The Official CELPIP Podcast

Episode #11 – Interview with a Former Writing Rater

The Rating Process

Each Task 1 and Task 2 response is randomly assigned to 2 different raters.	Each rater assesses the response in each of the 4 dimensions of the Performance Standards.	Raters submit their ratings.	If a response receives very different ratings from the first two raters, the system assigns it to a benchmark rater to be reassessed.	The test taker's Level is calculated electronically based on the assessments of 4-6 raters.

Common CELPIP Writing Mistakes

Mistake	What To Do Instead
Not developing the ideas in the question with specific details	Build on the content of the question with ideas from your imagination and/or life experience. For example, if the question says "your office," describe a particular type of office. If it says "your city," write about a real city that you are familiar with.
Being rude or sarcastic	Maintain a polite tone in your responses. Expressing frustration or disrespect toward raters will not benefit your score.
Using humour extensively	Take the question and the situation seriously. Extensive use of humour is risky, as it can often be interpreted as disrespectful or irrelevant.
Mentioning off-topic personal information, such as nationality or professional credentials	Demonstrate your English skills by writing an organized and relevant response that includes well-developed ideas, precise language, and complex grammar. Omit details that are unrelated to the question.
Using templates, such as memorized introductions and conclusions	Always write in your own words. Don't prepare any content in advance. In every sentence, include information that is specific to the question.
Inappropriate formatting (e.g., inconsistent spacing, incorrect symbols, typing in all lower or upper case)	Use proper paragraphing, spacing, capitalization, and punctuation. Familiarize yourself with a standard keyboard so that you will know where to find commonly used keys (shift, enter, etc.) and symbols (apostrophe, comma, etc.).

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Writing Scoring Myths and Facts

Myth	Fact
Raters have access to test takers' personal information, including their performance on other parts of the test.	Raters see only the question that you received and the response you typed. They do not have access to your test scores. They will only know your name and nationality if you include those details in your response.
Raters count how many mistakes a test taker makes and assign Levels accordingly.	Raters are trained to assess multiple factors within each of the four dimensions, to notice strengths as well as weaknesses, and to consider how much impact errors have on the response as a whole.
Raters are encouraged to give low scores so that test takers will need to retake the test.	Raters are expected to assess responses with accuracy and consistency. Their work is closely monitored. They are very sensitive to the fact that their work impacts test takers' lives.

Free CELPIP Writing Resources

CELPIP Writing Performance Standards: celpip.ca/take-celpip/test-results/
This chart lists the four dimensions that raters assess, and the individual factors considered within each dimension.

CELPIP Score Comparison Chart: celpip.ca/prepare-for-celpip/score-comparison-chart/
This resource provides two test taker responses at every CELPIP Level from M to 12, with analysis of how the responses demonstrate particular Level-specific skills. It is available for both Writing and Speaking. Downloadable charts of Level-specific Writing and Speaking skills are also included.

CELPIP Writing Pro webinars: celpip.ca/celpip-writing-pro/
Two of our free webinars are focused on Writing.

- **Writing Pro: Target 5** introduces the writing process and a suggested format for Task 1 and Task 2 Writing questions, with analysis of sample test taker responses around CELPIP Level 5.

- **Writing Pro: Target 9+** focuses on more complex writing skills, with analysis of sample test taker responses around CELPIP Level 9.

All test takers are welcome at both sessions, no matter what score you are hoping to achieve. You can interact with the instructor and ask any questions you have about the test. Each session includes a free PDF Study Pack that includes the sample responses, analysis, and key strategies covered in the session. If you can't attend Writing Pro live, you can watch a recording of each session on our YouTube channel here.

CELPIP Live Writing Playlist: youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAqVC0RMPppzsjUc7dVYOfQFtsG5Apaty
CELPIP Live is a series of lessons presented live on YouTube by CELPIP experts. You can join them live or watch the recordings at your convenience. Lessons focused on the Writing tasks are linked above.

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