wednesdays so that nothing slips through the cracks when one of us hands over to the other.

My one concern is benefits. I understand that employees who work fewer than 30 hours a week are not automatically covered by our health and dental plan. Since my husband is self-employed, our family relies on my coverage, so I would like to know whether I could pay part of the premium myself in order to stay on the plan.

I would suggest trying the arrangement for six months. If it does not meet the company’s needs, I would return to full-time hours in July and find another way to complete my studies. I have attached a sample weekly schedule, and I would be glad to meet with you any afternoon next week.

Sincerely,

Danielle Fortin

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

A to request unpaid leave so that she can study
B to object to a decision made by her supervisor
C to propose dividing her job with a co-worker
D to recommend a colleague for a promotion

2. Why does Danielle want to change her work schedule?

A She has enrolled in a program of study.
B She wants to help with her husband's business.
C She needs to care for a family member.
D She finds her current workload too heavy.

3. It can be inferred that Danielle decided against unpaid leave partly because

A her supervisor refused to approve it.
B her classes are only held in the evenings.
C she has only recently joined the company.
D she wants to be involved in an upcoming project.

4. What can be inferred about Kenji?

A He would prefer to work full-time.
B He is already familiar with Danielle's work.
C He has been with the company longer than Danielle.
D He has worked with Danielle at a hospital.

5. Why would Danielle and Kenji both work on Wednesdays?

A to send the payroll file to the bank together
B to learn the new timekeeping system
C to meet with their supervisor every week
D to make sure no tasks are overlooked

6. Danielle's supervisor

A is open to the idea but cannot approve it himself.
B has already agreed to the proposed weekly schedule.
C was the one who first suggested Kenji as a partner.
D doubts that the company can afford the change.

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 Danielle,
>
> Thank you for such a well-organized proposal, and congratulations on **(7)** _____. I know how hard it can be to balance a job with coursework.

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> Job sharing would be new for Harbourline, but your plan is more convincing because Kenji already knows our own system, having **(8)** _____. I also see the logic in asking him to look after **(9)** _____, since those deadlines fall late in the week.
>
> You were right to raise the question of benefits. At the hours you have proposed, you would **(10)** _____, but I believe we can arrange for you to contribute toward the premium so that your family stays covered.
>
> Finally, I like the idea of **(11)** _____. If the arrangement doesn't work out, we can go back to the current setup in July with no hard feelings on either side.
>
> Could you and Kenji come to my office next Tuesday at 2:00?
>
> Best regards,
>
> Gail Okafor

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** reaching six years with the company **B** your place in the accounting program **C** your recent move to payroll coordinator **D** completing your diploma at Eastview

8. **A** handled payroll at a hospital **B** worked in accounts receivable **C** covered for you last year **D** helped design the new system

9. **A** sending pay data to the bank **B** the month-end reports **C** the Wednesday handovers **D** the new timekeeping software

10. **A** need to work at least two more hours **B** lose the vacation time you have earned **C** have to pay for your own courses **D** no longer be covered automatically

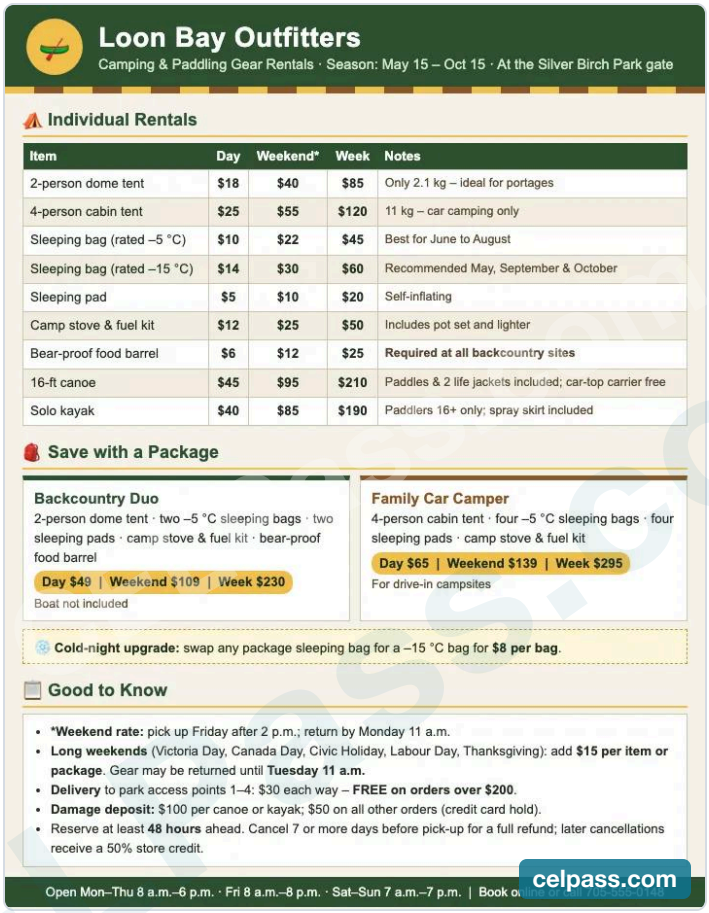
11. **A** hiring a third person for payroll **B** testing the plan before committing **C** moving your classes to the evening **D** sharing every Wednesday in the office

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Renting Gear for a Labour Day Canoe Trip



Loon Bay Outfitters
Camping & Paddling Gear Rentals · Season: May 15 – Oct 15 · At the Silver Birch Park gate

Individual Rentals

Item	Day	Weekend*	Week	Notes
2-person dome tent	$18	$40	$85	Only 2.1 kg – ideal for portages
4-person cabin tent	$25	$55	$120	11 kg – car camping only
Sleeping bag (rated –5 °C)	$10	$22	$45	Best for June to August
Sleeping bag (rated –15 °C)	$14	$30	$60	Recommended May, September & October
Sleeping pad	$5	$10	$20	Self-inflating
Camp stove & fuel kit	$12	$25	$50	Includes pot set and lighter
Bear-proof food barrel	$6	$12	$25	**Required at all backcountry sites**
16-ft canoe	$45	$95	$210	Paddles & 2 life jackets included; car-top carrier free
Solo kayak	$40	$85	$190	Paddlers 16+ only; spray skirt included

Save with a Package

Backcountry Duo
2-person dome tent · two –5 °C sleeping bags · two sleeping pads · camp stove & fuel kit · bear-proof food barrel
Day $49 | Weekend $109 | Week $230
Boat not included

Family Car Camper
4-person cabin tent · four –5 °C sleeping bags · four sleeping pads · camp stove & fuel kit
Day $65 | Weekend $139 | Week $295
For drive-in campsites

Cold-night upgrade: swap any package sleeping bag for a –15 °C bag for **$8 per bag**.

Good to Know

- ***Weekend rate:** pick up Friday after 2 p.m.; return by Monday 11 a.m.
- **Long weekends** (Victoria Day, Canada Day, Civic Holiday, Labour Day, Thanksgiving): add **$15 per item or package**. Gear may be returned until **Tuesday 11 a.m.**
- **Delivery** to park access points 1–4: $30 each way – **FREE on orders over $200**.
- **Damage deposit:** $100 per canoe or kayak; $50 on all other orders (credit card hold).
- Reserve at least **48 hours** ahead. Cancel 7 or more days before pick-up for a full refund; later cancellations receive a 50% store credit.

Open Mon–Thu 8 a.m.–6 p.m. · Fri 8 a.m.–8 p.m. · Sat–Sun 7 a.m.–7 p.m. | Book o

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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: Gear for our Labour Day canoe trip
>
> To: Hana Sato
>
> From: Rachel Dubois
>
> Hi Hana,
>
> I picked up the rental sheet from Loon Bay Outfitters today. Since you sold all your camping gear when you moved to Toronto, we'll need to rent almost everything.
>
> We have two portages to reach our site, so a heavy tent is out of the question. I think the **(12)** _____ makes the most sense, because it includes the light tent and the food container we're required to have in the backcountry. The only change I'd make is to switch to **(13)** _____.

The sheet recommends them for this time of year, and the swap adds only $16 for the two of us. That's a drop in the bucket compared to a sleepless night.

Because it's a holiday weekend, everything will cost **(14)** _____, but on the bright side we can keep it all until **(15)** _____ instead of the usual deadline.

We'll need a canoe too. With the canoe added, our order comes to more than $200, so **(16)** _____. No strapping a canoe to my tiny car, not after what happened on our first-year residence camping trip!

If this works for you, I'll book it this week. I'd rather not leave it to the last minute, since the long weekend always gets busy.

Rachel

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** Family Car Camper **B** 2-person dome tent **C** Backcountry Duo **D** solo kayak

13. **A** the warmer sleeping bags **B** the summer-rated sleeping bags **C** self-inflating sleeping pads **D** the larger cabin tent

14. **A** $30 more each way **B** $8 more for each bag **C** twice the weekday rate **D** $15 more per item or package

15. **A** Monday at 11 a.m. **B** Tuesday at 11 a.m. **C** Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. **D** Tuesday at 8 a.m.

16. **A** the damage deposit will be waived **B** the car-top carrier will cost nothing **C** we'll save $15 on the canoe rental **D** the shop will deliver it all for free

17. Rachel and Hana know each other because

A they work for the same company.
B they lived in residence as students.
C they met through a paddling club.
D Hana once rented gear from Rachel.

18. Why does Rachel want to book the gear this week?

A Gear must be reserved a week ahead.
B Prices rise closer to the holiday.
C She expects the shop to be busy then.
D She wants to qualify for a full refund.

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19. When Rachel says the extra cost is “a drop in the bucket,” she means that it is

A small compared to the benefit.

B included in the package price.

C more than she planned to spend.

D a waste of money for a short trip.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Till and McCulloch: The Discovery of Stem Cells

Paragraph A

In the early 1960s, two researchers at the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto made a discovery that would reshape modern medicine. James Till, a biophysicist who had grown up in Saskatchewan, and Ernest McCulloch, a physician who specialized in blood diseases, made an unlikely pair. Till brought a physicist's habit of precise measurement and careful statistics, while McCulloch contributed a doctor's understanding of how the human body works and what can go wrong with it. Their partnership is often held up as an example of what can be achieved when scientists from different fields work side by side rather than in separate departments.

Paragraph B

Their research grew out of a pressing question of the time: how does radiation damage living things? After the atomic bombs of 1945, and amid widespread fears of nuclear war, scientists were eager to understand why large doses of radiation were so deadly. One known cause was damage to bone marrow, the soft tissue inside bones where blood cells are made, yet little was known about which cells in the marrow actually produced new blood. To study this, Till and McCulloch exposed laboratory mice to radiation and then injected them with marrow cells taken from healthy mice. Their aim was to measure how sensitive these cells were to radiation and how well they could restore the animals' blood supply.

Paragraph C

The breakthrough came from a detail that could easily have been dismissed. About ten days after the injections, small lumps appeared on the spleens of the treated mice. Instead of treating them as a curiosity, the researchers counted them and found that the number of lumps rose in step with the number of marrow cells injected. For the first time, scientists had a way to count these elusive cells directly. Further experiments showed that each lump had grown from a single cell, and that the lumps contained several different types of blood cells. Some of the cells inside them could even produce new lumps of their own. In other words, one cell could both copy itself and give rise to many kinds of specialized cells, the defining feature of what is now called a stem cell.

Paragraph D

The impact of the discovery is still felt today. By showing that blood-forming stem cells exist and can be measured, Till and McCulloch helped explain why bone marrow transplants work, and such transplants are now widely used to treat leukemia and other blood cancers. Their work also opened an entire field of research into how stem cells might one day be used to repair damaged tissue, and stem cells from marrow, blood and other sources are now studied in laboratories around the world. Some recognition came early, including a Gairdner award in 1969, but the highest honours arrived

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> only decades later: both men were named to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, and in 2005 they shared the Lasker Award, one of the most prestigious prizes in medical research.

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. Fears about weapons helped create interest in the scientists' research topic. _____

21. The researchers were the first to perform a bone marrow transplant on a human patient. _____

22. The two scientists approached their work with very different kinds of training. _____

23. The amount of material the animals received affected what the researchers observed. _____

24. The animals in the study were given cells that came from other animals. _____

25. Some scientists at first doubted that the lumps had any real importance. _____

26. Major honours came many years after the discovery was made. _____

27. The researchers took a closer look at something that seemed unimportant. _____

28. A treatment for certain cancers relies on knowledge the pair helped establish. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Stormwater Fee On Paved Surfaces Debate

> Fairhaven residents have long financed the city's storm sewers unknowingly, the cost buried in their property taxes. Council is weighing a plan to replace that with a separate fee calculated on how much of each property is sealed under roofs, driveways and parking lots, impermeable surfaces that send rain cascading into the pipes. After two summers of flash floods that forced sewage into hundreds of basements, the question is hardly academic.
>
> City engineer Lorraine Vachon regards the existing arrangement as misdirected. "Property tax tracks what a building's worth, not how much water it discharges. A bungalow on a leafy lot can contribute more than a discount warehouse encircled by four acres of asphalt." Rain gardens, permeable paving or underground cisterns could reduce an owner's fee by up to 40 percent. The intention is to reward those who keep water where it falls.
>
> Gary Pelletier, who owns an east-side shopping plaza, acknowledges the runoff problem but bristles at the remedy. His estimated $18,000 annual charge is roughly triple his current contribution, although the lot was built to municipal standards thirty years ago. He might install permeable paving, but only if the municipality shares the expense of tearing up serviceable pavement. "Otherwise, the burden will fall on my tenants, mostly small family businesses," he warns.
>
> The fee would also reach organizations that have never received a municipal bill. Grace Community Church, a registered charity exempt from property tax, would owe roughly $3,200 a year. Board chair Margaret Osei raises no quarrel with the principle: "Rain doesn't care whether it runs off a church or a casino." She asks only for a five-year phase-in, allowing the congregation to budget or seek grants.
>
> Councillor Raj Bhatt of the finance committee concedes that property tax is a clumsy instrument for funding drainage, yet he remains wary. "A fee is a tax by another name, one that can be raised quietly without the scrutiny a tax increase attracts." His support hinges on the revenue being legally reserved for stormwater projects and property taxes falling by the full amount collected. "Otherwise, residents would pay twice for identical pipes."

29. Osei would most likely agree with Vachon that

A the fee should be phased in slowly.
B charities should be exempt.
C each property should pay for runoff.
D revenue should fund drainage.

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30. Pelletier's objection would soften if the city

A phased in the fee.

B helped pay to replace his pavement.

C cut property taxes.

D raised the 40 percent discount.

31. Bhatt's "tax by another name" suggests that

A it could rise with little scrutiny.

B property tax is a clumsy instrument.

C residents would pay twice.

D it would fall hardest on registered charities.

32. Which conclusion does the article best support?

A Most homeowners would pay more.

B Parking lots mainly caused the floods.

C Pelletier's tenants would move out.

D Paved properties would pay a larger share.

33. The most suitable headline is

A "Fairhaven's New Fee Spares Paved Properties"

B "Who Pays When the Rain Runs Off?"

C "Can a Fee End Fairhaven's Basement Floods?"

D "Fairhaven Trades Its Storm Sewers for Rain Gardens"

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.

> Sewage flooded my basement both summers, so I welcome a council that finally asks who **(34)** _____. Under today's system my bungalow, with its enormous backyard, pays more than **(35)** _____, which has never made sense to me. I would gladly dig a rain garden for a smaller bill.
>
> I can sympathize with **(36)** _____, because an organization that has never paid the city a cent needs time to plan. I am far less moved by the plaza owner's threat to **(37)** _____; thirty-year-old asphalt is no excuse for overloading the sewers. As for the councillor's fear of a cash grab, the cure is simple: **(38)** _____.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** fills the sewers most **B** has the oldest sewer **C** owns the most valuable buildings **D** lives nearest the flooding

35. **A** a plaza of small family shops **B** a downtown condominium tower **C** the tallest office tower **D** a store ringed by parking

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36. **A** the owner of the shopping plaza **B** the city engineer **C** the church board chair **D** the finance councillor

37. **A** rip up his pavement at his own cost **B** pass the charge down **C** ask for a phase-in **D** install cisterns

38. **A** phase the charge in slowly **B** exempt small homes **C** tie council down **D** return to property-tax funding

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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: Proposing a Job Share in Payroll

1 C to propose dividing her job with a co-worker

2 A She has enrolled in a program of study.

3 D she wants to be involved in an upcoming project.

4 B He is already familiar with Danielle's work.

5 D to make sure no tasks are overlooked

6 A is open to the idea but cannot approve it himself.

7 B your place in the accounting program

8 C covered for you last year

9 A sending pay data to the bank

10 D no longer be covered automatically

11 B testing the plan before committing

Part 2: Renting Gear for a Labour Day Canoe Trip

12 C Backcountry Duo

13 A the warmer sleeping bags

14 D $15 more per item or package

15 B Tuesday at 11 a.m.

16 D the shop will deliver it all for free

17 B they lived in residence as students.

18 C She expects the shop to be busy then.

19 A small compared to the benefit.

Part 3: Till and McCulloch: The Discovery of Stem Cells

20 B

21 E

22 A

23 C

24 B

25 E

26 D

27 C

28 D

Part 4: Stormwater Fee On Paved Surfaces Debate

29 C each property should pay for runoff.

30 B helped pay to replace his pavement.

31 A it could rise with little scrutiny.

32 D Paved properties would pay a larger share.

33 B "Who Pays When the Rain Runs Off?"

34 A fills the sewers most

35 D a store ringed by parking

36 C the church board chair

37 B pass the charge down

38 C tie council down

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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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