

FREE CELPIP READING PRACTICE TEST · PDF

CELPIP Reading Practice Test 1

A complete 38-question CELPIP-General Reading test for the 2026 format, with the full answer key.

38 questions**4 parts****39 minutes****Answer key included**

Everything in this file is original material written for the 2026 CELPIP-General format. Print it, work through it under the real time limits, then mark yourself against the answer key on the last pages.

- Part 1 Reading Correspondence, 11 questions, 10 minutes
- Part 2 Reading to Apply a Diagram, 8 questions, 8 minutes
- Part 3 Reading for Information, 9 questions, 9 minutes
- Part 4 Reading for Viewpoints, 10 questions, 12 minutes

Practise the same questions online, scored instantly.

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How to use this test

The CELPIP-General Reading Test is 38 scored questions in four parts, and the clock runs per part rather than across the whole test. That per-part timing is the thing candidates most often fail to rehearse, so it is worth reproducing here: set a timer for each part and stop when it ends, even mid-question.

Every question is worth exactly one mark. Nothing is weighted more heavily than anything else, and there is no penalty for a wrong answer, so never leave a blank. Your raw score out of 38 converts to a CELPIP level, and from level 3 upward that level is also your CLB level.

Get this marked for you

Work through this on paper first, then sit the same style of test online at celpipmocks.com/reading/ where it is timed per part and marked the second you finish. The online version also shows you which question type you are losing marks in, which a paper key cannot.

Part	Question type	Questions	Time
1	Reading Correspondence	11	10 min
2	Reading to Apply a Diagram	8	8 min
3	Reading for Information	9	9 min
4	Reading for Viewpoints	10	12 min

PART 1

Reading Correspondence

Questions 1 to 11 · 10 minutes · Read the following message.

Hi Devon,

I promised I would write the day the last box was unpacked, and here I am three weeks late, still tripping over a crate of winter boots. You were right about me. You get one smug moment, and then we move on.

So: Halifax. We arrived on the second of May in a downpour so heavy the movers would not unload the couch until it eased. We sat in the empty living room eating cold samosas off a cardboard box. Naveen called it the worst day of his life. I thought it was the best thing to happen to us in months. That difference between us has not changed in eleven years.

The house is a narrow blue one on a hill in the north end, ten minutes from the harbour on foot if you walk fast and twenty if you stop to look at things, which I always do. The neighbours, an older couple called the Fitzgeralds, brought biscuits over on the second day and stayed two hours telling us which shops to trust. I have not had a conversation with them since that lasted under forty minutes.

The job started on the ninth. I am the new operations coordinator at a company that ships frozen seafood to restaurants across the country. It is the first job of my life where nobody asks me to attend a meeting about a meeting. My manager, Colleen, told me on day one that if I ever email her after six she will delete it unread. I did not believe her. I tested it. She deleted it unread.

Naveen still works remotely for the Toronto office, which is the only reason this move was possible, but he misses his cycling group more than he will admit. He has begun having long conversations with the mail carrier.

Now the actual point. We are having a housewarming on Saturday the fourteenth, starting at four and going until the Fitzgeralds decide to go home, so possibly Sunday. Bring nothing. I mean it. Last time I said bring nothing you turned up with a cheese wheel the size of a car tire, and I am still finding it in the freezer. If you must bring something, bring your brother, because I have told everyone here the boat story and now I need him to prove it happened.

Say yes.

Priya

Using the drop-down menu, choose the best option according to the information given in the message.

1. Priya begins her letter by admitting that Devon was right about _____
 - A. her habit of putting things off
 - B. her dislike of the ocean
 - C. the true cost of the move
 - D. the size of the new house
2. On their first day in Halifax, Priya and Naveen _____
 - A. were both disappointed
 - B. reacted to the day very differently
 - C. stayed overnight with the neighbours
 - D. agreed that the move was a mistake
3. The walk down to the harbour takes Priya twenty minutes when she _____
 - A. is carrying shopping bags
 - B. goes out in bad weather
 - C. takes Naveen with her
 - D. stops to look at things
4. Priya suggests that the Fitzgeralds are _____
 - A. difficult to get away from
 - B. rarely at home
 - C. unwilling to give advice
 - D. new to the neighbourhood
5. Priya was surprised to discover that Colleen _____
 - A. works out of the Toronto office
 - B. does not use email at all
 - C. had already met Naveen
 - D. was serious about her warning
6. Priya wants Devon to bring his brother so that he can _____
 - A. help her unpack the last of the boxes
 - B. confirm a story she has been telling
 - C. give Naveen a lift to his cycling group
 - D. get to know the Fitzgeralds

Here is a response to the message. Complete the response by filling in the blanks. Select the best option for each blank from the drop-down menu.

Hi Priya,

Three weeks late is early, for you. I am glad the (7) _____ did not put you off the place completely, though I notice Naveen has not written to give me his version.

Count us in for the fourteenth. I will bring my brother, and I will warn you now that his version of the boat story has grown considerably, so you may end up wishing you had never (8) _____. I am also going to ignore your instruction and (9) _____, because turning up empty handed is not something I know how to do. Something small. Nothing involving (10) _____ this time, I promise. Tell Naveen that if he is talking to the mail carrier out of (11) _____, I can be there by four on the fourteenth and he can talk to me instead.

Devon

7. Choose the best option for blank (7) in the passage above.

- A. noise from the radiator
- B. welcome from the neighbours
- C. weather on your arrival
- D. trouble at the new job

8. Choose the best option for blank (8) in the passage above.

- A. asked him along
- B. moved quite so far away
- C. written to me
- D. mentioned the fourteenth

9. Choose the best option for blank (9) in the passage above.

- A. arrive a little late
- B. bring something anyway
- C. stay until Sunday
- D. invite the Fitzgeralds

10. Choose the best option for blank (10) in the passage above.

- A. biscuits
- B. frozen seafood
- C. cheese
- D. winter boots

11. Choose the best option for blank (11) in the passage above.

- A. politeness
- B. curiosity
- C. loneliness
- D. duty

PART 2

Reading to Apply a Diagram

Questions 12 to 19 · 8 minutes · Read the following diagram.

Baywater Transit: four commuter passes

Monthly Pass	Price: \$112.00 per month Valid for: 1 calendar month	• Unlimited rides in zones 1 and 2 only • Always expires on the last day of the calendar month • Cannot be shared or transferred to another rider
Pay-Per-Ride Card	Price: \$3.25 per trip Valid for: 90 minutes per fare	• You pay only for the trips you actually take • Free transfers for 90 minutes after each tap • Extra \$1.50 charged on every trip into zone 3
Weekly Pass	Price: \$32.50 per week Valid for: 7 days from first tap	• Unlimited rides across all three zones • The seven days begin at your first tap, not on a set day • May be lent to a family member on weekends
Annual Pass	Price: \$1,090.00 per year Valid for: 12 months from purchase	• All zones plus the regional express buses to nearby towns • Ten percent off at partner bike shops and cafes • No refund once the first 30 days have passed

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.

Hi Jenna,

I looked at the four passes for you. Since you live out in zone 3, the Monthly Pass is out straight away: it only covers (12) _____, so you would be paying an extra fare every single morning.

The Pay-Per-Ride Card would suit somebody who travels once or twice a week, but you are on the bus ten times a week, and there is also that (13) _____ added to every trip from your end of the line. It adds up quickly.

That leaves the Weekly Pass and the Annual Pass. The Weekly one is handy because the seven days (14) _____, so nothing is wasted if you start on a Wednesday. But fifty-two of them costs far more over a year.

The Annual Pass works out cheapest per month, and it is the only one that covers (15) _____ for the trip to your parents' place. The catch is that you cannot get your money back after (16) _____, so only buy it if you are certain you are staying.

Omar

12. Choose the best option for blank (12) in the passage above.

- A. the express buses
- B. zone 3 only
- C. all three zones
- D. zones 1 and 2

13. Choose the best option for blank (13) in the passage above.

- A. \$3.25 fare
- B. 90-minute limit
- C. \$1.50 surcharge
- D. ten percent discount

14. Choose the best option for blank (14) in the passage above.

- A. always start on a Monday
- B. begin when you first tap
- C. can be paused at any time
- D. cover zones 1 and 2 only

15. Choose the best option for blank (15) in the passage above.

- A. free transfers
- B. a bike-shop discount
- C. a refund
- D. the regional express buses

16. Choose the best option for blank (16) in the passage above.

- A. the first 30 days
- B. 7 days
- C. one calendar month
- D. your first tap

Using the drop-down menu, choose the best option.

17. Omar rules out the Monthly Pass because it does not cover _____

- A. weekend travel
- B. the zone Jenna lives in
- C. transfers between buses
- D. a full calendar month

18. Omar says the Pay-Per-Ride Card would be a better choice for somebody who _____

- A. commutes every weekday
- B. never leaves zone 1
- C. wants a discount at bike shops
- D. travels only occasionally

19. Omar advises Jenna to buy the Annual Pass only if she _____

- A. can pay for it in instalments
- B. moves closer to her work
- C. is certain she is staying in the city
- D. stops visiting her parents

PART 3

Reading for Information

Questions 20 to 28 · 9 minutes · Read the following passage.

Paragraph A

The North American beaver is the largest rodent on the continent and the second largest in the world, with adults commonly weighing between 16 and 32 kilograms. Its body is built almost entirely around life in water. Transparent membranes slide across the eyes like goggles, valves seal the ears and nostrils when the animal submerges, and flaps of skin close behind the front teeth so that it can gnaw on a branch underwater without swallowing the pond. The famous flat tail, covered in dark scales, works as a rudder while swimming, as a prop when the animal sits back on its haunches to cut a tree, and as a store of fat for the winter. Slapped hard against the surface, it also warns everyone in the group that something is wrong. The orange front teeth never stop growing and are worn down by constant use.

Paragraph B

Beavers do not build dams because they enjoy carpentry. They build them because they are slow and clumsy on land and safe in deep water, and a dam is simply a way of bringing deep water to wherever they happen to be. The trigger appears to be sound: the noise of running water prompts the animal to pile mud, stones and cut branches against it until the noise stops. A finished dam may be a few metres across or, in rare cases, several hundred, and the pond behind it lets the family swim to its food and to the underwater entrances of its lodge. The lodge itself is a mound of sticks plastered with mud and hollowed out above the waterline, with a dry sleeping chamber and a lower, damper platform where a wet animal can drip before climbing up.

Paragraph C

For two centuries, the beaver was the reason Europeans mapped much of the interior of the continent. The animal's dense underfur could be matted into felt, felt made hats, and hats were the one thing a gentleman in London or Paris could not do without. Trading companies pushed river routes westward in pursuit of pelts, relying entirely on the knowledge, canoes and labour of Indigenous nations, whose own economies were reshaped by the trade. Fashion, not conservation, eventually ended it: by the middle of the nineteenth century silk had replaced felt on European heads and the market collapsed. By then the population had fallen from perhaps six million animals to a small fraction of that, and beavers had vanished from large regions where they had lived for thousands of years.

Paragraph D

Protection, trapping limits and deliberate reintroduction brought the species back through the twentieth century, and it is no longer considered at risk anywhere in Canada. Its return has been mixed news. A pond floods roads, farm fields and basements, and municipalities spend millions of dollars each year on the problem, sometimes removing animals, increasingly installing pipes that quietly lower a pond without the family noticing. Ecologists, meanwhile, have come to see the ponds as valuable: they trap sediment, recharge groundwater, hold water through drought, slow the spread of wildfire and create the wetlands that frogs, moose and dozens of bird species depend on. Some watershed managers now argue that a colony does, for nothing, work that would cost a great deal to do with machines.

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. A change in what was considered stylish that ended an industry.

A B C D E (E = not given in any paragraph)

21. A feature that keeps water out while the animal carries on feeding.

A B C D E (E = not given in any paragraph)

22. A method used by towns to control flooding without taking the animals away.

A B C D E (E = not given in any paragraph)

23. An explanation of why the animals prefer deep water to dry ground.

A B C D E (E = not given in any paragraph)

24. The age at which young animals leave the family group.

A B C D E (E = not given in any paragraph)

25. The dependence of European traders on Indigenous nations.

A B C D E (E = not given in any paragraph)

26. A way of alerting the rest of the group to a threat.

A B C D E (E = not given in any paragraph)

27. Something the animals hear that seems to start them building.

A B C D E (E = not given in any paragraph)

28. The usefulness of the ponds during long periods with little rain.

A B C D E (E = not given in any paragraph)

PART 4

Reading for Viewpoints

Questions 29 to 38 · 12 minutes · Read the following article from a website.

When the Fairhaven Public Library put out a shelf of cordless drills last spring, the head of programs, Dana Whitecloud, expected a slow start. Instead the drills were gone within an hour, and by the end of the week there was a waiting list of eighty-one names for a tool the library did not yet own: a wet vacuum.

The tool library now holds just over four hundred items, from ladders to a cider press. Anyone with a library card may borrow three at a time for a week, at no charge. The collection was paid for with a one-time provincial grant of \$28,000 and donations from residents clearing out their garages.

"A library has never really been about books," Whitecloud says. "It is about the things that are too expensive or too rarely needed for one household to own alone. Nobody needs to own a tile saw. You need one for one weekend of your life."

Not everyone on the board agrees. Trustee Gordon Vasey, a retired insurance adjuster who has served nine years, voted against the program and remains its most persistent critic.

"I am not against tools," Vasey says. "I am against pretending this is free. A drill comes back with a cracked chuck and no note. Somebody on staff has to test it, repair it, and decide who pays. That is a maintenance department, and we did not hire one. The grant bought the shelf. It did not buy the twenty years after the shelf."

Vasey also questions the figures. Borrowing from the tool collection is high, he agrees, but roughly a third of it comes from the same forty people, and book borrowing fell four percent over the same period.

Whitecloud does not dispute the maintenance point. Two retired tradespeople now volunteer on Thursday mornings to inspect returns, and the library has replaced eleven items in fourteen months at a cost of about \$900.

Marguerite Oyelaran, who studies public institutions at a university in Winnipeg and has surveyed twenty-six Canadian tool libraries, says both sides are describing something real. "The borrowing numbers are almost always excellent in year one and almost always misleading," she says. "The question is year four, when the grant is spent and the founding volunteer has moved away. The programs that survive are the ones that budgeted for repair from the start, and about half of them did not."

The Fairhaven board votes in October on whether to fund the collection out of its operating budget. Vasey expects to lose. "I have been on the losing side of a good idea before," he says. "I would just like the minutes to show that somebody asked what it costs."

Using the drop-down menu, choose the best option according to the information given on the website.

29. The response to the library's first shelf of drills was _____

- A. disappointing at first
- B. limited to a few borrowers
- C. much stronger than staff had expected
- D. mostly negative

30. Whitecloud argues that the real purpose of a library is to _____

- A. increase how many books are borrowed
- B. give people access to things no household should have to buy
- C. provide work for retired tradespeople
- D. replace the hardware shops in small towns

31. Vasey's objection to the tool collection is mainly about _____

- A. the safety of the borrowers
- B. the sort of people who use it
- C. the effect on book borrowing
- D. the cost of keeping it going

32. Whitecloud answers Vasey's main concern by _____

- A. describing measures the library has already put in place
- B. denying that the tools are ever damaged
- C. asking the province for a second grant
- D. agreeing that the program should end

33. Oyelaran's view of programs like Fairhaven's is that _____

- A. they rarely attract enough borrowers
- B. the board should reject the funding request
- C. Vasey has misread the figures
- D. strong early numbers say little about the future

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.

Posted by Renata_K

I have borrowed from Fairhaven four times, and I think Mr. Vasey is being unfairly mocked here. He is not saying (34) _____. He is saying that somebody has to pay for the repairs, and on that he is simply right. My last borrow, a hedge trimmer, arrived with a blade so dull it barely cut anything, and I doubt the person before me even knew they had done it.

Where I part company with him is on the (35) _____. Forty regular borrowers is not a small number in a town this size, and the drop in book borrowing could have half a dozen causes.

What nobody in the article suggests is (36) _____. Charge two dollars an item. It would not stop anyone, and it would pay for the repair work that Ms. Oyelaran says half of these programs (37) _____. Free is a lovely principle right up to the year the money stops, which is more or less what she means when she talks about (38) _____.

34. Choose the best option for blank (34) in the passage above.

- A. that the drills were popular
- B. that the library should stop lending tools
- C. that he will vote in October
- D. that the tools should be free

35. Choose the best option for blank (35) in the passage above.

- A. safety of the tools
- B. size of the grant
- C. figures
- D. role of the volunteers

36. Choose the best option for blank (36) in the passage above.

- A. closing the collection
- B. buying more drills
- C. asking the province again
- D. a small charge

37. Choose the best option for blank (37) in the passage above.

- A. never planned for
- B. carry out every week
- C. pay for twice over
- D. refuse to allow

38. Choose the best option for blank (38) in the passage above.

- A. year one
- B. the first month
- C. year four
- D. the founding volunteer

ANSWER KEY

CELPIP Reading Practice Test 1: answers

Give yourself one mark per correct answer. There is no penalty for a wrong answer, so an unanswered question and a wrong one cost exactly the same.

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	A	14	B	27	B
2	B	15	D	28	D
3	D	16	A	29	C
4	A	17	B	30	B
5	D	18	D	31	D
6	B	19	C	32	A
7	C	20	C	33	D
8	A	21	A	34	B
9	B	22	D	35	C
10	C	23	B	36	D
11	C	24	E	37	A
12	D	25	C	38	C
13	C	26	A		

What your raw score means

Reading is computer scored, so the conversion below is arithmetic rather than judgement. From CELPIP level 3 upward your level is also your CLB level, per skill. There is no overall CELPIP score and no overall CLB.

Raw score out of 38	CELPIP level	CLB level	Descriptor
37 to 38	12	12	Highly Effective

Raw score out of 38	CELPiP level	CLB level	Descriptor
35 to 36	11	11	Highly Effective
33 to 34	10	10	Highly Effective
31 to 32	9	9	Effective
28 to 30	8	8	Effective
24 to 27	7	7	Effective
20 to 23	6	6	Developing
16 to 19	5	5	Developing
11 to 15	4	4	Limited
8 to 10	3	3	Limited
0 to 7	M	Not assessed	Level M

Read the bands as approximate

Paragon publishes these ranges with deliberate overlaps, because the raw-to-level conversion varies slightly between test forms. The table above resolves the overlaps to a single band per score so it can be read directly; treat a score within one mark of a boundary as genuinely borderline.

Now sit one that marks itself

You have the answers. What a paper test cannot tell you is which question type is costing you the marks.

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