CELPIP Reading Practice Test 90

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	Planning Grandma Rosa's 90th Birthday	1–11	about 11 minutes
Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram	Internet Plan for the Family Cottage	12–19	about 9 minutes
Part 3: Reading for Information	The Alaska Highway: A Wartime Road North	20–28	about 10 minutes
Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints	Pay-to-Play Fees for School Sports Teams	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/90, 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

Planning Grandma Rosa's 90th Birthday

Dear Daniel,

It was lovely to hear your voice on Sunday, even if the connection kept cutting out every few minutes. I'm writing instead of calling again because there is a lot to explain, and I'd like you to have all the details in front of you.

As you know, Grandma Rosa turns ninety on March 14. Aunt Lucia originally wanted a big dinner at the Portuguese hall, but Grandma made it very clear at Christmas that she doesn't want "a fuss with speeches and strangers." After a rather heated discussion, the family settled on something smaller: an open house at Uncle Tony's place on Saturday the 15th, from two to six, so that people can drop by without Grandma having to sit through a formal meal. Tony's house also has no steps at the front entrance, which matters now that she uses a walker.

Here is where you come in. I've been collecting old photographs from everyone, and I'd like to turn them into a slideshow to play on the television in Tony's living room. The trouble is that most of the pictures from before 1970 are in Grandma's albums, and the only person she lets anywhere near those albums is you. Could you borrow them during one of your Sunday visits and scan them? I can lend you my scanner, which is much faster than photographing each page with a phone. I need the files by March 1 so I have time to put everything to music.

I also have a favour to ask about the cake. Mrs. Ferreira, who baked for the church for thirty years, has offered to make Grandma's favourite orange cake, but she gave up driving last year. Since you pass her street on your way to Tony's, would you mind picking it up that morning? She asked that nobody come for it before ten, because she wants to ice it at the last minute.

One last thing: please keep all of this to yourself. Grandma thinks we are only having a quiet family supper, and if she hears about the open house too early, she'll lie awake worrying about the state of her hair and how much everyone is spending. Tony has promised to tell her exactly one week before the open house, which should give her time to book the hairdresser without fretting for a month.

Let me know as soon as you can whether the albums and the cake will work for you. If not, I'll come up with another plan, but I would much rather it were you.

Love,

Carmen

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

A to persuade Daniel to host the party himself
B to apologize for cutting a phone call short
C to report on an argument at Christmas
D to share party plans and ask for his help

2. Why did the family decide against a dinner at the Portuguese hall?

A Some relatives thought it would cost too much.
B Grandma Rosa did not want a formal celebration.
C The hall's front entrance has several steps.
D Aunt Lucia was unable to book it in time.

3. Why does Carmen want Daniel to deal with Grandma Rosa's albums?

A He owns better equipment than the rest of the family.
B He took many of the old photographs himself.
C Grandma Rosa trusts nobody else with them.
D He has more free time than Carmen does.

4. Why can't Mrs. Ferreira deliver the cake herself?

A She stopped driving some time ago.
B She will be busy at the church that day.
C She cannot finish baking before the party.
D She lives too far from Uncle Tony's house.

5. It can be inferred that Daniel

A lives on the same street as Mrs. Ferreira.
B has already scanned some of the photographs.
C has offered to give a speech at the open house.
D sees his grandmother on a regular basis.

6. When will Grandma Rosa most likely learn about the open house?

A on the morning of March 15
B around the beginning of March
C on her birthday, March 14
D around the eighth of March

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 Carmen,
>
> Thanks for your letter, and for doing so much of the organizing. An open house sounds far more like Grandma than a **(7)** _____ would have been, so I think the family made the right call in the end.

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> I'd be glad to take care of the albums. I'll ask to borrow them next Sunday and tell her I'd like to **(8)** _____. That way she won't suspect a thing. I'll gladly accept the loan of your scanner, too, since it's **(9)** _____ than my phone.
>
> The cake is no problem either. I'll be at Mrs. Ferreira's door **(10)** _____ on the 15th, and I promise to take the corners slowly.
>
> Don't worry, my lips are sealed. I know Grandma would be **(11)** _____ if she found out now, so I won't say a word, not even to Mom, who has never kept a secret in her life.
>
> See you soon,
>
> Daniel

Choose the best option for each gap.

7. **A** quiet supper at home **B** sit-down meal at the hall **C** afternoon at Uncle Tony's **D** service at the church

8. **A** show them at her birthday slideshow **B** lend them to Uncle Tony for a while **C** ask Mrs. Ferreira about some old faces **D** make copies of a few for my own family

9. **A** a lot quicker to use **B** far easier to carry **C** much cheaper to buy **D** a little more modern

10. **A** just before ten o'clock **B** early, around eight **C** a little after ten **D** at two, when it starts

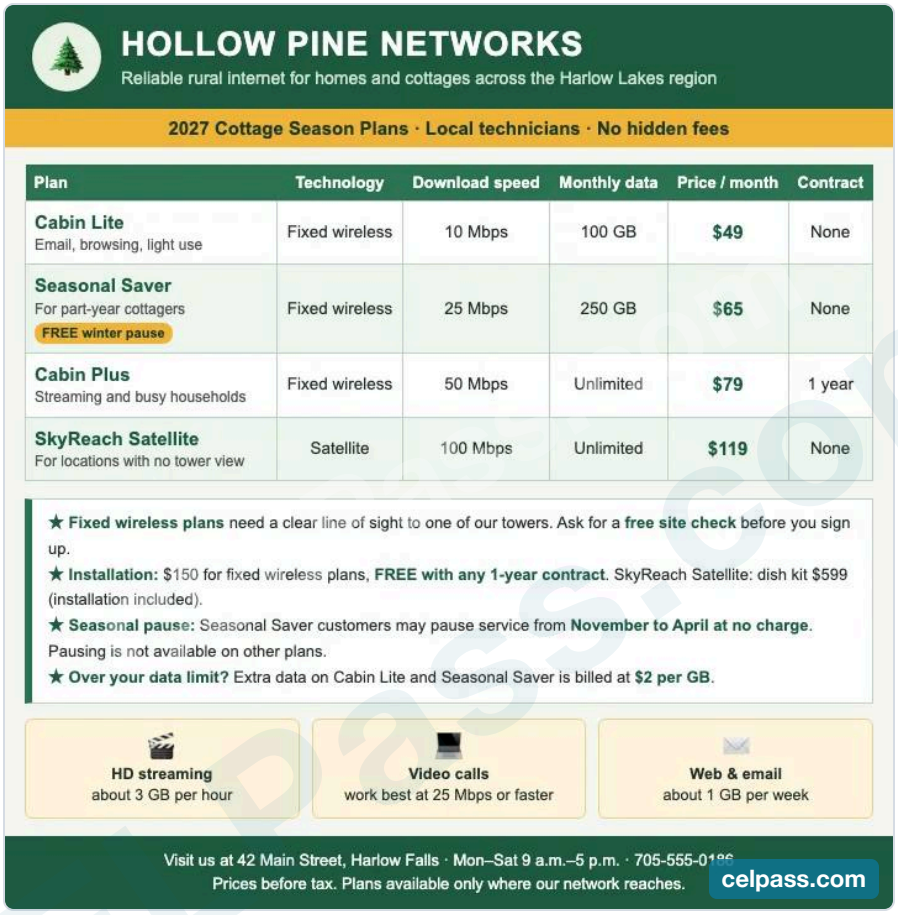
11. **A** anxious about her looks and the cost **B** upset that the dinner was smaller **C** annoyed that her albums were taken **D** disappointed by the short guest list

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Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Time: about 9 minutes

Internet Plan for the Family Cottage



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Reliable rural internet for homes and cottages across the Harlow Lakes region

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Plan	Technology	Download speed	Monthly data	Price / month	Contract
Cabin Lite Email, browsing, light use	Fixed wireless	10 Mbps	100 GB	**$49**	None
Seasonal Saver For part-year cottagers FREE winter pause	Fixed wireless	25 Mbps	250 GB	**$65**	None
Cabin Plus Streaming and busy households	Fixed wireless	50 Mbps	Unlimited	**$79**	1 year
SkyReach Satellite For locations with no tower view	Satellite	100 Mbps	Unlimited	**$119**	None

★ **Fixed wireless plans** need a clear line of sight to one of our towers. Ask for a **free site check** before you sign up.
★ **Installation:** $150 for fixed wireless plans, **FREE with any 1-year contract**. SkyReach Satellite: dish kit $599 (installation included).
★ **Seasonal pause:** Seasonal Saver customers may pause service from **November to April at no charge**. Pausing is not available on other plans.
★ **Over your data limit?** Extra data on Cabin Lite and Seasonal Saver is billed at **$2 per GB**.

HD streaming
about 3 GB per hour

Video calls
work best at 25 Mbps or faster

Web & email
about 1 GB per week

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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: Internet for the cottage
>
> To: Nadia Brennan
>
> From: Peter Kowalczyk
>
> Hi Nadia,
>
> I picked up Hollow Pine Networks' price sheet in town on Saturday. Good news: their technician did the site check, and Mom and Dad's cottage can see the Ridge Hill tower, so any of their fixed wireless plans would work.
>
> Since you'll be working from the cottage in July and your job means video calls most of the day, we can rule out **(12)** _____ right away. I'd lean toward the Seasonal Saver. Nobody uses the place from November until the end of April, and with this plan we **(13)** _____ during those months.

> My only worry is data. The kids watch about three hours of movies every evening, and over a 30-day month that adds up to roughly **(14)** _____ in HD, which is more than the plan includes. If we go over, extra data costs **(15)** _____, and I don't want us to be nickel-and-dimed all summer. Cabin Plus has unlimited data, but we'd be locked into paying right through the winter when nobody is there.
>
> The other downside is that we'd have to pay **(16)** _____ to get the Seasonal Saver installed, but split two ways, it isn't too bad.
>
> Mom will say the kids should be out fishing anyway! Let me know what you think by Friday so we can book before the long weekend.
>
> Peter

Choose the best option for each gap.

12. **A** the Seasonal Saver **B** SkyReach Satellite **C** the Cabin Lite plan **D** the Cabin Plus plan

13. **A** would still pay half the price **B** could put service on hold for free **C** would pay a small monthly fee **D** could switch to a satellite dish

14. **A** 90 GB **B** 180 GB **C** 360 GB **D** 270 GB

15. **A** $2 a gigabyte **B** $3 a gigabyte **C** $15 a month **D** $150 at once

16. **A** $65 **B** $150 **C** $599 **D** $79

17. Peter and Nadia are most likely

A neighbours who share a dock
B a customer and a technician
C a brother and a sister
D colleagues who work remotely

18. Why does Peter mention how much the children watch movies?

A to complain that they rarely spend time outdoors
B to argue that the satellite plan would be faster
C to suggest that Nadia should work elsewhere in July
D to explain why the plan's data limit worries him

19. When Peter says he doesn't want them to be "nickel-and-dimed," he means being

A charged a series of small extra amounts.
B asked to pay the bill in coins.
C given slower service than promised.
D billed for a full year at once.

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Part 3: Reading for Information

Time: about 10 minutes

The Alaska Highway: A Wartime Road North

Paragraph A

For decades, people had talked about building a road that would connect Alaska with the rest of North America by land, but the idea never got very far. Any route would have to cross enormous stretches of forest, muskeg, rivers and mountains where very few people lived, and neither Canada nor the United States saw enough reason to pay for it. Everything changed after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941. American military planners worried that the ships supplying Alaska could be cut off, and they wanted a land route to support a string of airfields that already ran across northern British Columbia and the Yukon. In early 1942, the two governments reached an agreement: the United States would build the road and cover its cost, while Canada would allow it to pass through Canadian territory. The starting point was Dawson Creek, British Columbia, where the railway line ended and troops and heavy equipment could be unloaded.

Paragraph B

Construction began in March 1942, and the pace was extraordinary. Thousands of American soldiers, roughly a third of them African American, worked alongside civilian crews that included many Canadians. Teams pushed forward from several points at once, clearing trees and throwing up temporary bridges as they went. The conditions were punishing. Swarms of mosquitoes tormented the workers in summer, while temperatures in the north could plunge far below freezing. One of the hardest lessons involved permafrost. When crews stripped away the moss and plants covering the ground, the frozen soil underneath thawed into deep mud, and they had to find ways of building on top of the surface instead of cutting into it. In the autumn of 1942, crews working from the north and the south finally met in the Yukon, and an official ceremony was held near Kluane Lake that November.

Paragraph C

The first road was narrow, rough and frequently impassable, and much of it was rebuilt and rerouted by contractors in the following years. After the war, the United States handed the Canadian section over to Canada in 1946, and the Canadian Army took charge of maintaining it. Even so, the highway was not opened to unrestricted public travel until 1948. For the First Nations communities along the route, the road brought sudden and lasting change: new settlements, new jobs and a stream of outsiders, but also outbreaks of illnesses to which many people had little resistance.

Paragraph D

Today, the Alaska Highway is far smoother and straighter than the wartime trail, and decades of improvements have made the journey considerably shorter than the original route. It has become one of the continent’s great road adventures, drawing motorcyclists, cyclists and families in recreational

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> vehicles every summer. Many travellers begin with a photograph beside the “Mile 0” post in Dawson Creek. Further north, in Watson Lake, Yukon, they stop at the Sign Post Forest. It began in 1942, when a homesick soldier working on the road put up a sign pointing toward his hometown. Visitors have been nailing up their own signs and licence plates ever since, and the collection now stretches across a large area.

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 road’s starting point was chosen partly because of an existing transportation link. _____

21. Builders had to adjust their methods because of what lay beneath the surface. _____

22. Dawson Creek was founded to serve as the starting point of the new highway. _____

23. The project had damaging consequences for some of the region’s original inhabitants. _____

24. An event far from the route turned a long-discussed plan into a priority. _____

25. A practice begun by one of the road’s builders is still being carried on by tourists. _____

26. Ordinary drivers had to wait several years after the road was finished to use it freely. _____

27. The highway was paved from end to end before it was opened to the public. _____

28. The two ends of the road were joined in less than a year. _____

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Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Time: about 13 minutes

Pay-to-Play Fees for School Sports Teams

> One line in the Riverbend School Board's draft budget has eclipsed all others: a proposed $250 fee for every student joining a high school sports team. Escalating costs for buses, referees and insurance have left the board nearly $900,000 short, and athletics, which lie outside the required curriculum, can no longer be shielded.
>
> Trustee Helen Marchetti, who chairs the budget committee, insists nobody relishes charging children to play. The alternative before trustees, however, is eliminating junior teams altogether. "I'd sooner ask families to contribute than tell a fourteen-year-old there's no team for her." Families receiving income assistance could apply for a full waiver.
>
> That provision scarcely reassures Raymond Tessier, who has coached basketball at Eastview Secondary for nineteen years. "In my experience, the students most in need of a waiver are the least likely to request one," says Tessier. "A teenager will abandon a sport before handing his coach a form announcing that his family is struggling." Tessier acknowledges that tournament travel has grown expensive and that teams could finance out-of-town trips themselves, but he maintains that the basic right to try out should never carry a price tag.
>
> Priya Natarajan, whose two children play volleyball and soccer, is more pragmatic. Having already spent several hundred dollars annually on club fees and equipment, she considers $250 modest. Her condition is transparency: the money must demonstrably reach referees and buses rather than vanish into general revenue, and the board should publish how many waivers it grants each year.
>
> Dr. Alain Fortier, a sociologist who studies youth sport, accepts that shortfalls are genuine. Some cost recovery, he grants, is probably inevitable. His research, however, found that in districts introducing flat fees, participation among students from lower-income neighbourhoods fell by roughly a fifth within two years, waivers notwithstanding. "Waivers look generous on paper," he observes, "but they depend on families identifying themselves." He proposes a fee scaled to household income and applied automatically through existing school records, singling out no one.
>
> Marchetti says she is receptive to amendments, but warns that every dollar trimmed from the fee must be found elsewhere.

29. Tessier and Fortier would most likely agree that

A teams should fund their own trips.
B no family should have to plead.
C a fee scaled to income is fairest.
D the board has exaggerated its shortfall.

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30. Whose support depends on how the money is used?

A Helen Marchetti's
B Raymond Tessier's
C Alain Fortier's
D Priya Natarajan's

31. Tessier's travel remarks suggest that he

A believes needy students rarely request waivers.
B accepts teams can share costs.
C wants out-of-town tournaments cancelled.
D thinks try-outs should be free.

32. It can be inferred that

A Fortier doubts the board's figures.
B Natarajan's family would qualify for a full waiver.
C Marchetti considers the fee the lesser evil.
D waivers would reach most needy families.

33. Which headline would suit the article best?

A "A Price on Play: Families Refuse"
B "School Sports Fee Closes Riverbend's Budget Gap"
C "A Price on Play: Should Riverbend's Teams Charge?"
D "Riverbend's Flat Fee Leaves No Student Behind"

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 played three sports at Eastview in the early 2000s, and Mr. Tessier knows exactly what he is talking about. When my parents hit a rough patch in Grade 10, I would sooner have **(34)** _____ than admit it to anyone at school.
>
> That said, Ms. Marchetti is no villain. The board is in a genuine bind, and she is right that **(35)** _____. What troubles me is the flat rate. Dr. Fortier's research shows that even with waivers in place, **(36)** _____. His idea of **(37)** _____ strikes me as far fairer, because no teenager would ever have to ask for charity.
>
> And if parents like Ms. Natarajan do end up paying, the least the board can do is make sure their money **(38)** _____.

Choose the best option for each gap.

34. **A** filled out a waiver form **B** hung up my sneakers **C** asked for a loan **D** switched to a cheaper club

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35. **A** the alternative is worse **B** sports belong in the curriculum **C** teams should pay for buses **D** waivers will reach the needy

36. **A** the shortfall persists **B** club fees begin to climb **C** the poorest players disappear **D** waiver requests multiply

37. **A** letting teams raise travel money **B** publishing waiver numbers **C** a scale applied automatically **D** charging only players who travel

38. **A** is spent on teams **B** covers other families' waivers **C** goes into general revenue **D** funds out-of-town tournaments

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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: Planning Grandma Rosa's 90th Birthday

1 D to share party plans and ask for his help

2 B Grandma Rosa did not want a formal celebration.

3 C Grandma Rosa trusts nobody else with them.

4 A She stopped driving some time ago.

5 D sees his grandmother on a regular basis.

6 D around the eighth of March

7 B sit-down meal at the hall

8 D make copies of a few for my own family

9 A a lot quicker to use

10 C a little after ten

11 A anxious about her looks and the cost

Part 2: Internet Plan for the Family Cottage

12 C the Cabin Lite plan

13 B could put service on hold for free

14 D 270 GB

15 A $2 a gigabyte

16 B $150

17 C a brother and a sister

18 D to explain why the plan's data limit worries him

19 A charged a series of small extra amounts.

Part 3: The Alaska Highway: A Wartime Road North

20 A

21 B

22 E

23 C

24 A

25 D

26 C

27 E

28 B

Part 4: Pay-to-Play Fees for School Sports Teams

29 B no family should have to plead.

30 D Priya Natarajan's

31 B accepts teams can share costs.

32 C Marchetti considers the fee the lesser evil.

33 C "A Price on Play: Should Riverbend's Teams Charge?"

34 B hung up my sneakers

35 A the alternative is worse

36 C the poorest players disappear

37 C a scale applied automatically

38 A is spent on teams

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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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