CELPIP Reading Practice Test 88

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	Advice on Buying a Pottery Wheel	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Fall Tutoring for a Niece and Nephew	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	Inuksuit: Stone Messengers of the Arctic	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Shrinkflation Shelf Notices 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/88, 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

Advice on Buying a Pottery Wheel

> Dear Teresa,
>
> I hope the fall craft fair went well. Mom told me your mugs were gone by noon on the first day, which doesn't surprise me one bit.
>
> I'm writing because I need your honest advice. As you know, I've been taking the Tuesday evening pottery class at the community centre since January. What started as a way to meet people after the move has turned into something I think about all week. The problem is that the class gives us only two hours, and I spend half of that waiting for the one wheel that doesn't wobble. Last month, my instructor mentioned that a retiring member is selling her whole setup: a wheel, a small electric kiln, and about forty kilograms of clay, all for $2,200. A brand-new wheel alone costs nearly that much, so it sounds like a bargain.
>
> Still, I have my doubts. First, there's the question of space. The only spot I can think of is the corner of the basement beside the laundry room, but it has no window, and I'm not sure the wiring could handle a kiln. Gary says the kiln would need its own circuit, and an electrician would charge at least a few hundred dollars to install one. Second, I'm worried I'll lose interest. You remember the sewing machine I bought three years ago? It's still in its box in the hall closet. Gary hasn't said a word about it, but he raised an eyebrow when I mentioned the price of this setup.
>
> There is another option. The studio on Maple Street rents shelf space and wheel time to members for $95 a month, and they fire your pieces in their own kiln. That would add up to more than $1,100 a year, but I wouldn't be tied to anything. On the other hand, the studio is a forty-minute drive away, and I know myself well enough to admit that I won't make that trip on a snowy evening.
>
> The seller has given me until the end of the month, and she says another student has asked about it too. Would you have time to come over one weekend and look at the basement with me? You'd know right away whether it would work. I'll bake that lemon cake you like, and if you think I'm being foolish, I promise I'll listen.
>
> Warmly,
>
> Danielle

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

A to invite a friend to join her pottery class
B to get a friend's view before a big purchase
C to ask a friend to lend her money for equipment
D to congratulate a friend on her success at a fair

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2. It can be inferred that Teresa

A teaches the Tuesday class Danielle attends.
B lives a long way from Danielle.
C is the person selling the wheel and kiln.
D has experience with pottery equipment.

3. What frustrates Danielle about her current class?

A She has to share the best wheel with others.
B Her instructor gives her very little feedback.
C The class is held too far from her home.
D The evening schedule conflicts with her job.

4. Danielle mentions the sewing machine to show that

A she already owns too much equipment.
B her husband supports all of her hobbies.
C she has given up on hobbies before.
D her closet is too small for a kiln.

5. What is one drawback of the Maple Street studio?

A Members are not allowed to use its kiln.
B Getting there would be hard in bad weather.
C Members must sign up for a full year.
D Shelf space costs extra each month.

6. Danielle needs Teresa's help soon because

A her instructor is leaving at the end of the month.
B the electrician is only free this month.
C the studio's monthly fee is about to rise.
D she could lose the chance to buy the setup.

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,
>
> The fair was a success, thank you! I'd be happy to come over on Saturday the 18th, and I'll hold you to that lemon cake.
>
> Honestly, $2,200 for all of that is a fair price, but before you get excited, I want to see the **(7)** _____. A kiln gives off a lot of heat, and a space **(8)** _____ could become uncomfortable, or even unsafe. Please have the electrician take a look before you hand over any money.

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> As for the sewing machine, I wouldn't worry too much. You've stuck with pottery for **(9)** _____, which is longer than you ever lasted with sewing. Still, if you'd like to test your commitment first, **(10)** _____ for a few months wouldn't hurt, as long as you're honest with yourself about the drive.
>
> Whatever you decide, don't let **(11)** _____ push you into a choice you'll regret. There will always be other wheels.
>
> Hugs,
>
> Teresa

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** seller's old workshop **B** studio on Maple Street **C** corner you have in mind **D** wheel that wobbles

8. **A** without any way to let air in **B** next to a noisy family room **C** full of boxes and old projects **D** so far from the main circuit

9. **A** three full years **B** two hours a week **C** only a few weeks **D** most of the year

10. **A** taking a second weekly class **B** paying for studio time **C** renting the kiln from the seller **D** using the wheel at your class

11. **A** the electrician's estimate **B** your instructor's praise **C** talk of another buyer **D** the cost of new clay

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Fall Tutoring for a Niece and Nephew



BRIGHTSIDE LEARNING CENTRE

Fall Term Programs · Grades 1–9 · September to December

Small groups · Certified teachers · Friendly, focused help after school

Program	Grades	Group size	Days & times	Fee
Math Foundations Number sense, addition to multiplication, word problems	1–4	Small group (max. 6)	Mon & Wed 4:00–5:00 p.m.	**$180 / month**
Math Boost Fractions, decimals, ratios and problem solving	5–8	Small group (max. 6)	Tue & Thu 4:30–5:30 p.m.	**$200 / month**
Reading & Writing Club Stories, games and writing practice in English	3–6	Small group (max. 8)	Saturday 10:00–11:30 a.m.	**$140 / month**
French Immersion Support Reading, vocabulary and homework in French	2–7	Small group (max. 5)	Wednesday 5:30–6:30 p.m.	**$120 / month**
One-on-One Tutoring Any subject, planned around your child's needs	1–9	Private	Mon–Fri 3:30–7:30 p.m. (book 1-hour slots)	**$55 / hour or 4-session pack $200**
Homework Help Drop-In Quiet study room; staff answer questions. No booking needed.	4–9	Open room	Mon–Thu 3:30–5:30 p.m.	**$15 / visit**

★ **New students:** a 45-minute skills assessment is required ($40). **Fee waived** when two or more children from the same family register.
★ **Sibling discount:** 10% off the second child's fees when both children are enrolled in group programs.
★ **Free school walk-over:** our staff walk students from **Lakeview Elementary** to the centre, Monday–Thursday, leaving the school at 3:15 p.m.
★ **Try it first:** the first session of any group program is free.

2nd floor, 210 Harbourgate Plaza · ☎ 604-555-0148 · Register at the fro
Office hours: Mon–Fri 3:00–8:00 p.m. · Sat 9:30 a.m.–12:30

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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: Fall tutoring for the kids
>
> To: Priya Raman
>
> From: Leena Shah
>
> Hi Priya,
>
> I picked up Brightside's fall schedule on my way home. I know Arjun would rather do anything than hit the books, but his Grade 5 teacher is right that he can't fall further behind with fractions. He needs someone sitting beside him working through problems, not just a quiet room, so I'd go with **(12)** _____. Math Boost would have suited him, but it clashes with hockey practice on Tuesdays. If you buy **(13)** _____, you'll save five dollars an hour.

As for my niece, who's in Grade 4 at Lakeview with her brother, her teacher says her French reading needs work, and you know how much she loves being around other kids, so **(14)** _____ looks ideal. Since you're registering both of them, the assessments are free. Sadly, the sibling discount won't help, because **(15)** _____.

As you don't finish work until 5:30, it's handy that **(16)** _____, so Arjun could book a 3:30 slot. I'm off on Wednesdays now, so I'd be glad to drive Maya to her class and take her for dinner afterward.

Remember how Dad drilled us on our times tables at the kitchen table every night? Let's hope Brightside is more fun!

Love,

Leena

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** one-on-one tutoring **B** the Math Foundations group **C** the homework drop-in **D** the Reading & Writing Club

13. **A** a monthly group pass **B** a drop-in visit **C** the four-session pack **D** two programs at once

14. **A** the Reading & Writing Club **B** one-on-one tutoring **C** the homework drop-in **D** French Immersion Support

15. **A** it is only offered to new students **B** both kids must be in group programs **C** it ends after the first month **D** it excludes French Immersion Support

16. **A** the first group session is free **B** staff walk kids over from school **C** the centre opens on Saturday mornings **D** drop-in visits need no booking

17. Leena and Priya know each other because

A they are sisters.
B they work in the same office.
C Leena is Maya's French teacher.
D their sons play on the same team.

18. What does Leena offer to do?

A help Arjun with his fractions
B pay for the children's assessments
C pick Arjun up after hockey
D take her niece to a weekly class

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19. When Leena says Arjun would rather do anything than “hit the books,” she means that he

A is careless with his textbooks.

B prefers reading to sports.

C doesn’t enjoy studying.

D argues with his teacher.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

Inuksuit: Stone Messengers of the Arctic

Paragraph A

Across the treeless tundra of Canada's Arctic, travellers may come upon a pile of stones standing alone on a ridge or a shoreline. These structures, known as inuksuit (singular: inuksuk), have been built by Inuit and their ancestors for centuries, and they are found across the Arctic from Alaska to Greenland. The name comes from Inuktitut and is often translated as "to act in the capacity of a human." The meaning makes sense in a landscape with few natural landmarks: an inuksuk stands in for a person, telling those who pass that someone has been there before them. Most are made from whatever rocks lie close at hand, stacked carefully without mortar, and they range from a few small stones to structures taller than a person.

Paragraph B

Inuksuit served many practical purposes. Some marked travel routes or pointed toward a safe crossing, while others showed where fish were plentiful or where meat had been stored for later. Hunters also built lines of them to help steer herds of caribou toward places where other hunters were waiting. Because each inuksuk was placed with a purpose, people who grew up on the land learned to read them, and the way the stones were arranged could carry a message for those who understood it. Not every inuksuk was practical, however. Some marked places of spiritual importance, and certain sites were approached only with great respect.

Paragraph C

Many people outside the North picture an inuksuk as a stone figure with legs and outstretched arms. Strictly speaking, that human-shaped figure has its own name, inunnguaq, meaning "in the likeness of a person," and it is only one of many forms. It is, however, the form that has become most familiar to the wider world, and large versions now stand in parks and on waterfronts in southern cities. When Vancouver hosted the 2010 Winter Olympics, the Games' emblem, a figure named Ilanaaq, the Inuktitut word for "friend," was based on this shape. Not everyone welcomed the choice. Some Inuit felt that the design confused an inunnguaq with a true inuksuk and turned a meaningful structure into a logo.

Paragraph D

Today, the inuksuk has become a symbol of the North itself. When the territory of Nunavut was created in 1999, an inuksuk was placed at the centre of its flag. Its popularity has brought new problems, though. Hikers in parks across the country now stack their own small stone figures along trails, sometimes by the dozen. Park staff often take these down, partly because they can lead other hikers astray and partly because moving rocks disturbs the plants and small creatures that live

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> beneath them. Many Inuit elders also stress that old inuksuit should never be knocked down or rebuilt, since doing so can erase information that guided people for generations.

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. Some of these markers were meant to influence where animals went. _____

21. The best-known version of the structure is, technically, a separate category. _____

22. Builders relied on materials found at the site rather than bringing them from elsewhere. _____

23. The 2010 Olympic emblem was designed by an Inuit artist. _____

24. Copying the traditional structure for fun can harm the natural environment. _____

25. Some traditional inuksuit served a purpose beyond helping people survive. _____

26. The structures reassured people that they were not the first to cross a place. _____

27. Some people were unhappy about how a traditional form was used for publicity. _____

28. A northern territory adopted the structure as part of an official symbol. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Shrinkflation Shelf Notices Debate

When Doris Leclair opened her customary box of crackers last spring, it seemed to hold more air. The box and the price were unchanged; the contents had quietly fallen from 250 to 200 grams. Economists call the practice "shrinkflation," and a bill before the legislature aims to expose it. Grocery stores would have to post a shelf notice beside any product whose contents have shrunk without a corresponding price reduction. The notice would state both quantities and remain for 90 days.

The legislation originated with Rachel Okafor's Fair Basket Coalition, whose volunteers spent eighteen months recording the weight or volume of 400 common items every month. One in seven had diminished. "Shoppers scrutinize prices but almost never weigh their cereal," Okafor observes. "A company that trims contents is raising its price without admitting it." A notice, in her view, merely informs consumers what they are purchasing.

Martin Gagnon, spokesperson for an association of independent grocers, endorses the goal while deploring the method. Manufacturers, not retailers, determine what goes into a box, yet a family-run store with five employees would have to monitor size changes across 8,000 products, paperwork whose cost would ultimately surface in shelf prices. "Besides, tags already display a unit price, such as the cost per 100 grams," he notes.

Economist Helen Mbeki shares Gagnon's preference for unit pricing, though not in its current form. Properly done, unit prices would expose shrinkflation permanently, not just for 90 days. "In practice, one tag quotes the price per 100 grams, its neighbour the price per kilogram, both in minuscule type that few shoppers can decipher in a crowded aisle." She favours mandating a single standard unit and a minimum print size; a temporary notice, she argues, treats the symptom while the underlying confusion persists.

Leclair, a retired bookkeeper on a fixed income, sympathizes with Okafor but doubts she would ever spot a shelf notice. If a manufacturer shrinks a box, she reasons, the box itself should announce it in large letters for as long as that size is sold. "Why should the corner store take the blame?"

Among the amendments before the legislature's committee is one exempting stores with fewer than ten employees.

29. Leclair would most likely agree with Gagnon that

A unit prices already inform shoppers.
B the bill would raise grocery prices.
C the bill targets the wrong party.
D a shelf notice is easy to overlook.

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30. Unlike Okafor, Mbeki believes that

A a temporary notice isn't enough.

B shoppers rarely notice when contents shrink.

C current unit pricing is adequate.

D the package should state the change.

31. What can reasonably be concluded?

A Most shoppers already compare unit prices.

B Manufacturers have welcomed the notices.

C The coalition found most items had shrunk.

D One amendment answers Gagnon's concern.

32. How did the coalition detect what shoppers miss?

A It compared 8,000 unit prices.

B It tracked item sizes every month.

C It watched prices closely each week.

D It collected shoppers' complaints.

33. Which title best captures the article?

A "Shrinking Boxes: Who Should Tell Shoppers?"

B "Shrinking Boxes: Why Do Manufacturers Do It?"

C "Shelf-Notice Law Wins Broad Support"

D "Shoppers Shrug Off Smaller Packages"

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.

> Count me among Ms. Okafor's typical shoppers: I scrutinize prices weekly, yet I only discovered my dish soap had shrunk when a bottle **(34)** _____. Nor would a shelf notice have rescued me; by design it is **(35)** _____, and a bottle lasts me four months.
>
> I was surprised to find myself siding with Mr. Gagnon, since the couple who run my corner store are surely **(36)** _____ here. In the end, though, Dr. Mbeki's remedy seems the most practical. If every tag used **(37)** _____, I could compare two bottles at a glance, whether or not either had shrunk. Ms. Leclair's idea of announcing the change **(38)** _____ goes further still, and I would gladly support that too.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** cost more at the till **B** had a warning beside it **C** ran out sooner than usual **D** showed a unit price

35. **A** printed in tiny type **B** temporary **C** optional for small shops **D** silent on the old size

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36. **A** the main culprits **B** too small to matter **C** best placed to track sizes **D** the wrong target

37. **A** the same unit of measure **B** old and new sizes **C** the manufacturer's name **D** the last price-change date

38. **A** on the shelf edge **B** on the label itself **C** at the checkout **D** in the coalition's reports

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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: Advice on Buying a Pottery Wheel

1 B to get a friend's view before a big purchase

2 D has experience with pottery equipment.

3 A She has to share the best wheel with others.

4 C she has given up on hobbies before.

5 B Getting there would be hard in bad weather.

6 D she could lose the chance to buy the setup.

7 C corner you have in mind

8 A without any way to let air in

9 D most of the year

10 B paying for studio time

11 C talk of another buyer

Part 2: Fall Tutoring for a Niece and Nephew

12 A one-on-one tutoring

13 C the four-session pack

14 D French Immersion Support

15 B both kids must be in group programs

16 B staff walk kids over from school

17 A they are sisters.

18 D take her niece to a weekly class

19 C doesn't enjoy studying.

Part 3: Inuksuit: Stone Messengers of the Arctic

20 B

21 C

22 A

23 E

24 D

25 B

26 A

27 C

28 D

Part 4: Shrinkflation Shelf Notices Debate

29 C the bill targets the wrong party.

30 A a temporary notice isn't enough.

31 D One amendment answers Gagnon's concern.

32 B It tracked item sizes every month.

33 A "Shrinking Boxes: Who Should Tell Shoppers?"

34 C ran out sooner than usual

35 B temporary

36 D the wrong target

37 A the same unit of measure

38 B on the label itself

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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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