



COLGATE
EDUCATION CONSULTING

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CELPIP Reading Test

OVERVIEW

- ❖ The Reading Test measures how well you can understand what you read in personal, social and workplace contexts.
- ❖ Do your reading skills allow you to understand a wide variety of print materials, including email messages, charts, personal and business correspondence, and short informative texts?
- ❖ Can you recognize and interpret several different opinions that have been presented in a short passage?
- ❖ Each section of the test allows you to demonstrate specific reading skills and contributes to a profile of your overall reading ability.
- ❖ You have 60 minutes to complete all four parts of the Reading Test.

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There are four parts in the Reading Test.

	PART AND TYPE	DESCRIPTION	QUESTIONS	SUGGESTED TIME
1	Reading Correspondence (2 readings)	First read a letter and answer 6 questions; then read a reply letter and fill in 5 blanks by selecting the best choice.	11	11 minutes
2	Reading to Apply a Diagram (1 reading and 1 diagram)	Read a letter, refer to the diagram, and find the best answers for the questions.	8	9 minutes
3	Reading for Information (1 reading)	Read a text and decide which paragraph (if any) supports each statement.	9	10 minutes

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4	Reading for Viewpoints (2 readings)	First read an opinion report and answer 5 questions; then read a response and fill in the 5 blanks by selecting the best choice.	10	13 minutes
5	Unscored Items*	Unknown	8–11	9–13 minutes

* The unscored items are used for test development purposes and may be placed anywhere within the Reading Test. They will have the same format as one of the other parts of the Reading Test. The unscored items will not affect your official score. However, you will not know which part of the test contains the unscored items, so apply your best effort to all parts of the test.

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READING TEXTS

Note that the CELPIP-General Test is not an academic reading test. Although the readings build in complexity as the test progresses, you will not be required to summarize passages and read through lengthy texts to locate information. You will be working with different types of texts, any of which you might encounter daily in Canada.

MANAGING YOUR TIME

The chart on the previous page gives the maximum amount of time you have to finish each section. Within each section, however, you control how much time you spend on each question—and you can choose to move on to the next section before the time is up. However, you cannot “bank” your time; any time you choose not to use will not be transferred to the next question. When managing your time, make sure you leave enough time to answer and review all the questions in each section.

READING TEST PART 1

READING CORRESPONDENCE

GUIDELINES

The first task is to read a personal letter and answer six questions on the text.

The letter topic can be any subject that people would discuss in a typical correspondence, such as a holiday, a meal at a restaurant, or a family event such as wedding.

The second task in this section, reading a short reply from the recipient of the original letter, will be discussed later.

R1 Example

Part 1: Read the following letter:

Hi Abdul,

[S1] I arrived in Tofino yesterday evening. **[S2]** It's a pretty amazing place. **[S3]** We have a cabin by the sea, and we can see hundreds of little islands receding all the way to the horizon. **[S4]** The town of Tofino is little more than a few blocks of shops, houses, and restaurants, which is a refreshing change from the traffic and offices of downtown Calgary. **[S5]** If they needed a structural engineer here, I'd be very tempted to apply for the position.

Today, Jill and I went exploring. We took a tour to a small island just off the coast of Tofino. It is a tiny island and completely unspoiled. The entire island is covered in a forest of ancient trees. Each one is as wide as your truck and twice as tall as your house. In one tree we saw the outline of an immense eagle's nest, although the eagle was nowhere to be seen. Having said that, it was pretty tough to make out much at all as the weather was pretty grim. Shortly after we reached the island, it started to pour, and we were both completely soaked within minutes. They don't call it a rainforest for nothing.

We look forward to seeing you when you join us on Wednesday. I should warn you that it's quite a journey to get here. You're best off flying from Edmonton to Vancouver and then catching a flight on a small plane from Vancouver to Tofino. If your budget won't allow for that, you can get a bus from the Vancouver airport to the ferry terminal, then get a ferry to Nanaimo, and then finally a bus to Tofino. The views from the ferry are awesome, but given that you have to return on Sunday, it would be great if we could maximize our time in Tofino. Anyway, be sure to let me know how you decide to get here so I can meet you when you get in.

Also, be sure to come prepared for the weather. As I mentioned, the weather here is unpredictable, so you might be sunbathing on the beach one moment and then running for shelter in the cabin a moment later. Still, it's definitely worth the trip, and I can't wait to see you again after all this time.

Take care and see you soon,

Jared

Example Prompt and Question

Using the drop-down menu, choose the best way to complete each statement according to the information given in the letter.

1. Jared feels that Tofino is_____.
 - (a) somewhat bigger than he expected.
 - (b) more boring than Calgary.
 - (c) more pleasant than Calgary.
 - (d) too small to be interesting.

STUDY TIP 1

Review and strengthen your **skimming** and **scanning** abilities; these are key speed-reading skills.

You need both skills to answer reading questions, so practice them every day if you can.

Use a textbook to learn more about these skills and to practice them.