CELPIP Listening Pro Study Pack

Contents

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Listening Test Overview

Part	# of Questions (approximate)	Timing (approximate)
Practice Task (unscored)	1	1 minute
Part 1: Listening to Problem Solving	8	8 minutes
Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation	5	5 minutes
Part 3: Listening for Information	6	6 minutes
Part 4: Listening to a News Item	5	5 minutes
Part 5: Listening to a Discussion	8	9 minutes
Part 6: Listening for Viewpoints	6	8 minutes

- The Listening Test takes **about 47-55 minutes** to complete.
- Listening is the **first** part of the CELPIP Test.

Scoring

CELPIP Level	Listening score /38	Scoring Information
10-12	35-38	• There are **38 scored questions** on the Listening Test.
9	33-35	• Each correct answer receives **1 point**.
8	30-33	• There may be **one unscored part**. If so, you will not know which part is unscored. Do your best on every part.
7	27-31	
6	22-28	• Points are **not** deducted for incorrect answers. Always answer every question!
5	17-23	
4	11-18	• The Listening Test is **computer-scored**.
3	7-12	• Your CELPIP Level is calculated by the computer based on the **number of points** and the **difficulty level** of the questions. Score equating ensures fairness.
M-2	0-7	

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Listening Test Format

- The questions for each Listening part come **after the audio**.
- For each question, choose the **best answer** from **four options**. Each question has **one** correct answer.
- In each Listening part, you can **change your answer(s)** as much as you like until the time for that question or section is up.
- When your time is up, the test will **automatically** move forward to the next screen. You **can't go back** to a previous part of the test.
- The audio passages and questions **increase in difficulty** from Parts 1 – 6.

Audio Features

- All speakers use **English as a native language** and have **Canadian accents**.
- For all conversations with two speakers, **one** is **female** and **one** is **male**.
- All audio clips are played **one time only**.
- Audio clips **begin automatically** and **can't be paused**.

Note-Taking Tips and Strategies

- You will receive paper and a pen at the test centre. Ask for more paper if you need it!
- Taking notes is beneficial no matter what your English level is.
- Organize your notes in a sequence. The questions will come in roughly the same order as the answers appeared in the audio.
- You may want to arrange your notes differently for different types of audio.
- Use point form and abbreviations.
- Your notes will have no impact on your score. Nobody will look at them.
- Practice note-taking before the test so you know which strategies work for you. Use a pen and paper. (Typing on a keyboard or screen is not the same experience!)

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Question Types

You will answer three different kinds of questions on the Listening Test. (These same three types also appear on the Reading Test.)

The question types are:

1. **General Meaning:** a "big picture" question that asks you to <u>put together ideas</u> from a <u>larger section</u> of the conversation: several sentences, more than one person's thoughts, or the whole clip.
   Examples:
   - The two speakers are talking about _____.
   - The three speakers all agree that _____.

2. **Specific Information:** a "close up" question that asks for <u>one piece of information</u>, such as a date, name, place, or fact, that a speaker mentioned in <u>one specific place</u> in the audio clip.
   Examples:
   - The man offers the woman _____.
   - The woman's job is _____.
   - Peter, the man on the left, can't attend the conference because _____.

3. **Inference:** a question that asks you to use information from the audio clip to <u>draw a conclusion</u> about something that was <u>not stated directly</u>, such as a speaker's feelings about the situation or what will happen next.
   Examples:
   - The man sounds _____ about next week's work schedule.
   - Ms. Wilson will probably _____ tonight.
   - Dr. Jenkins would most likely agree with Larry that _____.

When answering questions on a practice test or on the real test, you may find it helpful to think about what type of question it is. It is often possible to identify the question type based on its topic and/or its wording. For example, general meaning questions often refer to the whole audio clip or a large section of it. Inference questions often include expressions of probability, like *probably* and *most likely*. Inference questions may also refer to a speaker's feelings or attitude, which tend to be communicated indirectly through tone of voice and body language.

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Useful CELPIP Listening Skills

The following list includes skills that you are likely to use as you listen to the audio and answer the questions on the Listening Test.

Taking notes

It will be very helpful to take notes both during audio passages and, in Parts 1-3, when questions are read. The note-taking strategies listed on page __ above were covered in more detail in the Listening Pro session you attended; you may want to review the video. Practice taking notes for all 6 Listening Parts before test day so that you know which strategies work best for you.

Identifying opinions

Not only in Part 6 (Listening for Viewpoints) but in many parts of the Listening Test, it will be helpful to identify each of the main opinions presented in the audio. How does each speaker feel about the situation and why? How are the speakers' opinions similar to and different from one another?

Determining meaning from context

As you work through the Listening Test, you will likely encounter words you haven't seen or heard before. Building your vocabulary is a very important part of improving your English abilities, and something to work on actively as you prepare for CELPIP. If you encounter a new word on the test, you won't be able to look it up, so the ability to figure out what it might mean by considering its context is a useful skill. Even if you aren't sure of the exact meaning, identifying its part of speech (noun, verb, etc.) and whether it has a positive or negative meaning can help you to draw conclusions when listening to the audio and considering answer choices.

Identifying tone

Tone is the attitude or emotional feeling a speaker communicates. For example, is s/he excited, nervous, frustrated, relieved about the situation under discussion? Does s/he agree, partially agree, or disagree with the other speaker(s)? Speakers in the Listening Test often won't express their feelings directly (for example, "I'm so frustrated right now!"). Most of the time, they'll express themselves indirectly (for example, "I can't believe my bus is late *again*!" or "There's *no way* I'll be able to finish all this homework by 5:00!"). The speakers' intonation and word stress will help to indicate tone, and in Part 5, body language will provide additional clues. Being able to hear emotion in speakers' voices will help you to understand the parts of the Listening Test where multiple speakers have a conversation.

Identifying and anticipating paraphrase

You should never expect the correct answer choice, or any answer choice, to be stated in the exact same words that were said in the audio clip. In all parts of the Listening Test, you will encounter words and phrases in the question and answer choices that *paraphrase* something stated in the text. Paraphrase is expressing the same idea in different words. For example, a speaker named Abby might say to her friend:

"I was so tired from my night shift that I had a hard time staying awake while my math professor was lecturing."

The correct answer choice might read:

Abby almost fell asleep during her class.

Both sentences communicate the same idea, even though the words are very different and the first version includes more detail.

Question Format: Parts 1 – 3

- **Multiple choice** questions
- **Hear** the questions, **read** the 4 answer choices
- Questions appear **one by one**
- **30 seconds** to hear and answer **each question**
- Must answer questions **in the order presented**

Part 1: Listening to Problem Solving	
Timing	About **8 minutes** to listen to the audio and answer **8 questions**
Audio Features	• 2 speakers (one man, one woman) • conversation is broken into 3 sections of audio • each audio section is about 1–1.5 minutes • after each audio section, 2-3 questions about that section • 30 seconds to hear and answer each question
Examples	• two coworkers discussing a problem one of them is having at home • a customer asking a cashier for help with a return or a purchase
Tone / Level of Formality	• conversational, relatively informal, polite • helpful: one speaker wants to help the other with a problem • the speakers don't know each other

Part 2: Listening to a Daily Life Conversation	
Timing	About **5 minutes** to listen to the audio and answer about **5 questions**
Audio Features	• 2 speakers (one man, one woman) • one audio clip (about 1.5–2 minutes) • 30 seconds to hear and answer each question
Examples	• coworkers talking about the project they're working on • sports team members preparing for a game • a husband and wife making plans for the weekend
Tone / Level of Formality	• conversational, relatively informal, polite • not _too_ casual or personal • the speakers know each other

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Part 3: Listening for Information	
Timing	About **6 minutes** to listen to the audio and answer about **6 questions**
Audio Features	• 2 speakers (one man, one woman) • one audio clip (about 2–2.5 minutes) • 30 seconds to hear and answer each question
Examples	• a customer buying a new car from a salesman • an experienced employee explaining a procedure to a new coworker • a parent looking to rent decorations from a party store for a child's birthday
Tone / Level of Formality	• polite, informal to somewhat formal • one speaker has expertise/information that the other is interested in

Key Strategies for Parts 1 – 3

Before Listening
- Set up your notes before the audio starts.
- Read the introductory statement for context clues.

While Listening
- Identify the topic of the conversation.
- Is there a problem? → What is it? What solutions are offered? Which one is chosen?
- Does one speaker want information? → Why?
- Use voice clues to determine the speakers' attitudes and opinions.
- Take notes in a logical order.
- Imagine the scene in your mind.
- Try to focus on what you understand, not what you don't.

After Listening
- Note down keywords in the questions.

Question Format: Parts 4 – 6

- **Sentence completion** questions
- **Read** the questions and the 4 answer choices
- All questions appear on the **same screen**
- Set amount of time to answer **all questions** on screen
- Can answer questions **in any order**

Part 4: Listening to a News Item	
Timing	About **5 minutes** to listen to the audio and answer about **5 questions**
Audio Features	- one speaker - one audio clip (about 1.5 minutes)
Examples	A news report about an everyday situation, such as... - a local event where something unexpected happened - a new technology and how it can help people - an interesting encounter with animals
Tone / Level of Formality	formal, factual, descriptive: like a radio or TV news report

Key Strategies for Part 4

Before Listening
- Set up your notes before the audio starts.
- Read the introductory statement for context clues.

While Listening
- Listen for details about who, what, when, where, and why.
- Take note of people's last names. In news stories, a person is introduced by their full name and then referred to by their last name.
- Keep your notes organized.

After Listening
- Be aware of the time as you answer questions.
- Answer questions you feel confident about first.

Part 5: Listening to a Discussion	
Timing	About **9 minutes** to watch the video and answer about **8 questions**
Audio Features	• 3 speakers • one <u>video</u> clip (about 1.5–2 minutes)
Examples	• teammates discussing where and when to hold a tournament • neighbours planning a block party • classmates discussing who will complete which parts of a group project
Tone / Level of Formality	• relatively informal • includes facts, opinions, and emotions • speakers will sometimes disagree about things

Key Strategies for Part 5

Before Listening
• Set up your notes for 3 speakers before the audio starts.
• Label them according to the speakers' positions on screen as they are introduced.

While Listening
• Identify the topic of the conversation.
• Identify how each speaker feels about the situation and why.
• Note what speakers agree and disagree with each other about.
• Focus on what the speakers say. You will <u>not</u> be tested on visual details unrelated to the conversation, such as whether a character was wearing glasses, what colour someone's shirt was, or which items were on top of a coffee table.
• Use facial expressions and body language to help you identify the speakers' feelings and attitudes.

After Listening
• Pay careful attention to the time. Give yourself roughly 30 seconds to answer each question.
• Answer questions you feel confident about first.

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Part 6: Listening for Viewpoints	
Timing	About **8 minutes** to listen to the audio and answer about **6 questions**
Audio Features	• one speaker • one audio clip (about 3 minutes)
Examples	• a speech about climate change and what can be done about it • a presentation about the effects of a certain technological development • a description of a community issue and different proposed options for resolving it
Tone / Level of Formality	• formal, not improvised (prepared in advance) • information includes concepts, possibilities, analysis • the speaker will use low-frequency and specialized language

Key Strategies for Part 6

Before Listening
- Set up your notes before the audio starts.
- Read the introductory statement for context clues.

While Listening
- Identify the issue under discussion.
- Identify who is mentioned, what their opinions are, and why.
- Take note of people's last names. You are more likely to hear last names once their full name is provided.
- Use paraphrase skills to keep notes brief.

After Listening
- Answer questions you feel confident about first.
- Use context clues to determine whether unfamiliar words in the questions are positive or negative.
- Pay careful attention to the time, and answer every question. Guess if you have to!

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Studying Listening (and Other Skills!) with CELPIP Practice Tests

Two free CELPIP practice tests are available on our website [here](#). While you can simply work through each Listening part according to the specified timing and check your responses against the answer key afterward, there are many other ways to incorporate the Listening material from the practice tests into your CELPIP preparation. Here are some suggestions.

Untimed practice

Ignoring the time limits, work through all of the questions in a Listening part without rushing or guessing. Take as long as you need. For Parts 1-3, listen to questions more than once if necessary. How long did it take? How did you do? What listening skills can you work on to get through the questions within the given time and answer them correctly?

Identifying question types

After you've answered all the questions for one Listening part and checked the answer key, go back to the questions and identify which type each one is: general meaning, specific information, or inference. Is there any type you're less confident about than the others, or answer correctly less often? Return to those questions and the reading passage, and take the time to figure out why exactly the correct answers are correct and the others are not.

Taking notes

Use the audio passages in the practice tests as a way to figure out how you prefer to take notes for each part of the Listening Test. Listen to each clip more than once and try a variety of different note-taking strategies. You may also want to consult the questions now and then to determine whether your notes are clear enough to help you choose the right answers quickly. Figure out which abbreviations, symbols, etc. you prefer to use for common words and phrases so you already have a "system" on test day.

Learning new vocabulary

Use the Listening transcripts as sources of new vocabulary. Note down each new word and its meaning(s) in a vocabulary journal, listen to how the speaker says it in the audio so you'll be familiar with the pronunciation, and practice actively using it in your writing and speaking. Before you look up the meaning of a word, try to figure out what part of speech it is and whether it has a positive or negative meaning in the sentence.

Reading Listening transcripts aloud—alone or with a friend!

After listening to an audio clip, practice speaking by reading part or all of the transcript out loud. You will not be asked to read aloud for any CELPIP test question, but doing this type of practice can help you to identify sentence structures, remember vocabulary, and become familiar with pronunciation and patterns of intonation.

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Additional CELPIP Webinars

Webinar	Focus	Length
CELPIP-General Overview	An overview of the features and format of the CELPIP Test, with Speaking and Writing response analysis	2 hours
Reading Pro	Format, strategies, and sample questions for Reading Parts 1 – 4	2 hours
Writing Pro: Target 5	Achieving Level 5 or higher on the Writing Test	2 hours
Writing Pro: Target 9+	Achieving Level 9 or higher on the Writing Test	2 hours
Speaking Pro: Target 5	Achieving Level 5 or higher on the Speaking Test	2 hours
Speaking Pro: Target 9+	Achieving Level 9 or higher on the Speaking Test	2 lessons, 2 hours each

- **Everyone at all language levels is welcome at all CELPIP webinars!** The information we provide about test format, question types, and useful strategies applies to everyone, no matter what CELPIP Level you're trying for.
- You can participate and ask questions to the instructor in all sessions.
- Speaking Pro and Writing Pro **Target 5** sessions include sample responses in the CELPIP **Level 4-5** range. **Target 9** sessions include sample responses in the **Level 8-12** range.
- Everyone who attends a Pro session receives a **free Study Pack** containing the most important content from the webinar, including sample responses, analysis, checklists, and strategies.
- You can attend the same session more than once, but please be aware that **the content will be the same**. We repeat these webinars monthly to help new test takers learn about the test!
- A recording of each webinar is posted on our **YouTube channel**.

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