Glossary of test words

CELPIP level
Your score for one component, from 0 to 12.

CLB
Canadian Language Benchmarks: the national levels that immigration programs use. CELPIP levels 3 to 12 match the same CLB level.

Component
One of the four tests: Listening, Reading, Writing or Speaking.

Part
A section of the Listening or Reading test with its own instructions.

Task
One Writing or Speaking question that you answer.

Unscored item
An extra question that does not count. It looks the same as the others and can appear anywhere.

Score report
The official report of your levels. Scores are valid for two years from the date it is issued.

Rater
A trained person who scores Writing and Speaking. More than one rater scores your answers.

Rating areas
The four things raters judge: content and coherence, vocabulary, readability or listenability, and task fulfillment.

Content and coherence
Clear, complete and well organized ideas.

Readability
How easy your writing is to read: grammar, spelling, punctuation and paragraphs.

Listenability
How easy your speech is to follow: pronunciation, rhythm and few long pauses.

Task fulfillment
Answering every part of the task, at the right length and in the right tone.

Preparation time
The seconds before a Speaking task when you plan. Recording starts by itself when it ends.

General meaning question
A question about the big picture: what the speakers or writer mainly talk about.

Specific information question
A question about one detail: a name, a time, a price, a reason.

Inference question
A question whose answer is not said directly but is clear from what is said.

Option
One of the possible answers to a question: usually four, and five in Reading Part 3.

Distractor
A wrong option written to look right.

Skim
Read fast for the main idea.

Scan
Look quickly for one detail.

Synonym
A word or phrase with the same meaning. Right options usually use synonyms of the text.

Tone

How formal or friendly your writing or speech sounds.

Formal
The style for a manager, a company or someone you do not know well.

Signpost
A word that shows the order of your ideas: first, second, finally.

Linking word
A word that joins ideas: however, as a result, for this reason.

Present continuous
The verb form for actions happening now: is holding, are rolling. Use it in Speaking Task 3.

Present perfect
have or has + past participle: I have lived here since 2023.

Uncountable noun
A noun with no plural and no a: advice, information, furniture.

Word count
The number of words in your answer. The Writing screen counts it for you.

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Memory aids

Listening routine: B-D-A

Before (read the title, guess the situation), **D**uring (notes), **A**fter (question, all four options, choose).

What to note: 5W + C

Who, **W**hat, **W**hen, **W**here, **W**hy, plus any **C**hange of mind.

The four traps: W-F-P-T, "We Fear Pretty Tricks"

Word trap, **F**irst idea trap, wrong **P**erson trap, **T**oo much trap.

Reading: S-S-C, skim, scan, close

Skim for the main idea, **S**can for the detail, read **C**losely only where the answer is.

Reading time: one question, one minute

38 questions in about 43 minutes of part timers. Two minutes on one question is too long.

The four rating areas: C-V-R-T, "Can Very Rarely Tell"

Content and coherence, **V**ocabulary, **R**eadability or listenability, **T**ask fulfillment.

Writing time: "3 in, 3 out"

The first **3** to 4 minutes to plan, the last **3** to 4 minutes to check, typing in between.

Word count: 150 to 200, "one fifty, no more than two hundred"

Short answers lose points. A little over 200 is less of a problem than too short.

Email plan: G-P-P-C

Greeting and purpose, **P**oint 1, **P**oint 2, **C**losing with point 3.

Survey plan: C-R-R-O-C

Choice, **R**eason 1, **R**eason 2, **O**ther option, **C**hoice again.

Final check: V-N-S

Verbs (tense and agreement), **N**ouns (plurals and articles), **S**pelling and missing words.

Speaking times: "One and Seven get ninety"

Tasks 1 and 7 give you 90 seconds to speak. All the others give you 60.

Preparation: "Five and Six think for a minute"

Task 6 and Task 5 Part 2 give you 60 seconds to prepare. The others give you 30.

Task 3 tour: Big, Move, Feel

One sentence on the **big** picture, **move** around the scene, end with how it **feels**.

Task 8 call: R-S-C-D-Q

Reason for calling, **S**hape and size, **C**olour and material, **D**etails, **Q**uestion for the listener.

Prepositions of time: AT the clock, ON the day, IN the month

at 3 p.m., on Tuesday, in May.

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