Extra practice prompts

Speaking prompts

Set the Speaking timer on the Extras page for the task number. Record yourself, listen back, and use the self-check sheet.

Task 1: Giving Advice (30 s preparation, 90 s speaking)

1. Your neighbour wants to start running, but has never exercised before and is worried about getting hurt. Give your neighbour some advice.
2. Your cousin is moving to Canada in January and asks what to prepare for the first winter. Give your cousin some advice.
3. A co-worker wants to save money for a car but always spends too much at the end of the month. Give your co-worker some advice.
4. Your friend's teenage son wants a part-time job, but your friend is worried about his school marks. Give your friend some advice.
5. A new neighbour asks how to meet people in your community. Give your neighbour some advice.

Task 2: Talking about a Personal Experience (30 s preparation, 60 s speaking)

1. Talk about a time when a plan went wrong but the day still turned out well.
2. Talk about a time when you helped a stranger. What happened, and how did you feel?
3. Talk about the first day at a new job or school. What happened?
4. Talk about a time when you had to learn a skill quickly.
5. Talk about a trip or visit that you remember well. Why do you remember it?

Task 6: Dealing with a Difficult Situation (60 s preparation, 60 s speaking)

1. You promised to drive your friend to the airport early tomorrow, but your car will not start. Choose: call your friend and explain, or call your brother and ask to borrow his car.
2. You borrowed a co-worker's laptop and spilled coffee on the keyboard. Choose: talk to your co-worker, or talk to your manager about paying for the repair.
3. Your upstairs neighbour plays loud music late every night and you start work early. Choose: talk to the neighbour, or talk to the building manager.
4. You booked a table for your sister's birthday dinner, but the restaurant has lost the booking. Choose: talk to the restaurant manager, or talk to your sister about another plan.
5. Your child's soccer coach has asked you to drive the team every week, but you can only help twice a month. Choose: talk to the coach, or talk to another parent who might share the driving.

Task 7: Expressing Opinions (30 s preparation, 90 s speaking)

1. Should cities make public transit free for everyone? Give your opinion and explain why.
2. Is it better for children to learn a second language at school from the first grade? Give your opinion.
3. Should employers allow workers to work from home two or more days a week? Give your opinion.
4. Do people spend too much time on their phones? Give your opinion and explain why.
5. Should stores stop giving out plastic bags? Give your opinion and explain why.

Task 5: Comparing and Persuading (Part 1: 60 s to choose; Part 2: 60 s preparation, 60 s speaking)

Part 1: choose Option A or Option B. Part 2: the other person proposes the new option. Persuade them that your choice is better than the new option.

1. **Your family is choosing a summer vacation.** Option A: A lakeside cabin: three hours' drive, a kitchen, canoes, no internet. Option B: A city hotel: a one-hour flight, a pool, museums, restaurants nearby. *New option:* A beach camping trip: a two-hour drive, a tent, a playground, very low cost.

2. **You and your co-worker are choosing a team lunch place.** Option A: A sandwich shop: five minutes' walk, quick, low prices. Option B: A buffet restaurant: a ten-minute drive, many choices, higher prices. *New option:* An outdoor food truck market: fifteen minutes' walk, music, only open on sunny days.
3. **You and your friend are choosing a weekend class.** Option A: A cooking class: Saturday mornings, ingredients included, small group. Option B: A pottery class: Sunday afternoons, take home what you make, a larger group. *New option:* A dance class: Friday evenings, lower price, no partner needed.

Writing prompts

Task 1: Writing an Email (27 minutes, 150 to 200 words)

1. You bought a winter coat online, and the zipper broke the first week. Write an email to the company. In your email: describe the coat and the problem; explain what you have already tried; say what you want the company to do.
2. Your neighbour often parks in front of your driveway. Write an email to your neighbour. In your email: explain the problem; describe how it affects you; suggest a solution.
3. A co-worker covered your shifts when you were sick last week. Write an email to your co-worker. In your email: thank your co-worker; explain why the help mattered; offer something in return.
4. Your apartment's laundry room has had a broken machine for three weeks. Write an email to the building manager. In your email: describe the problem; explain why it is a problem for you; ask for a specific action.
5. Your community centre is planning its summer events. Write an email to the program coordinator. In your email: introduce yourself; suggest one new event; explain how you could help.

Task 2: Responding to Survey Questions (26 minutes, 150 to 200 words)

1. Your city has money to improve one thing in your neighbourhood. Which do you prefer? Option A: more bike lanes. Option B: a new playground. Choose one option and explain why.
2. Your workplace wants to change the work week. Which do you prefer? Option A: four longer days. Option B: five shorter days. Choose one option and explain why.
3. Your library wants to change its hours. Which do you prefer? Option A: open later in the evening on weekdays. Option B: open on Sunday mornings. Choose one option and explain why.
4. Your community is choosing a winter event. Which do you prefer? Option A: an outdoor skating party. Option B: an indoor winter market. Choose one option and explain why.
5. Your school board is choosing a new program. Which do you prefer? Option A: free after-school sports. Option B: free after-school homework help. Choose one option and explain why.

From the free gifts of the CELPIP General Study Guide 2027-2028. Independent study guide. Not affiliated with or endorsed by Paragon Testing Enterprises, Prometric or the CELPIP test.