

FREE CELPIP READING PRACTICE TEST · PDF

CELPIP Reading Practice Test 2

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
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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 Priya,

I know it has been ages since I wrote a proper letter instead of a two-line text, so pour yourself a cup of tea and settle in. You are going to enjoy this one, mostly because it happened to me and not to you. Over the long weekend in February, Devon talked me into winter camping in Kananaskis. He has been reading about it all year, and he kept saying it would be peaceful. What he did not mention was that the overnight low would drop to minus twenty-eight. We drove out from Calgary on the Friday afternoon, and by the time we found the site and got the tent up, it was already dark. My fingers were so cold I could not work the zipper on my own sleeping bag, and Devon had to do it for me while pretending not to laugh.

Here is the part I did not expect: I actually slept. Devon had borrowed proper sleeping bags from a friend at work, and once I stopped panicking about the cold I was warm enough. What I did not sleep through was the wind, which sounded like a train going past the tent all night. In the morning the whole world was blue and completely silent, and the frost had drawn feathers on the inside of the tent wall. Devon boiled water for coffee and it took twenty minutes because the little stove kept sputtering. He says next time we bring the bigger stove. I have not agreed to a next time.

Anyway, the real reason I am writing: Aunt Sandra has decided we are having a family reunion in Kelowna the last weekend of July, and she is not really asking. She has booked a hall by the lake and she wants everyone there, including the cousins from Winnipeg nobody has seen since Grandpa's ninetieth. I said I would help with the food, which I am already regretting, because Sandra has opinions. Your name came up more than once. She is convinced you will bring your guitar.

Write back and tell me you are coming. Tell me about the new place, too. Is the commute as bad as you feared?

Love,
Renee

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

1. The camping trip was _____

- A. planned months ahead
- B. Renee's birthday present
- C. organized by Aunt Sandra
- D. Devon's idea

2. On the first evening, Renee needed help because her hands were _____

- A. injured on the drive
- B. too cold to work properly
- C. covered in stove grease
- D. holding the flashlight

3. Renee was surprised that she _____

- A. enjoyed the coffee
- B. liked the drive out
- C. managed to sleep
- D. found the site easily

4. What kept Renee awake was _____

- A. the temperature
- B. Devon's snoring
- C. the frost on the tent
- D. the noise of the wind

5. Renee's attitude toward camping again is _____

- A. unconvinced
- B. completely enthusiastic
- C. angry with Devon
- D. dependent on the weather

6. Aunt Sandra is best described as _____

- A. easily discouraged
- B. hard to say no to
- C. new to the family
- D. unable to travel

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.

Dear Renee,

I laughed out loud at the zipper. Only Devon could describe minus twenty-eight as (7) _____. Honestly though, I am impressed you lasted the night, and I am even more impressed you woke up willing to speak to him.

Count me in for Kelowna. Tell Sandra I am coming, and yes, tell her (8) _____ is coming too, because we both know she has already told everyone it is. If you are handling the food, I will handle Sandra, which I think is (9) _____ of the two jobs.

The new place is good. The commute turned out to be (10) _____ I expected, so I have my evenings back.

One condition on July: (11) _____.

Love,

Priya

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

- A. dangerous
- B. unlikely
- C. expensive
- D. peaceful

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

- A. the guitar
- B. the big stove
- C. the sleeping bag
- D. the tea

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

- A. the safer
- B. the cheaper
- C. the harder
- D. the shorter

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

- A. better than
- B. worse than
- C. exactly what
- D. longer than

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

- A. Sandra picks the hall
- B. the cousins stay home
- C. Devon does the cooking
- D. we are not sleeping in a tent

PART 2

Reading to Apply a Diagram

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

Four gym and recreation centre memberships in Halifax

Harbourview Fitness	Price: \$29 per month Contract: month to month, cancel anytime	• open 24 hours, seven days a week • no group classes offered • no pool on site
Northfield Recreation Centre	Price: \$65 per month Contract: 12 months, fee to cancel early	• open 6am to 10pm on weekdays, 8am to 6pm weekends • all group classes included • 25 metre pool and family swim times
The Studio on Barrington	Price: \$89 per month Contract: 3 months minimum	• open 7am to 9pm daily • unlimited yoga and spin classes included • no pool, no weight room
Cove Athletic Club	Price: \$52 per month Contract: 24 months, no early cancellation	• open 5am to 11pm daily • classes included, booking required • lap pool, sauna and full weight room

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 Omar,

I finally compared the four places near work. Here is where I landed.

You know my shifts change every week and I sometimes finish at midnight, so the only place I could always get into is (12) _____. The trouble is that it has (13) _____, and after my shoulder surgery the physiotherapist told me swimming is the one thing I should be doing.

Northfield has the pool and the classes, but it closes at ten on weekdays and it is (14) _____ of all four, which is more than I want to pay every month. The Studio looks fun, but it is really just classes, and I would still need somewhere to swim.

That leaves Cove Athletic. It has everything I need and the price is reasonable. The only thing that worries me is the (15) _____, since my company might move me to Moncton next year and I would be stuck paying for a gym in another city.

If I want to keep my options open, (16) _____ is the one I can walk away from with no penalty at all. Let me know what you think before Friday.

Talk soon,

Janelle

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

- A. Northfield Recreation Centre
- B. Harbourview Fitness
- C. The Studio on Barrington
- D. Cove Athletic Club

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

- A. no weights
- B. a long contract
- C. a high price
- D. no pool

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

- A. the cheapest
- B. the smallest
- C. the most expensive
- D. the closest

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

- A. early opening time
- B. booking system
- C. 24 month contract
- D. sauna fee

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

- A. Cove Athletic Club
- B. The Studio on Barrington
- C. Northfield Recreation Centre
- D. Harbourview Fitness

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

17. Janelle needs a pool because of _____

- A. advice after her surgery
- B. a doctor's weight loss plan
- C. a swimming competition
- D. her children's lessons

18. The Studio on Barrington does not suit Janelle because it offers _____

- A. only morning hours
- B. classes but no swimming
- C. a contract that is too long
- D. no group classes

19. Janelle is hesitating about Cove Athletic Club mainly because she may _____

- A. change cities
- B. change jobs
- C. dislike the classes
- D. find it too costly

PART 3

Reading for Information

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

Paragraph A

The lights that appear over the northern sky begin about 150 million kilometres away. The sun is constantly throwing off a stream of tiny charged particles, and when a large burst of them reaches our planet, some are caught by the magnetic field that surrounds it. That field steers the particles toward the far north and the far south, where they crash into gas high in the atmosphere. The crash passes energy to the gas, and the gas gives that energy back as light. The colour depends on which gas is struck and how high up the collision happens. Oxygen at very high altitude glows red, while oxygen lower down produces the familiar pale green that most people photograph. Nitrogen adds blue and purple along the lower edge of a curtain. The whole display usually takes place between 100 and 300 kilometres above the ground, far above where aircraft fly.

Paragraph B

Seeing the aurora takes more than luck. Three conditions have to line up. The sky must be dark, which rules out the weeks around the summer solstice in the north, when the sun barely sets. The sky must also be clear, since even a thin layer of cloud will hide the display completely. Finally, the sun must be active, and activity rises and falls on a cycle of roughly eleven years. Distance from city lighting matters too: a drive of thirty or forty minutes away from a large centre can be the difference between a faint grey smudge and a sky full of moving colour. Experienced watchers dress for standing still rather than walking, since the best displays often arrive after midnight, and they check a forecast that reports magnetic activity on a simple numbered scale rather than an ordinary weather forecast.

Paragraph C

Long before anyone measured a charged particle, the peoples of the north explained the lights in their own ways. Among some Cree communities the lights were understood as the spirits of relatives who had died, moving and dancing and remaining close to the living. Certain Inuit groups told of figures playing a game in the sky, using a walrus skull as a ball. In parts of the north there was a warning attached: children were told not to whistle at the lights or wave at them, because the lights might come down and take the whistler away. Elsewhere the same belief was reversed, and a whistle was said to call the lights nearer for a better look. These stories were not simply entertainment. They carried instruction about respect, about the dead, and about a child's place in a landscape that could be dangerous.

Paragraph D

In the past two decades the aurora has become an industry. Yellowknife now receives thousands of visitors each winter who come for nothing else, and lodges have been built outside the city with heated viewing huts, glass roofs and wake-up calls at two in the morning when a display begins. Whitehorse and Churchill run similar operations. The season stretches from late August to April, and operators openly tell guests that three or four nights are needed to be reasonably confident of seeing anything at all. The money matters in communities where other winter work is thin, and a number of tours are owned and guided by local families who also teach the stories that go with the sky. Some residents, however, note that a good display now brings a line of vehicles and headlights to roads that used to be empty.

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 short journey out of town can greatly improve what a viewer sees.

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

21. The shade of light produced depends partly on how far above the ground the collision occurs.

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

22. Tourists are advised that one evening is unlikely to be enough.

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

23. Some communities regarded the lights as departed family members.

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

24. The displays occur well above the height at which planes travel.

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

25. Photographs of the aurora sell for high prices at galleries in southern cities.

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

26. Visitor traffic has changed the character of quiet local roads.

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

27. The sun becomes more and less active over a period of about eleven years.

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

28. A single action was given opposite meanings in different places.

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.

NO HOMEWORK, NO PROBLEM? ONE OTTAWA SCHOOL BETS ON PROJECTS INSTEAD

Two years ago, Glenmore Public School in Ottawa did something that made a lot of parents put down their coffee. It cancelled homework. Not reduced it, not made it optional: cancelled it, from Grade 4 through Grade 8. In its place the school introduced what it calls project blocks, ninety minutes at the end of each day in which students work in small teams on a single question that lasts for weeks. One class spent a term designing a bus shelter for their own street and presented the drawings to a city councillor. Another built a working model of the Rideau Canal locks out of plywood and a garden hose. Principal Dale Fontaine is the one who pushed it through, and she is not shy about it. "We were sending home worksheets that the strongest students finished in ten minutes and the weakest students never finished at all," she says. "The parents with time and English sat down and helped. The parents working a second shift could not. So homework was quietly widening the gap, every single night, and we were calling it fair." Fontaine points to her attendance numbers, which are up, and to a school survey in which the proportion of students saying they liked school rose from just under half to nearly three quarters. "Ask a Grade 6 to explain the locks to you," she says. "They will not stop talking."

Not everyone in the gym at the parent meeting was applauding. Marcus Oyelaran has two children at Glenmore, and he came out of that meeting unconvinced and has stayed that way. "I like the bus shelter, I do," he says. "But my daughter is going to write a chemistry exam in Grade 11, alone, at a desk, with a clock running. Nobody is going to ask her to work as a team. Where does she learn to sit down by herself and grind through something boring? That is a muscle, and Glenmore has stopped exercising it." He also worries about the quiet division inside every group. "There is always one kid who does the presentation and one kid who holds the glue. The report card says the group did well."

Dr. Anita Bhalla, who studies assessment at a nearby university, has been following the school and says both of them are partly right. Her early data show Glenmore students well ahead of similar schools on writing and on explaining their reasoning, and roughly level on arithmetic fluency. "The gains are real and they are not small," she says. "The honest question is whether a skill this school is not practising shows up as a cost in Grade 11. Two years cannot answer that. Ask me in six."

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

29. Fontaine's main objection to homework was that it _____
- A. took too much class time
 - B. was too difficult to mark
 - C. favoured students with support at home
 - D. was unpopular with teachers
30. The evidence Fontaine offers for the change is mainly about _____
- A. test scores in mathematics
 - B. attendance and student attitudes
 - C. savings in the school budget
 - D. university admission rates
31. Oyelaran believes his daughter will eventually need to _____
- A. learn to lead a team
 - B. choose a science career
 - C. attend a different school
 - D. work through dull tasks on her own
32. Oyelaran's second concern is that group marks can hide _____
- A. errors made by teachers
 - B. unequal effort within a team
 - C. the cost of materials
 - D. weak attendance
33. Bhalla's position on the results so far is that they are _____
- A. genuine but not yet conclusive
 - B. too small to be meaningful
 - C. clearly worse than expected
 - D. identical to other schools

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 taught Grade 8 for nineteen years and I want to say something that neither side in this article said clearly.

Fontaine is right about the (34) _____, and anyone who has marked a stack of homework knows it. You can tell within thirty seconds whose kitchen table had an adult sitting at it. But Mr.

Oyelaran is right too, and I would go further than he did: the problem is not the projects, it is

(35) _____. Grade a team and you have taught the quiet kid that effort is optional.

The fix is not to bring back worksheets. The fix is to keep the project block and mark each student

(36) _____, which is more work for the teacher and is exactly why most schools will not do it.

As for whether this hurts them in Grade 11, I notice Dr. Bhalla says she needs (37) _____ before she can answer, and I think that is the only honest sentence in the piece. Everyone else is

(38) _____.

Retired teacher, Kanata

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

- A. cost of materials
- B. need for exams
- C. unfairness of homework
- D. value of teamwork

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

- A. the length of the block
- B. the choice of topic
- C. the councillor visit
- D. the group mark

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

- A. more generously
- B. twice a year
- C. against the group
- D. individually

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

- A. a larger budget
- B. a second school
- C. more years of data
- D. better surveys

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

- A. guessing
- B. lying
- C. agreeing
- D. complaining

ANSWER KEY

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

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	CELPPIP 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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