

# CELPPIP

## Speaking Practice



**100+**  
Questions  
Answers



**MAD ENGLISH TV**

# CELEPIP

## Speaking Practice

Mad English TV

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**Dear Friends,**

Welcome to my CELPIP speaking book! Thank you so much for buying my book and supporting my work! :)

I made this book to help you improve your speaking score. The best way to improve your score is to **PRACTICE!** In this book, you will get lots of practice and useful tips.

You will see four parts to each question:

 **QUESTION**

 **TIPS**

 **KEY TERMS**

 **MY ANSWER**

Have you taken the free practice exam on the CELPIP website? Please take it before using this book so that you have a better understanding of the test's format. You can sign up for a free account at: [www.celpip.ca](http://www.celpip.ca)

# How To Use This Book

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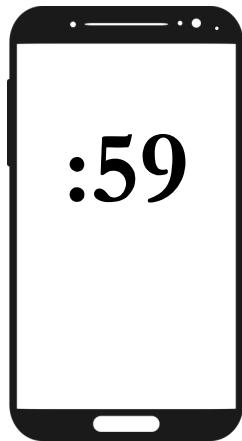
**Buy a cheap headset (less than \$10).**

If you practice using a headset, you will feel more comfortable during the exam.



**Record your answers. Use a timer.**

If you record your answers, you will be more prepared when you take the test.



# General Tips

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## 1. Use NATURAL words and phrases

Many of my students say, “Teach me some words and phrases that will increase my score from 7 to 9.” This is the wrong kind of thinking. There are no magic words you can use in every question to increase your score. If you try to do that, it will probably sound unnatural and you will lose marks. It’s much better to use simple natural words than complex unnatural words. For example, one of my students said, “the benign man”. She was trying to say, “the friendly man”, and she thought the word “friendly” was too simple. She wanted to use a big word, but her answer was confusing. If your answers are confusing, you will get a bad score. ONLY use advanced vocabulary and phrases if it is natural in that situation.

## 2. Speak with a calm, cheerful tone of voice

The speaking test is the last part of the exam. You might feel exhausted after sitting in the chair for three hours, but try to stay positive! Don’t sound tired or bored. Listen to a recording of your voice. Does it sound good? Is it easy to understand?

### **3. Say MORE**

Use the full amount of time for each answer. If the question gives you 90 seconds to speak, you should practice speaking for at least 80 seconds. But don't say the same thing over and over again! When people are nervous, they often repeat themselves. Your answer should have more **substance** and less **fluff**. "Fluff" means saying useless things to fill the time. Try to think of two or three points to talk about in each question and write down some simple notes to help you remember.

### **4. Practice fast transitions between questions**

On the CELPIP test, you cannot stop and rest after each question. If you do poorly on a question, you need to forget about it and move to the next one. Practice fast transitions between questions.

### **5. Learn English**

Honestly, the best way to prepare for the test is to learn more English. It's impossible to know what the questions will be, so you have to be ready for anything! I would recommend watching the videos on my YouTube channel (Mad English TV). You will learn new words, phrases, idioms, and more!

# Test Format

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<u>Question</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Time</u>
#1	Giving Advice	30s/90s
#2	Personal Experience	30s/60s
#3	Describe a Scene	30s/60s
#4	Make Predictions	30s/60s
#5	Comparing/Persuading	60s/60s
#6	Difficult Situation	60s/60s
#7	Opinion	30s/90s
#8	Unusual Situation	30s/60s

I would recommend memorizing this format.

# My Answers

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My answers are just examples for you to look at. There are no right or wrong answers on the CELPIP speaking test. When you read my answers, don't get discouraged if you don't understand some advanced words or phrases. I believe all my answers would receive a score of 12. So, don't compare your answer with my answer because I'm a native English speaker! Haha

# My Tips

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I have helped many people prepare for the CELPIP exam. My tips in each question will help you avoid common mistakes that people make.

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your friend is trying to get in shape for the summer. Give him some advice on how he can get in perfect shape.**

# Tips

In this question, you need to give some polite advice to someone. Try not to sound bossy.

**DON'T say:**

You should go to the gym.

You had better not eat junk food.

You must not drink cappuccinos.

You need to go jogging every morning.

**DO say:**

You might want to consider getting a gym membership.

It would be good to cut out junk food from your diet.

Personally, I would stop drinking cappuccinos.

You could start jogging every morning.

One thing you could do is find a workout partner.

In my experience, running is a great way to burn calories.

I would recommend hiring a personal trainer.

I would suggest going swimming every evening.

# Key Terms

Burn calories  
Burn fat  
Build muscle  
Lose weight  
Gain weight  
Carbs  
Sugar  
Protein  
Diet  
Toned (low body fat / muscles are easily visible)  
Ripped (muscular)  
Six-pack (visible abs)  
Beach body (good looking body)  
Fit as a fiddle (idiom: very fit)  
Routine  
Consistency  
Cardio  
Lift weights  
Results  
Bulk up (get bigger muscles)  
Trim down (get smaller)  
Crucial (very important)  
Two cents (input, advice)

# My Answer

Hey Ryan,

It's great to hear that you want to get in shape! I've learned a lot about fitness over the past few years and I'd be happy to give you some tips. I think the best way to get in shape is to focus on three things: diet, exercising, and routine.

When I first started working out, the biggest mistake I made was not paying enough attention to my diet. Diet is so crucial! Fitness experts say that abs are made in the kitchen, not the gym. So if you want to have a beach body, you need to eat low-sugar, low-carb foods. Also, if you want a really toned body, you should focus a lot on cardio. Personally, I like running in the mornings and biking in the evenings. I know you like swimming, so that would be a great option as well. Lifting weights is also important if you want to look ripped. Some guys have no body fat, but they're really skinny. Ideally, you want low body fat AND big muscles. To build muscle, you need to consume a lot of protein. I would recommend eating chicken or beef at least once a day and drinking a protein shake after every workout. If you do the right things, you'll see significant results after two or three weeks. The most important thing is to stay consistent. Try to make a routine for yourself that you really enjoy. If you want to bulk up, focus on weightlifting. If you want to trim down, focus on cardio. Anyway, there's my two cents! Best of luck in your new goal! Maybe next time I see you, you'll have a six-pack!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about your favourite class in high school. Why did you enjoy it?**

# Tips

In this question, you need to use past tense verbs. Many English learners never use past tense verbs in their speech. This is a major problem and will really impact your score in this question! Practice making a list of simple past verbs that you think you'll use to answer this question.

Was  
Studied  
Liked  
Wanted  
Learned  
Taught  
Felt

You only have 30 seconds to prepare for this question, so think about your favourite subject in high school or college and start thinking of reasons why you enjoyed it. Try to take some brief notes to help you if you forget what you wanted to say. For example, if you chose biology as your favourite class, your notes could look like this:

1. Human body...2. Dissecting animals...3. Teacher

# Key Terms

Let's imagine that we chose biology as our favourite class. Here are some words we could use in our answer.

**Aspect**

Anatomy (parts of body)

Awkward (uncomfortable)

Reproductive system

Menstrual cycle (woman's monthly cycle)

Erection (penis becomes stiff)

Evoke (cause)

Giggle (playful laughter)

Dissect (to cut open and examine)

Freak out (react negatively)

Knowledgeable

Helpful

Approachable (easy to talk to)

Down to earth (friendly, relaxed)

Encouraging (supportive)

Engaging (interesting)

Make or break (make enjoyable or miserable)

# My Answer

My favourite class in high school was biology. There were several aspects of the class I enjoyed. The first thing that comes to mind is the unit we did on the reproductive system. It was a bit awkward because we learned all about male and female anatomy. We talked openly about women's menstrual cycles and how a man gets an erection. That definitely evoked a few giggles from the class. Even though it was a bit awkward, I think everyone really enjoyed it. Another aspect of the class I really enjoyed was dissecting animals. I remember one day we dissected frogs and all the girls in the class freaked out. I felt a bit uncomfortable too, but I learned so much in the process! Probably the biggest reason that biology was my favourite class was that the teacher was so down to earth and friendly. Unlike a lot of my other teachers in high school, she was really approachable! I was never scared to ask a question. She was really knowledgeable about the subject and always helped us when we needed it. Her classes were super engaging, and I never got bored! When I think back about biology class, it makes me realize that a teacher can totally make or break the class!

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



# Tips

In this question, you simply need to describe what you see in the picture. Pretend you are describing it to someone who has never seen it before. Here is a guide to help you describe the location of the objects in the picture.

Upper Left Corner

Top

Upper Right Corner

Left

Right



Lower Left Corner

Bottom

Lower Right Corner

# Key Terms

In this question there are lots of great words we can use!

**Broken pipe**

**Water leak**

**Plumber (person who fixes pipes, toilets, sinks, etc.)**

**Overalls**

**Wrench**

**Perplexed (confused)**

**Sink**

**Mirror**

**Shower**

**Mud**

**Floor mat**

**Soap dispenser**

**Toilet**

**Cat**

**Picture**

**Crooked (not straight)**

**Spider**

**Web**

**Mouse**

**Drain**

# My Answer

This is a picture of a really messy bathroom. In the middle of the picture, there is a plumber staring at a broken pipe. He looks perplexed. He is holding a wrench in his hand and trying to figure out how to fix the water leak. He is wearing blue overalls, a red work shirt, brown boots, and a red hat. On the left side of the picture, there is a dirty sink and a broken mirror. In the lower left corner there is a muddy floor mat. In fact, there is mud all over the floor and walls. Next to the floor mat, there is a blue soap dispenser. In the upper right corner, there is a crooked picture on the wall and a spider hanging down from its web. Below the picture, there is a cat standing on the toilet. Behind the toilet, there is a hole in the wall with a mouse in it. To the right of the hole is a drain. Anyway, I hope I've provided a good description of the scene!

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

In this question, you need to use future tense verbs. Many English learners never use future tense verbs in their speech. This is a major problem and will really impact your score in this question! Practice making a list of future tense verbs that you think you'll use to answer this question. Remember, we can make the simple future tense two ways: "he will" or "he's going to".

- is going to fix
- is going to drink
- is going to crawl
- is going to clean
- is going to straighten
- is going to wash

You only have 30 seconds to prepare, so think about some things that will likely happen in this picture. What will the plumber do next? What will the cat do next? What will the spider do next? Your notes could look like this. (Don't write your notes in complete sentences. You don't have enough time!)

1. Plumber fix water leak and straighten picture...2. Cat drink from toilet...3. Spider attack mouse

# Key Terms

Repair

Replace

Install

Straighten

Plug (fill)

Sweep

Mop

Wash

Disinfect (kill germs)

Spick and span (very clean!)

Refill

Crawl down

Attack

Drink out of

Slip

Get soaked (get very wet)

Endeavours (efforts/tasks)

Put up feet (relax)

Reputation (name, position)

# My Answer

There are lots of things I think will happen next in this scene. The first thing the plumber will do is try to fix the water leak. After he gets that under control, he's gonna replace the broken mirror. He might have to go buy a new one, then come back and install it. I think he has been hired by a family to fix their bathroom, so he's gonna try to do a really good job because his reputation depends on it. He's gonna straighten the crooked picture, refill the soap dispenser, plug the mouse hole, kill the spider, sweep and mop the floor, wash the walls, disinfect the toilet and sink, and leave the entire bathroom spick and span. I think the cat will start drinking water out of the toilet and end up slipping into the toilet and getting soaked! The spider is gonna crawl down its web and attack the mouse, but I think the mouse will escape. In the end, the plumber will be successful in his endeavours and put up his feet for a while.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your sister is trying to decide what to study in college. She has narrowed down her options and wants your advice. Choose the option you think would be best for her and convince her that your choice is the best for her.

## Physiotherapy

Evening classes

Tuition cost: \$30,000

Duration: 2 years

Salary after graduation: \$60,000

## Hairdressing

Morning classes

Tuition cost: \$20,000

Duration: 1 year

Salary after graduation: \$45,000



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

She has suddenly taken an interest in photography. Convince her that your choice is better.

## Photography

Online study

Program cost: \$10,000

Duration: 9 months

Salary after graduation: \$30,000

## Physiotherapy

Evening classes

Tuition cost: \$50,000

Duration: 4 years

Salary after graduation: \$60,000

## Hairdressing

Morning classes

Tuition cost: \$20,000

Duration: 1 year

Salary after graduation: \$40,000



# Tips

In this question, you need to use comparing words such as “higher salary”, “better schedule”, “cheaper tuition”, etc. You also need to persuade your sister that your choice is best. Try to speak with a convincing tone of voice.

A great sentence to use in your answer is:

“Even though studying physiotherapy is more expensive,...”

“Even though you have to wake up early if you study hairdressing,...”

“Even though photography costs a lot less,...”

# Key Terms

In line with (matches with)  
Time commitment  
**Combing**  
**Braiding**  
**Grand (\$1000)**  
**Long run (long term)**  
Set you back (cost)  
**Rewarding (fulfilling)**

# My Answer

Hey Angela,

I know you're considering your options about what to study in college. I really think you should go for hairdressing. I think that's much more in line with your personality. I remember when you were a kid, you would play with barbie dolls and spend hours combing and braiding their hair. So, I think you would enjoy hairdressing even more than photography. The nice thing about hairdressing is that you would make ten grand more a year. That would really help you out in the long run! Even though the tuition cost is double, you would easily make that back in a year, so I don't think that's a very important factor. Another thing to consider is that photography equipment is really expensive. If you bought your own gear right after graduation, that would probably set you back at least ten grand anyway! Even though the photography program is three months shorter, that's a minor factor when you consider the rest of your life! The most important thing is to find something you love to do. I think if you studied hairdressing, you would easily get a job afterwards and have a rewarding career!

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Your friends want you to go fishing with them tomorrow, but you have to work. You decide to skip work and go fishing. You have to call your boss and make up an excuse for your absence. What do you say?**

# Tips

This is a difficult situation because you have to call your boss and tell him you won't be at work tomorrow. He won't accept it if you just say, "I've decided to go fishing." You don't want to get fired, so you have to make up a good excuse.

In this question, talk directly to your boss. Your greeting should be something like this:

**Hi Sir,**

or

**Hi Mr. Brown,**

You should identify yourself in the opening sentence.

**"Hi Mr. Brown, it's Jeff calling here."**

After the opening sentence, you should tell him that you will be absent from work.

**"Unfortunately, something urgent has come up for tomorrow."**

**Make sure you apologize for being absent!**

# Key Terms

**Collarbone**

**X-rays**

**Late notice (short time to prepare)**

**Sharp (not late)**

# My Answer

Hi Mr. Brown, it's Jeff calling here. I'm just calling to tell you that unfortunately I won't be able to come to work tomorrow. My best friend had a snowboarding accident and broke his collarbone. I need to drive him to the hospital for X-rays tomorrow. He doesn't have anyone else to drive him. I'll have to drive him back home as well, and since I don't know how long the appointment will take, I'll just have to wait there with him. I'm really sorry for the late notice, but my friend just had the accident this afternoon. I contacted Diane at work and she said she would be happy to take over my responsibilities for the day, so you won't have to find any replacement for me. I'd be happy to do some extra work on the weekend to make up for my absence. I really appreciate your understanding in this matter and I'll be back at work on Wednesday at 8 a.m. sharp!

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?**

**Parents are the best teachers.**

**Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

# Tips

**Remember, this is the second 90 second answer. A lot of people struggle to talk for the full 90 seconds. You should have enough things to talk about so that you don't repeat yourself over and over again.**

**In this question, you should take a clear stance on the subject. That means your opinion should be very clear, and it should be stated at the beginning of the answer.**

**Try to take a few simple notes. My notes would look like this:**

**More time  
Care more  
Real life education**

**For this question, you don't need an introduction. Your opinion *is* the introduction. Try to have a short conclusion though.**

**Use examples to fill up time.**

# Key Terms

At the end of the day (ultimately)

When you read my answer, you'll see that I don't use any big words. It's more important to use simple, natural English than to use fancy vocabulary.

# My Answer

I definitely agree that parents are the best teachers. There are several reasons why I believe this. First off, parents spend far more time with their children than any school teacher does. Most kids don't start going to school till they're 5 years old. I think it could be argued that a child learns more in those first five years than they do in the rest of their life. For example, they learn how to talk; they learn how to eat; they learn how to use the bathroom. Even when a kid is in school, they still spend more time with their parents than with any of their teachers. The second reason why I think parents are the best teachers is because they care the most about their kids. Usually, the people who care the most try the hardest. Sure, most school teachers care about their students, but at the end of the day, it's just a job. They have so many new students every year that they can't possibly develop a real relationship with any of them. Parenting, on the other hand, is much more than a job. It's a life of commitment and sacrifice. The third thing I would say about parenting is that it provides a different kind of education. Parents are the ones who teach their kids how to share their toys, how to eat healthy food, how to deal with conflict, how to express emotions. These aspects of life are far more important in the long run. That's why I think parents are the best teachers.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are at an art store and see a painting you think your friend will like. Call him up and describe the painting to him.



# Tips

There are two differences between task 8 and task 3. Firstly, in task 8, you're talking to a person. In task 3, you're just describing the scene. Secondly, in task 8, you need to use more specific vocabulary to describe the scene or object.

The purpose of this question is to test you on your ability to use the right words in an unusual situation. Many people struggle with this question because their vocabulary is not advanced enough.

For task 8 and task 3, vocabulary is the most important thing. In this book, I will try to teach you vocabulary that will help you on the exam. :)

# Key Terms

**Abstract art (interesting/strange art)**

**Frame (the whole picture)**

**To scale (proportionate)**

**Pigeon**

**Racoon**

**Tint (a colour that affects the whole scene)**

**Yellowish (close to yellow)**

**Mood (feeling in a picture)**

**Give you a shout (call)**

# My Answer

Hey Peter, it's Jess calling here.

I'm just in an art store right now, and I'm looking at an abstract painting that you might like. The store staff won't let me take a picture of it and send it to you, so I'll just try to describe it to you. There's a big bridge in the middle of the picture that looks like the Golden Gate Bridge. In the centre of the picture, there's a woman sitting on the bridge. Her body takes up the entire middle of the frame, so obviously, sizes are not to scale in the picture. Another strange thing about the woman is that she has four arms. On one of her right arms, she's holding a pigeon. A racoon is sitting on her left shoulder. She has brown hair and green eyes. She's wearing a mask that goes around her eyes. She's wearing a coral-coloured top with a black skirt. In the background of the picture, there are some tall buildings, a sunset, and some clouds. In the foreground, there are some green hills and trees. The whole picture has a yellowish tint to it which gives the painting an interesting mood.

Anyway, I know how much you love abstract art, so I figured I'd give you a shout and see if you want me to buy it for you.

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your brother recently got his driver's license and wants to buy his first car. Give him some advice on how to buy a car.**

# Tips

Remember, when you give advice to your brother, you're not telling him what he should do. You're just giving him suggestions. After listening to your advice, he will make his own decision.

In this question, “how to buy a car” is referring to the general process of getting a car. What should your brother do first? Some people take these kinds of questions too literally. They might focus on the word “how” and think:

- Pay money
- Sign papers
- Get license plate

If you give an answer like that, it's probably okay. But really, this question is not that technical. Don't overthink it. Just give him practical advice on where he should start looking for a car and then maybe tell him some other aspects of the process if you have time.

# Key Terms

There are so many different ways you could answer this question, but here are some key terms I chose to use.

**Budget** (the amount of money you want to spend)

**Second-hand** (not new)

**Kijiji** (a popular Canadian website)

**Craigslist** (a popular website in Canada and the US)

**Dealership** (a place that sells cars)

**Lemon** (a car with serious problems)

**Private sale** (you buy from a person, not a business)

**Haggle** (bargain)

**Low-ball offer** (much less than the seller is asking)

**Counter** (reply to your offer)

**Insurance**

**Registration**

**Auction** (a place where people bid, the highest bidder gets the car)

# My Answer

Hey Mike, I'm really excited for you that you got your driver's license and are looking for your first car! I've bought and sold several cars in my life, so I think I can give you some good advice. Since you just graduated from high school, you probably don't have a huge budget for a vehicle. The good news is that there are always lots of great second-hand vehicles for sale. I just bought a 2008 Toyota Corolla on Kijiji for \$2800. Have you browsed Kijiji yet? That's a great online community for second-hand things. Another website is Craigslist. I would start by taking a look on those sites and figure out what kind of car you want to buy. Some people prefer buying vehicles from a dealership because there's less risk of the car being a lemon. Personally, I prefer a private sale because you can haggle more over the price. Anyway, after you've found one you like, you send a message to the seller and ask if you can look at the vehicle and go for a test drive. If you like the vehicle, then you make an offer on it. Personally, I always start with a low-ball offer. For example, if the vehicle is \$3000, I would offer \$2100. They might counter with \$2700 and then you could meet somewhere around \$2500. After you buy the car, you have to get insurance and registration for it. It's a pretty easy process. Anyway, I hope you find a great vehicle! Just let me know if you need any more advice. There's a vehicle auction once a month that I usually go to. If you want to come along sometime, you'd be more than welcome!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about your biggest accomplishment.**

# Tips

**Remember to use past tense verbs in your answer! Also, don't waste time thinking of your biggest accomplishment because you only have 30 seconds to prepare for this question. Just think of any accomplishment and then start thinking of reasons why it is important to you. The reasons don't have to be true. Just make them up if you can't think of any!**

**Let's suppose you decide to talk about graduating from college. What would your notes look like? My notes would look like this:**

- 1. First in family**
- 2. Admission tests**
- 3. Good GPA**

# Key Terms

In this question, don't focus so much on using lots of big words. Instead, focus on your tone of voice. The listener should be able to hear that you're proud of yourself just by listening to your voice.

Achievement

Proud

Ceremony

Entrance exams

Brutal (extremely hard)

GPA

Scholarship

# My Answer

Probably the biggest accomplishment I've had in life is graduating from university. It was a great achievement for me because my I was the first person in my family to get a university degree. My family was so proud of me. My grandma even cried at the graduation ceremony. I worked so hard during the four years of university, and it felt so good to be done. Actually, I worked hard even before starting the degree because I had to pass a number of entrance exams. Those were brutal! So, even getting into university was a big accomplishment for me. Another reason why it was a great accomplishment was because I maintained an excellent GPA throughout my studies. Because of that, I received two incredible scholarships — one for \$8000 and the other for \$5000. Those really helped me out a lot! Anyway, getting a university degree was my biggest accomplishment so far in life.

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



# Tips

In this question, take a careful look at the picture. Make sure you understand what is happening in the scene because this picture will be used for this question *and* the next question! Personally, I wouldn't take any notes for task 3 and 4. The picture itself is your notes. But everybody is different. Maybe notes would help you.

Remember to use terms like "right side" and "left side". The words "foreground" and "background" are also good, but some pictures don't have a foreground and background. For example, the picture of the bathroom with the plumber didn't have a foreground or background. This picture of the zoo has a background but not really a foreground. If you use the word foreground here, that's okay, but it's better not to use those words unless there is a clear distinction between the background and the foreground. In this picture, the sky and clouds are clearly behind the zoo. But what is in the foreground? The zoo? The girl using a smartphone? Personally, I wouldn't use "foreground" in this example.

# Key Terms

Archway

Stone

Sign

Entrance

Monkey

Perched (sitting on something high or narrow)

Palm trees

Bushes

Path

Popsicle (or ice cream)

Steal

Cage

Holding hands

Smartphone (or cellphone)

Leash

Owner

Ostrich

Beach umbrella

Runs down (goes along)

# My Answer

This picture shows the entrance of a zoo. There is a large stone archway in the centre of the picture with a sign on it that says “zoo”. There is a monkey perched on top of the sign. On each side of the archway, there are some palm trees and bushes. A wide stone path runs down the middle of the picture. There are several people and animals in this picture. On the left side of the picture, there is a monkey in a cage who is stealing a girl’s popsicle. Also, there is a mother holding her son’s hand. On the right side of the picture, there is an ostrich in a cage. A dog is trying to attack the ostrich, but its owner is holding it back on its leash. In the middle of the picture, a woman is walking and looking at her smartphone. In the background of the picture, there is a blue sky and some puffy white clouds and several beach umbrellas.

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

**Remember, when you make predictions, you should use the simple future tense (will or is going to). Also, I don't think it's necessary to take notes for this task. Just think of several things that will happen in the scene. Maybe your prediction will include things that are not currently visible in the scene. For example, a zookeeper might appear and try to catch the monkey. The mother might take a camera out of her handbag and start taking pictures.**

# Key Terms

Escaped

Zoo keeper

Barking

Texting

Crying

Camera

Handbag

Incident (something that happened)

Snap a few shots (take a few pictures)

Yelling (shouting)

# My Answer

---

It looks like several things are about to happen in this picture. I think the girl on the left will start crying because the monkey stole her popsicle. Fortunately, the woman in the bottom left corner will see the incident and buy the girl another one to make her happy. The woman holding her son's hand will take a camera out of her handbag and snap a few shots of her son beside the monkey cage. The woman in the centre of the picture will keep walking and texting her boyfriend. The dog will start barking at the ostrich, and the man will start yelling at his dog to be quiet. A zookeeper will come and catch the monkey that has escaped from its cage. Alright, those are some things that I think will happen next.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You are going on a trip to Europe with your friend. You want to visit several countries and are debating whether to rent a car or buy a train pass. Choose the option you prefer.

## Rent a car

Car rental: \$1300  
Length of trip: 10 days  
Accommodations: Camping (free)  
Agenda: Exploring small towns and scenic areas

## Take the train

Rail pass: \$500  
Length of trip: 12 days  
Accommodations: Hostels (\$600)  
Agenda: Visiting major cities and tourist attractions.



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your friend is recommending flying between cities.  
Convince your friend that your choice is better.

## Flying

Cost: \$1500

Length of trip: 15 days

Accommodations: Hotels (\$1000)

Agenda: Visiting all major parts of Europe  
(East, West, North, South)

## Rent a car

Car rental: \$1300

Length of trip: 10 days

Accommodations: Camping (free)

Agenda: Exploring small towns  
and scenic areas

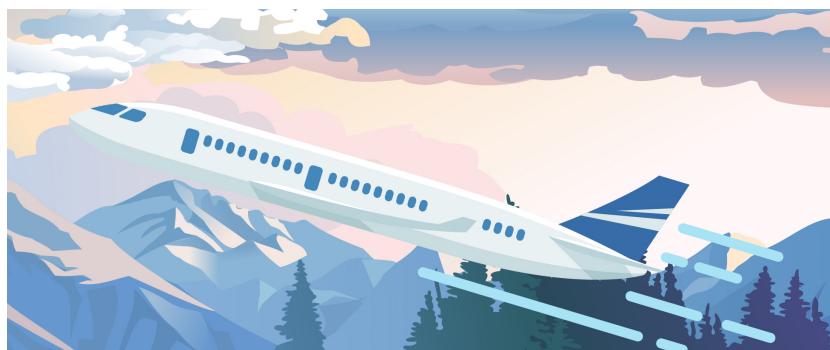
## Take the train

Rail pass: \$500

Length of trip: 12 days

Accommodations: Hostels (\$600)

Agenda: Visiting major cities and  
tourist attractions.



# Tips

This question is different from task 1 “giving advice”. In task 5, you’re trying to persuade your friend to agree with your choice. In both questions, your language should be polite.

## Task 1

Hey John, I would suggest taking the train because...

## Task 5

Hey John, I think it would be better if we took the train because...

# Key Terms

**Spontaneous** (doing things without a plan)

**Overwhelming** (feeling of too much)

**Crammed** (tight, lots of people)

**Blow** (spend)

# My Answer

Hey Jeremy,

I think it would be better if we rented a car because we'd have a lot more flexibility. We both really like being spontaneous. I know flying would allow us to see more parts of Europe, but I think that might actually be really overwhelming for us. My cousin did that. He went to Europe for 3 months and visited every part of the continent. After his trip, he said he wished he would have relaxed a bit more and enjoyed some places for a longer time. One of the purposes for our trip is to relax after a busy semester, so I think if we try to see every part of Europe, that will be too much for us. I know our trip would be longer if chose to fly, but I'd rather spend time driving through the Swiss Alps than sitting on a crowded plane. The other thing is that flying would be a lot more expensive for us. We worked really hard to save money for this trip, and I don't think we should blow it all on hotels and flights. Camping in the Alps would be so much fun and it would be free! Anyway, I'm really excited for our trip and can't wait to get there!

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Your best friend is graduating this weekend, and you promised to attend the graduation. Today, your uncle sent you a message and invited you to go on a cruise with him to the Caribbean — all expenses paid for! You need call one of them and explain why you can't make it.

# Tips

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Task 6 is called “a difficult situation”, but maybe it would be better if it was called “a sensitive situation”. In this particular question, you have to choose between a promise to your best friend and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This is a sensitive situation because you don’t want to offend anyone or hurt anyone’s feelings. These kinds of situations in life can really harm a relationship. That’s why you have to be very sensitive about it. Your choice of words and tone of voice should reflect the sensitive nature of this situation.

# Key Terms

Conflicts with (doesn't match with)  
Torn over (unsure)  
Worthwhile (good use of time)  
Place (house)  
Exotic (foreign, fancy)

# My Answer

Hey Jill,

I just got a call from my uncle. He's inviting me to go on an all-expense-paid cruise with him! I was really excited about it until he told me the dates of the cruise. It conflicts with your graduation! I know I promised to attend your special day...that's why I'm so torn over this. The thing is that the cruise is for a whole week, and the graduation is just for one evening. That's why it seems more worthwhile to go on the cruise. I've never been on a cruise before and I think this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me! I'm so sorry that I'll miss your graduation, but I know you understand because we're best friends. I've already been thinking of some exotic gifts I can buy you as a graduation present! I was thinking that we could have another graduation party for you at my place after I get back. What do you think? Anyway, thanks for understanding!

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Nowadays, food has become easier to prepare. Has this change improved the way people live? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.**

# Tips

---

I think the best strategy for this question is to state your opinion right away. If you try to make a fancy introduction, your answer will probably get more confusing. Personally, I would start this question by saying, “It’s true that food has become much easier to prepare these days, but I don’t think that has improved the way people live.”

Now that I have clearly stated my opinion, I can spend the rest of the 90 seconds giving reasons for why I believe that.

# Key Terms

Fast food

Microwavable dinners

On the go (while moving)

Replenish (restore)

Decent (good)

Mass-market (sell to everyone)

Preservatives (prevent the food from spoiling)

No-brainer (something obvious)

Bonding (building close relationships)

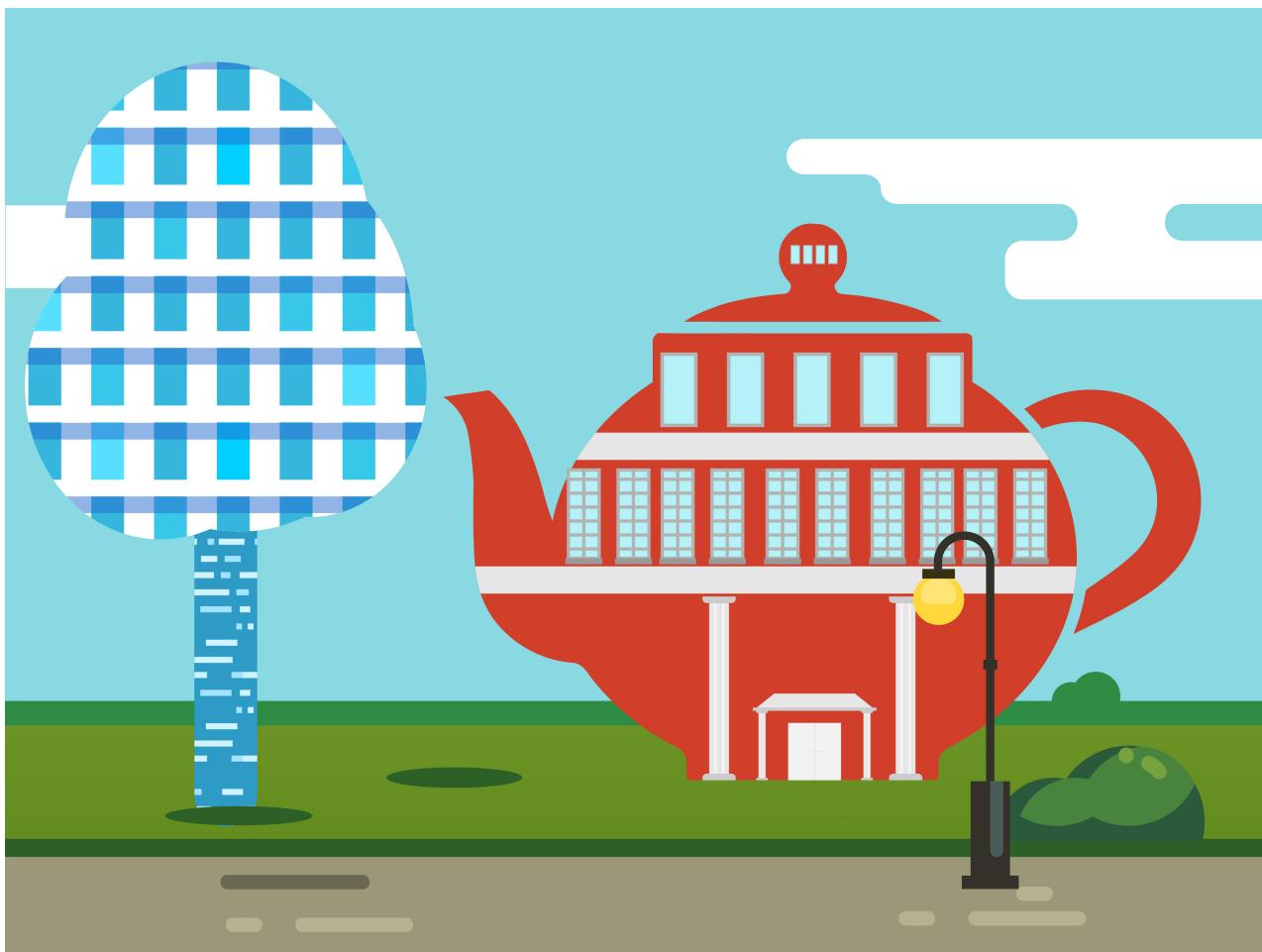
# My Answer

It's true that food has become much easier to prepare these days, but I don't think that has improved the way people live. There are several reasons I believe this. First off, the idea of fast food and microwavable dinners has made it possible for people to become more busy. Many people don't even stop to eat. That's why drive-thrus are so popular. People just eat in their cars on their way to work. I don't think it's a good idea for people to eat on the go. Throughout history, mealtimes have been the time of day when people stop working. This allows the body to rest and replenish its energy. So many people these days are burned out. I think the main reason for that is because they don't stop and prepare decent food for themselves. Another reason I don't think it's a good idea is because the quality of the food decreases when you try to mass-market it to society. Foods these days have so many preservatives in them. I think this is the reason why so many people have cancer today. If the body does not receive quality food, it will get sick. That's just a no-brainer! The third reason I don't think it's a good idea is because preparing and eating food has a social aspect to it. Throughout history, food has brought people together. When people eat together, they build social bonds which is very important in life. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think it has not improved people's lives.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are going on a trip with your friend, and you are looking online for hotels. You see two interesting hotels. Call your friend and describe the hotels. Ask him which one you should book



# Tips

The first thing you should do is try to identify what these two hotels look like. Then, try to describe specific parts of the hotels.

Remember to have an appropriate introduction and conclusion.

# Key Terms

Teapot

Tree

Handle

Spout

Lid

Trunk

Popsicle

Story (floor, level)

# My Answer

Hey James,

It's Keith calling here. I'm just looking at two hotels online, and I'm wondering which one I should book. They both look pretty interesting. One of them is shaped like a teapot. It has a handle on one side and a spout on the other side. It looks like the hotel has four stories. The very top story is the lid of the teapot. It might be cool to book a room up there! The other hotel is shaped like a tree. It has a long trunk and the rooms are in the branches of the tree. Actually, it doesn't really have branches. It looks more like a big blue popsicle. It looks pretty cool! This hotel is a lot taller than the other one. It has about twice as many floors. We might have a good view if we stay on the top floor. Anyway, that's the best I can do to describe these hotels. Let me know which one you would prefer to stay in!

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your parents are thinking of buying a retirement property in another country. Which country would you recommend? Give specific reasons why you think that country would be a good option for them.**

# Tips

Remember, there are no right or wrong answers on questions like this. It doesn't matter if you pick Canada, India, Mozambique, or your home country. The person marking your exam has no idea which country your parents currently live in. Just pick the country that you think will be easiest to talk about.

In this question, I would try to think of some simple reasons why someone might want to retire somewhere. My notes would look like this:

Nice weather  
Good healthcare  
Cheap cost of living

Remember, you need to speak for 90 seconds! So try to think of several things to talk about so that you fill the allotted time. It's a good idea to use examples in this question. That will help you speak for a longer time.

# Key Terms

Overseas (in a different country)  
Balmy (warm and pleasant)  
Degrees  
A high of (maximum temperature)  
A low of (minimum temperature)  
Thundershowers (heavy rain with thunder)  
Roll through (arrive and stay for a short time)  
Tin roof (metal roof)  
Affordable  
Professional  
Well-trained  
Surgery  
Checkups  
Beach-front property  
Amenity (something that provides convenience)  
Senior's discount (when senior citizens pay less)  
Spot (place)

# My Answer

Hey Mom and Dad,

It's great that you guys are considering buying a retirement property overseas! I would recommend buying a property in Panama. The weather is really awesome there! It's warm and balmy every day. They have a high of around 28 degrees every day and a low of like 20.

Sometimes thundershowers roll through in the afternoons, but they don't stay long. It's actually really nice because it keeps the air fresh. A friend of mine went there and stayed in a house with a tin roof. She loved the sound of the rain on the roof! Another reason I think Panama would be a great place to retire is because the healthcare is really good there. It's high quality and super affordable. The doctors and nurses are very professional and well-trained. You can get all kinds of surgeries there and go for as many checkups as you like. A third reason I would recommend Panama is because the cost of living is really cheap there. I heard that you can buy a small beach-front property there for under \$100,000. Food and other expenses are also really cheap, and there are lots of amenities nearby. If you want to go out to eat or go to the movies, you'll never have to travel very far! And the best thing about Panama is you get a great senior's discount there! Overall, I would say Panama would be a great spot for you guys.

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about a favourite trip you took. What made the trip memorable?**

# Tips

When you answer this question, you should sound excited because you're telling a story of your favourite trip. Just relax and speak from your heart. If you can't think of a favourite trip you took, just make something up. This is a very easy question because you can say anything you want. Just make sure to give some reasons why you enjoyed the trip.

**Remember to use past tense verbs!**

**Went**

**Travelled**

**Ate**

**Visited**

**Saw**

**Spent**

# Key Terms

So much fun

At one point (one time)

I'll never forget that

Unforgettable moment

Enormous (huge)

Down the coast (traveled near the ocean)

Spontaneous (unplanned)

Make up everything (be spontaneous)

# My Answer

Three years ago I went to Italy to visit my sister who was studying there. We went on a 10 day road trip down the coast. We had such an amazing time! We decided to be completely spontaneous and not plan anything. We just started driving and made up everything as we went along! Every day we drove for about 5 hours and spent the rest of the time exploring the town or city we were in. At one point, we drove through a small town and stopped for ice cream. We couldn't believe how big the ice cream cones were! They were enormous! We loved the ice cream so much that we decided to stay in that town for the night. The next day, we went for ice cream again and my sister ordered two cones for herself. As soon as we started driving, the ice cream fell off one of the cones onto her lap. We laughed so hard. Those simple moments were unforgettable. We took lots of pictures and made a lot of memories on that trip. I'll never forget that trip.

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



# Tips

When you answer this question, you should use present continuous verbs (is playing, is serving, is talking). Vocabulary is important in this picture. Do you know which card game the men are playing? If you don't know, you can just say, "The men are playing a card game." But it's better to know the specific names of these activities.

In this picture, there is no distinct foreground and background. You should talk about where things are in relation to other things (behind the pool table, above the door, in front of the bar). Also, there is nothing really happening in the corners of the picture. Basically, there is just a left side and a right side. Instead of saying that the lights are on the top of the picture, it would be better to say that the lights are hanging from the ceiling.

# Key Terms

Pub

Poker

Cards

Poker chips

Wine

Pool

Pool table

Rug

Guitar

Mic (microphone)

Bar (counter)

Bartender

Bar stool

Bottles

Shelf

Paintings

Exit sign

Wooden floorboards

# My Answer

This scene is the inside of a pub. On the left side of the picture, there are three men sitting around a table playing poker. There are poker chips and a bottle of wine on the table. Each man is holding cards. Behind the table is a bar with three bar stools. A man and a woman are sitting at the bar enjoying a few drinks. There is a bartender behind the bar serving the drinks. Behind the bartender, there are several shelves full of bottles. On the right side of the picture, there are two men playing pool. Behind the pool table, there is a guy playing guitar and singing into a mic. On the wall behind him, there are several paintings. In the back corner of the room, there is a door with an exit sign above it. In the centre of the floor, there is a large pink rug. The entire floor of the pub is made of long wooden floorboards.

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

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When I practice task 4 with my students, I find that their predictions often don't involve enough change. For example, they might say, "I think the men will keep playing pool. The men playing poker will keep playing poker. The man who is singing will keep singing." This kind of answer is a little bit boring. You should make interesting predictions! Try to think of things that will change in this picture.

When you read my answer to this question, notice how many times I use the word "guy". Native English speakers use this word much more than "man" in normal speech.

# Key Terms

Hitting on (flirting with)  
Thirsty  
Bored  
Order  
Beard  
Goatee (beard on chin only)  
Pool cue (stick)  
Sink balls (shoot balls into the pockets)  
Guy (man)  
Cold (heartless)  
Reject (not receive)  
Hammered (drunk)  
Cope (deal with a situation)  
Bar fight  
Break out (start unpredictably)

# My Answer

---

I think several things are going to happen in the next few minutes. One of the guys playing poker is going to lose all his chips. He'll get bored sitting at the table and start playing pool with the other guys. The guy with the beard is going to sink a few balls and win the game. The guy with the goatee is going to get really mad and hit the other guy with his cue. The guy playing guitar is going to get thirsty and order a beer from the bar. The guy sitting at the bar is going to start hitting on the girl, but she's going to coldly reject him. He's going to cope with his depression by getting hammered. In the end, I think a huge bar fight will break out and the bartender will call the police. Anyway, those are some of my predictions in this scene.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds   Preparation: 60 seconds   Speaking: 60 seconds

**Your best friend is moving to another country.  
You are in charge of planning a farewell  
party. You are considering several options.**

## A nice restaurant

**Cost: \$50/person  
Location: Close to home  
Unlimited food and drinks  
Live music**

## A picnic near a lake

**Cost: \$20/person  
Location: 2 hour drive away  
Everyone brings food to share  
Free canoeing at the lake**



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your friends are suggesting going to a theme park.  
Convince them that your option is better.

## Theme Park

Cost: \$60/person  
Location: 30 min. drive away  
Unlimited access to rides  
Go to a pub afterwards for some drinks

## A nice restaurant

Cost: \$50/person  
Location: Close to home  
Unlimited food and drinks  
Live music

## A picnic near a lake

Cost: \$20/person  
Location: 2 hour drive away  
Everyone brings food to share  
Free canoeing at the lake



# Tips

---

In this question, think about the purpose of the event. It's a farewell party. Which option would be the most suitable for a party like this? Think about your friend who is moving away. What does he/she like to do?

In task 5, it's a great idea to use an “even though” sentence. For example, “Even though the lake is farther away, I think it would be better because John loves being in nature.”

When you're talking to more than one friend, it is best to start by saying, “Hey guys”.

# Key Terms

**Outdoors (nature)**

**Have a blast (great time)**

**Socialize (talk with each other)**

**Potluck (everyone brings food to share)**

**Unemployed (no job)**

# My Answer

Hey guys,

I know you're suggesting going to a theme park, but I think it would be better if we had a picnic by the lake. John really loves the outdoors. The nice thing about going to the lake is that there's free canoeing there. I think everyone would have a blast. We need to remember that this party is for John, so we should pick the option he would enjoy the most. Even though the theme park has unlimited rides, we wouldn't really have a good chance to socialize. I know the lake is a lot farther away, but I think everyone would really enjoy the drive through the mountains. The other thing is that the picnic would be a lot cheaper. Some of John's friends are unemployed at the moment, so it's not fair if we ask them to pay \$60 for the farewell party. Also, having a potluck by the lake would be so much fun! I love trying all the different foods that people bring to potlucks. Anyway, I think it would definitely be better to go to the lake than to go to the theme park.

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Your aunt is moving this weekend and you offered to help her. You receive a message from your friends inviting you to go camping with them this weekend. You need to call your friends or your aunt and explain why you can't make it. What do you say?**

# Tips

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In this question, you should just choose the option you think is easier. Don't worry about which option is morally better. The CELPIP exam is not testing you on your morality. It's testing you on your English!

If you choose to talk to your aunt, you should say,

“Hi Aunt Mary”

If you choose to talk to your friends, you should say,

“Hey guys”

# Key Terms

**Remember, speaking naturally is more important than using impressive words and phrases. Just try to relax and speak in a calm tone of voice. In this question, your tone of voice should be apologetic because you're backing out of a commitment.**

# My Answer

---

Hi Aunt Mary,

It's Mark calling here. I just got a text from my friends inviting me to go camping with them. I know I promised to help you move this weekend, but this will be my last chance to go camping this year. I know you need help and I wouldn't just leave you without any help! That's why I've asked Jake to take my place. He is free all day and would be happy to help you! Actually, he'll probably be even more helpful than me because he is a lot stronger. I know you have some old-fashioned furniture that is really heavy. I think Jake will be able to handle that no problem! Anyway, I just wanted to let you know that, and I hope you understand. I look forward to seeing you sometime soon!

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**These days, many people are moving from towns to cities. Do you think this move will increase their quality of life? Use specific reasons and details to support your answer.**

# Tips

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In my experience, people overthink questions like this. The question sounds very technical — “specific reasons and details” — but just relax and keep things simple. Don’t be afraid to talk about your personal experience. Maybe you have some stories of why you hate living in a big city.

# Key Terms

**Big picture** (all the outcomes)  
**Drawbacks** (disadvantages)  
**Rush hour** (heavy traffic)  
**Nightmare** (huge inconvenience)  
**Commute** (the drive to work)  
**Insane** (crazy)  
**Hassle** (inconvenience)  
**Laidback** (relaxed)  
**Vibe** (feeling)  
**Downside** (disadvantage)  
**Respiratory** (breathing)  
**Appealing** (attractive)  
**Make it out to be** (think it is)

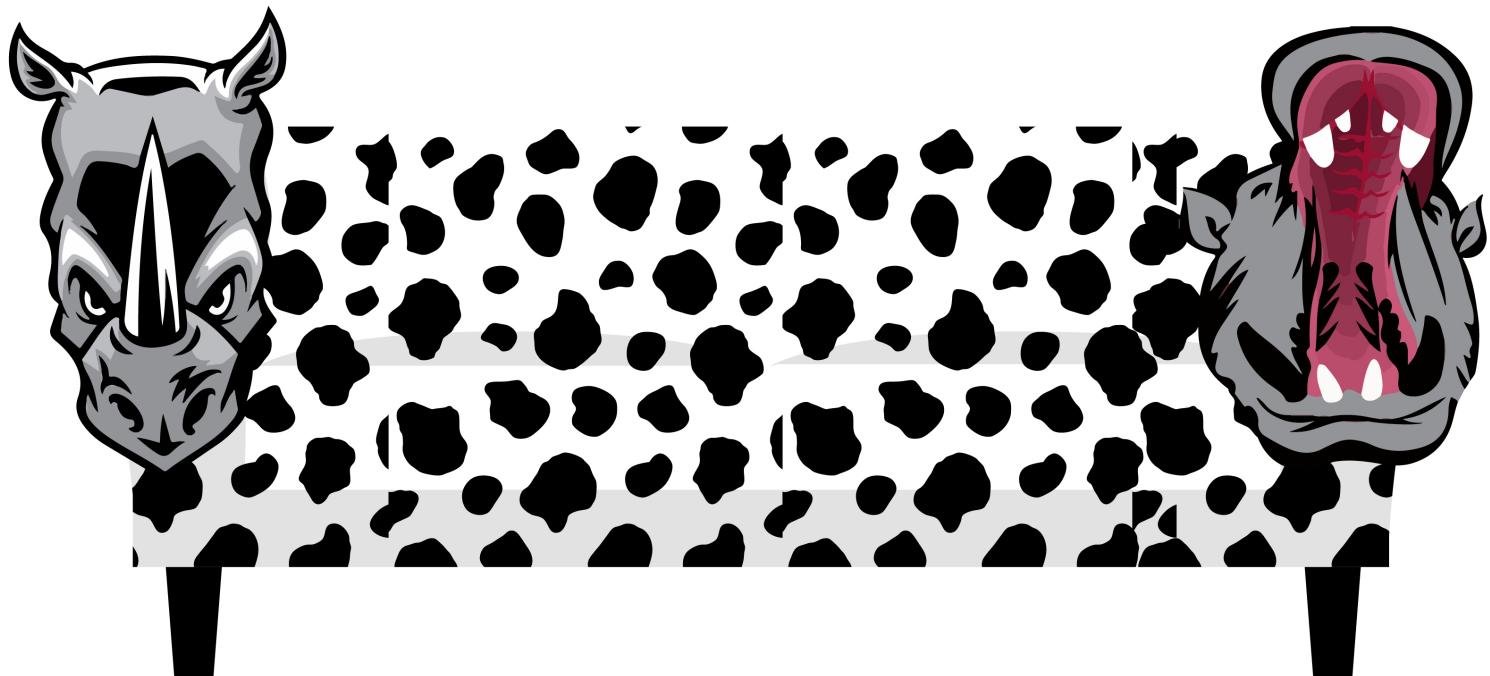
# My Answer

In my opinion, I think a lot of people move to cities because they think their lives will improve. They might get a higher paying job, be closer to shopping centres, and things like that, but I don't think most people really consider the big picture. Living in a city actually has a lot of drawbacks. Rush hour, for example, is a nightmare. I used to live in Toronto and getting to work every morning took over an hour. The commute home wasn't much better. That's two hours of my day sitting in a car. That's insane! In a small town, you don't have to worry about traffic at all! Sure, the pay might not be as good, but is it worth the extra hassle? Not in my opinion! The other nice thing about a small town is that you can build more genuine relationships. People trust each other more in small towns. It's very common for people to leave their doors unlocked in small towns. I like that kind of laidback vibe. Another downside of being in a city is that the air quality is a lot worse. Most people don't realize it right away, but it can have a big impact on your long term health. Five years ago I lived in Beijing. I could hardly breathe in that city. I developed some pretty bad respiratory problems while I was there. People living in small towns don't have to worry about pollution at all! Anyway, those are some reasons why I'm convinced that city life is not as appealing as people make it out to be.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are in a furniture store and see a very interesting couch. You think your mom might like it. Call her and describe it to her. Ask if you should buy it.



# Tips

The most important thing in this picture is:

Parts of furniture

Kinds of animals

Parts of animals

I have lessons on my YouTube channel that teach this kind of vocabulary. Just search for “Mad English TV vocabulary”. Then click on “filters”. Then click on “playlists”. You will see my playlist called “English Vocabulary”. I think that will really help you with all areas of the CELPIP exam.

# Key Terms

**Armrest**

**Rhino**

**Hippo**

**Horn**

**Nostrils (nose holes)**

**Seat**

**Backrest**

**Spots**

**Legs**

# My Answer

---

Hey Mom,

I'm just in a furniture store right now, and I see a strange looking couch. I think you might like it. The seat and backrest of the couch are white with black spots — sort of like a cow. The armrests are really interesting. One of the armrests is the head of a rhino. It has a big horn, two ears, two eyes, and two nostrils. It actually looks pretty scary. The other armrest is the head of a hippo. The hippo's mouth is wide open. You can see its huge teeth and the inside of its mouth. The couch has small black legs which look pretty normal. Anyway, I'm just wondering if you want me to buy it for you.

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your parents are traveling abroad for the first time. Give them advice on what to do in an airport.**

# Tips

Many people have never traveled by air before. In this question, just explain the process to your parents in a simple way. Try to use specific vocabulary related to an airport (check in, boarding pass, gate).

Remember, this question is 90 seconds, so think of as many things as you can and take simple notes. My notes would look like this:

- Arrive early
- Check in
- Go through security
- Find gate
- Board plane

Remember, it's good to have a one-sentence introduction and conclusion in your answer.

# Key Terms

Intimidating (scary)  
Levels (floors)  
Arrivals  
Departures  
Check in  
Agent (person working at check in)  
Passport  
Boarding pass  
Checked baggage  
Carry on baggage  
Security  
Metal detector  
Scanner  
Liquids and gels  
Confiscate (take away)  
Gate  
Lounge

# My Answer

Hey Mom and Dad,

It's great that you guys are going on a trip! I know airports can seem really intimidating, but don't worry, I'll give you some advice. It's important to arrive at the airport three hours before departure when you're taking an international flight. When you get to the airport, you want to look for a sign that says "check in". Most airports have two levels. The bottom level is arrivals and the top level is departures. When you find the check in counter, give the agent your passports and he/she will check you in. At this point, you need to say goodbye to your checked baggage. Make sure you have all your important documents in your carry on! After checking in, you need to go through security. Just follow the signs that say "security check point". Here, you will need to go through a metal detector and put your carry on bags through a scanner. They might ask you if you have any liquids or gels. If you're unlucky, they'll confiscate your toothpaste. After going through security, you need to find your gate. Check your boarding pass for the gate number. When you find the gate, just wait in the lounge until boarding the flight. Anyway, that's my advice for you! Don't forget your passports!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about a time you made a change in your lifestyle. What was the change and how did it affect your life?**

# Tips

If you can think of a personal example from your life, that's great. But if you can't think of one immediately, then just make something up. For example, you could talk about changing your diet.

When you answer this question, you should tell a story. Most stories start with a time reference (last year, three years ago, six months ago). In your first sentence, you should say what change was. Then in the rest of the sentences, you'll talk about how it affected your life.

**Remember...PAST TENSE VERBS!**

# Key Terms

Night owl (someone who stays up late)  
Early bird (someone who wakes up early)  
Impact (influence)  
Crisp (cool)  
Chirping (the sound birds make)  
Refreshing

Remember, you don't need to use lots of big words in your answer. Just try to use natural words. These are some words that a native speaker would use in this situation.

# My Answer

When I was in college, I had to take early morning classes. The classes started at 7am which meant that I had to wake up at 5:30. That was a big change for me because I had to start going to bed earlier. It was hard to make this change because I've always been a night owl. I like staying up late watching movies and chatting online, but this change really had a positive impact on my life. After a few months of early mornings, I really fell in love with the new schedule! I felt less tired than I used to. It was so refreshing breathing the crisp morning air as I walked to school. I loved hearing the birds chirping and seeing the sunrise. Even though I don't have to wake up early anymore, I still do it because I have grown to love it. Nowadays, I'm an early bird!

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



# Tips

**There are only two things you need to talk about in this question.**

**1. What is present in the scene?**

(Example: There are books on the bookshelf.)

**2. What is happening in the scene?**

(Example: The mother is lighting the candles.)

**This question has more than you can talk about in one minute. Don't waste time describing what each person is wearing. It's better to give the listener a general idea of the scene. If you have more time at the end, you can talk about the details.**

# Key Terms

Birthday party

Birthday cake

Lighting

Party hats

Banner

Balloons

Decorations

Living room

Shelf

Cactus

Vase

Couch

Presents

Cloud 9 (extremely happy)

Coffee table

# My Answer

This is a picture of a birthday party. In the centre of the picture, a mother is lighting the candles on the birthday cake. There are four kids in this picture, and they are all on cloud 9! They are wearing party hats. The party is being held in the living room. On the right side of the picture, there is a coffee table with presents on it. Behind the kids, there are three couches. Above the couches there is a shelf with books on the right side and plants on the left. The plants look like cactuses. There is also a vase to the right of the plants. There is a birthday banner on the wall with other decorations around it. There are lots of balloons in the upper half of the picture.

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

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To get high marks on this question, it would be helpful to know how we celebrate birthdays in our culture.

There is a very predictable sequence of events in this scene. The mother is lighting the candles on the cake.

What will happen next? Read my answer to find out! :)

# Key Terms

Birthday boy  
Candles  
Cake  
Piece  
Blow out  
Sing Happy Birthday  
Freezer  
Seconds (get more food)  
Presents (gifts)  
Thrilled (overjoyed)  
Have a blast (have a great time!)

# My Answer

There are a few things that will definitely happen next in this scene. When the mother finishes lighting the candles, everyone will sing Happy Birthday to the birthday boy. After that, the boy will blow out the candles. Then, the mother will cut the cake, and all the kids will get a piece. The mother might go get some ice cream from the freezer as well. The kids are going to love the cake and ask for seconds. After eating cake, the birthday boy will open his presents. I think he's going to be thrilled with everything he gets. He's going to thank all his friends for the nice presents. After opening the presents, the kids are going to play some games and maybe watch a movie. I think everyone will have a blast!

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

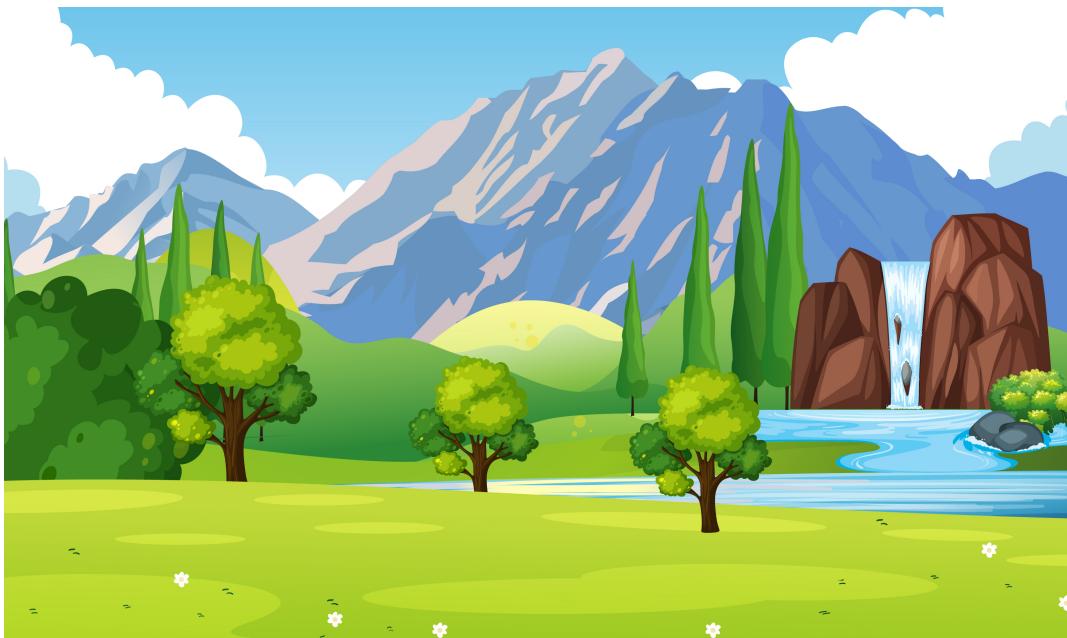
You are camping with your friends and you are discussing your plans for tomorrow. Choose the option you prefer and convince your friends that your idea is best.

## Hike up a mountain

10 hour hike  
Amazing view from the summit  
Natural hot springs on the way  
Chance to see bighorn sheep

## Walk along the river

4 hour walk  
Easy path to follow  
Nice spot for a picnic lunch  
Lots of birds and deer nearby



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your friends are recommending something else.

## Swimming in the lake

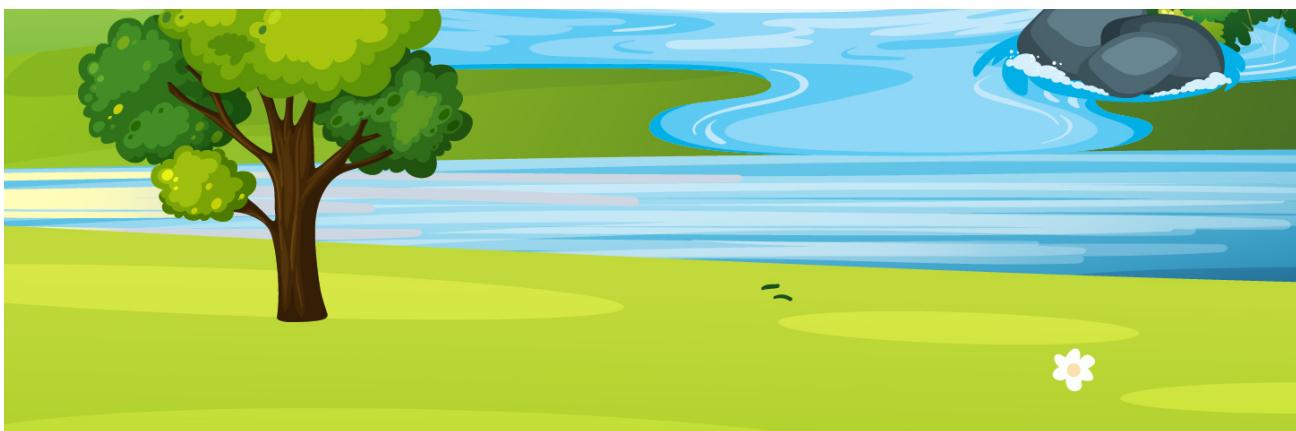
All afternoon  
Relaxing in the sun  
Chance to catch some fish  
BBQ beside the lake

## Hike up a mountain

10 hour hike  
Amazing view from the summit  
Natural hot springs on the way  
Chance to see bighorn sheep

## Walk along the river

4 hour walk  
Easy path to follow  
Nice spot for a picnic lunch  
Lots of birds and deer nearby



# Tips

Task 5 is called “Compare and Persuade”. Both of these are done at the same time. You persuade your friends *by* comparing the options. The formula is simple:

**Opinion + Reasons**

For example, “I think hiking up the mountain would be better because it will be a real adventure.”

Remember, you should definitely compare most of the information provided in the question, but you can also add your own details as well. For example, you could say, “The reason I brought my camera on this trip is because I want to get some good panorama shots. That’s why I want to hike up the mountain”

# Key Terms

**Panorama**

**Strenuous (difficult)**

**Breathtaking (amazing)**

**Get in gear (get in the mood for)**

# My Answer

Hey guys,

I know you want to relax all afternoon by the lake tomorrow, but one of the reasons we came on this trip is because we wanted an adventure. I think climbing the mountain would be a real adventure for us! I know it will be a strenuous hike, but we're here for a few more days, so we can relax for the rest of our time here. Even though it would be fun to do some fishing tomorrow, I think it would be way cooler to see some bighorn sheep! I've always wanted to see those animals in the wild. I know swimming all afternoon in the lake would be fun, but wouldn't you rather soak in the hot springs on our way back from the mountain? Those hot springs are supposed to provide a lot of health benefits for the body! Seeing the view from the top of the mountain would be breathtaking. One of the reasons I brought my camera is so that I could get some good panorama shots! Anyway, I hope I can persuade you guys to get in gear for a real adventure tomorrow!

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Your cousin recently borrowed your iPad when his family went on a road trip. After he returned it, you noticed a crack in the glass on the corner of the device. Call him up and explain the discovery. Ask him to pay for the repair.**

# Tips

This is a sensitive situation because the person is your cousin. You don't want to strain the relationship, so you need to talk to him in a way that is not demanding. It's okay to be direct, but being too direct is often considered rude.

# Key Terms

**Chip (small crack)**  
**Usability (functionality)**  
**Gets in the way (interferes with)**

# My Answer

---

Hey Judd,

It's Sam calling here. I'm just calling to talk about my iPad that you took on your road trip last week. I took a look at it today and noticed a chip in the top right corner of the display. I know it wasn't there before I lent it to you because I cleaned it right before giving it to you. The chip doesn't affect the usability of the phone, but it really gets in the way when I want to play certain games. For example, when I play Fortnite, I can't see the map in the top right corner. I called the Apple store to see how much a replacement screen would cost and they said \$200. I can't afford to fix the screen myself, so I'm wondering if you can pay for the damage. Anyway, I'm glad you could use the iPad on your trip, and I'd be happy to lend it to you again sometime.

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**It is becoming common these days for children to have their own smartphones. Do you think this trend is good or bad? Explain your reasons.**

# Tips

You have almost no time to prepare for this question. Just try to think of three simple reasons. My notes would look like this:

friends  
information  
emergency

In a question like this, it's good to acknowledge the other side of the argument without giving up power in your own argument. For example,

“I know a lot of people are concerned about their kids accessing inappropriate content online, but there are ways parents can guard against this. The problem is, most parents don't know about these safeguards.”

# Key Terms

**Outdoors (out of the house)**  
**Questionable (inappropriate)**  
**Safeguard (protection)**

# My Answer

I think it's great to see more children with smartphones these days. It's definitely a growing trend and I think it has some really positive effects on the kids. One of the biggest benefits is that kids can stay in contact with their friends. If they are having problems understanding their homework, they can just send their friends a message asking for help. A lot of people think that smartphones prevent kids from spending time outdoors. In my experience, the opposite is true. Very often my son will get a text from his classmates inviting him to play soccer with them or go on a bike ride. I think if he didn't have his phone, he wouldn't go out as much. Another reason I think smartphones are great is because there is so much information online these days. Having a phone can make the learning process much easier for a kid. It teaches them how to do research and improves their problem solving skills. Very often my son will tell me a random fact about another country and I ask him where he learned that. He always says, "I asked Google!" A lot of people are concerned about the questionable content online these days. I think that's a valid concern, but there are things parents can do to safeguard against these things. For example, there are programs parents can install on the phone which prevent access to pornography and other inappropriate material. I don't think most parents know about these safeguards. The last reason I would give for why kids should have phones is that they are safer in an emergency. If they are ever in danger, they can call 911 or call me at home. I feel much better knowing that my son has a phone with him all the time. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think it's good for kids to have cellphones.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are on a safari in Africa and see a very strange animal. Unfortunately, your camera battery died and you couldn't take a picture! Call your friend at the end of the day and describe the animal you saw.



# Tips

Task 8 will probably involve a situation where you have to do something in the present. In that case, you would use present tense verbs. But in this question, you need to describe what you saw earlier in the day. It's always good to be prepared to use any verb tense that is required. Make sure you read the question carefully to know which verb tense you should use.

# Key Terms

**Shot (photo)**

**Cross (the baby of two different animals)**

**Giraffe**

**Elephant**

**Spots**

**Tiger**

**Ears**

**Trunk**

**Tusks**

**Cheeks**

**Visualize (picture it)**

# My Answer

---

Hey Julie,

It's Shannon calling here. I'm really loving my time in Africa! Today I saw the craziest animal! Unfortunately my camera battery died right before I could take a good shot of it! It was a pretty big, friendly-looking animal. It looked like a cross between a giraffe and an elephant. It had long legs and a long neck. It also had black spots like a giraffe. The difference though is that it was orange like a tiger. The whole head of the animal looked like an elephant, except it didn't have tusks. It had a long trunk and big ears. The whole head was grey, but its cheeks and the inside of its ears were pink. It also had a big smile on its face. I hope you can visualize it!

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

Your friend is trying to decide what to study in college. He just wants to make lots of money in life and doesn't care which industry he works in. Which field of study would you recommend for him?

# Tips

Remember that you're talking to a person in this question. So start your answer by saying, "Hi Scott".

Next, you have two choices. You can say, "I would recommend studying \_\_\_\_" or you can add another sentence before this. For example, "Hi Scott, I think I can give you some good advice in this area. I would recommend studying \_\_\_\_."

When native English speakers give a conclusion in a situation like this, we usually say, "Anyway". For example, "Anyway, I hope you find this advice helpful."

Remember to add examples if your answer will be too short.

# Key Terms

Industry (a category of jobs)  
Female-dominated (mostly female)  
Virtually (practically)  
Decent money (a good amount of money)  
Layoffs (when people lose their job)  
Downturn (get worse)  
All the best (best wishes)

# My Answer

Hey Scott,

I think I can give you some good advice in this area because I've been in the same situation you're in right now. I would recommend studying massage therapy. I know it sounds crazy because it's a female-dominated industry, but that's exactly why it's such a good opportunity for you. You might be tempted to study business or some other money related field because you want to get rich. Speaking from personal experience, it's really hard to get rich this way because you're competing with so many other people for a limited number of jobs. If you study massage therapy, you will be in much higher demand because there are virtually no men in the industry. People don't usually think of massage therapy as high paying, but you can make some decent money and have flexible hours. The nice thing about massage therapy is that you can easily set up a home business. You won't have to worry about layoffs when the economy goes through a downturn. The other nice thing about massage therapy is that it's usually only a one or two year program, as opposed to a traditional 4-year degree. You'll start making money a lot faster! Anyway, I hope you find that advice helpful. All the best as you consider your options!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about a purchase you regret making. Why do you regret it?**

# Tips

**Question 2 on the speaking test is about personal experience, so try to think of a real personal experience so that you can speak from your heart. If you can't think of a purchase you regret making, just make something up. Your tone of voice should reflect your disappointment in the product or service. Use phrases like, "It was so frustrating."**

**Here are some topics you could talk about:**

**You paid for an English course but didn't learn anything.**

**You bought a dishwasher that didn't clean your dishes.**

**You bought a smartphone that died after three months.**

# Key Terms

**Bother (dissatisfied)**  
**Frustrated**  
**Import (bring into)**  
**Convolted (confusing)**  
**Loathe (hate)**  
**Annoy (bother)**  
**Nightmare (very frustrating)**  
**Device (electronic product)**

# My Answer

Three years ago I bought an iPhone. I was really excited when I bought it, but within a few days I started regretting my purchase. The first thing that bothered me was that I couldn't figure out how to transfer pictures from the phone to my computer. With my previous android phone, it was so easy to just copy them over. The second thing that really frustrated me was that I couldn't figure out how to get music from my computer onto the phone. I had to download iTunes, import my music into iTunes, then sync it with iTunes on my phone. What a convoluted process! I have loathed iTunes ever since that day. Another thing that annoyed me about the phone was that the battery life wasn't as good as I thought it would be. My friend had a Xiaomi phone and it got better batter life at half the cost! What the heck? I loved the design of the iPhone but it was a nightmare to use. I regret making that purchase and in the future I'm going to switch to an android device.

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



# Tips

---

In this scene, there might be some words you don't know. Just start describing the things you are more comfortable with. Save the challenging words for the end! When I designed the pictures in this book, I tried to think of vocabulary that will really help you on the exam. Vocabulary is so important for this test, so I hope you are learning lots from this book!

# Key Terms

**On fire (burning)**

**Firemen**

**Fire truck**

**Roof**

**Ladder**

**Fire hydrant**

**Hose**

**Slide**

**Hula hoop (ring used for exercising)**

**Pigtails (hairstyle)**

**Desperately (urgently)**

# My Answer

---

In this picture, there's a house on fire. A man is standing on the roof of the house. A firetruck has arrived at the scene and two firemen are desperately trying to save the man. One fireman is connecting a hose to the fire hydrant and the other one is climbing a ladder to the roof. In the background, there are several kids playing. One kid is sliding down the slide. Another kid is riding his bike. A girl is playing with her hula hoop. A dog is sitting in front of the slide. To the left of the girl, there is a large tree. There's also a blue sky with white puffy clouds in the background.

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

---

Just keep your predictions simple and natural. In this scene, there are some obvious predictions. If you run out of things to say, you might need to get creative. It's okay to make crazy predictions, but try to keep them relevant to the picture.

# Key Terms

**Spray**

**Put out (extinguish)**

**Two-story (two floors)**

**Siren (flashing red light and sound)**

**Cab (inside front part of truck)**

**Unfold (develop)**

**Safe and sound (safe and unharmed)**

# My Answer

There are a few things that will definitely happen next in this scene. The fireman on the ground will finish connecting the hose to the fire hydrant and then start spraying water on the fire. It might take him a while, but I think in the end he'll put it out. Then he might run into the house and see if there are any people inside. The fireman on the ladder will climb to the roof of the house and save the guy who's in danger. The guy can't jump down because it's a two-story house and he'll break his legs if he does. After saving the guy, the fireman will climb into the cab of the fire truck and turn off the siren. The kids will probably come closer to the house and watch the scene unfold. In the end, everyone will be safe and sound.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your family wants to buy a new computer. You are trying to decide between a desktop or a laptop. Choose the option you prefer and persuade your family that your choice is better.

## Desktop

Cost: \$1500  
Warranty: 2 years  
Large screen size  
Good for watching movies

## Laptop

Cost: \$1000  
Warranty: 1 year  
Medium screen size  
Good for doing schoolwork



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

**Your brother is recommending a tablet.  
Convince him that your choice is better.**

### Tablet

**Cost: \$700  
Warranty: 6 months  
Small screen size  
Excellent battery life**

### Desktop

**Cost: \$1500  
Warranty: 2 years  
Large screen size  
Good for watching movies**

### Laptop

**Cost: \$1000  
Warranty: 1 year  
Medium screen size  
Good for doing schoolwork**



# Tips

In task 5, you have a whole minute to choose the option you like better. It probably won't take you a minute to make that decision, so you should use your time to become more familiar with the details of your selection. When you see the next part of the question, then you can use the next minute of time to look at the new information.

In this question, who should you talk to? First, it says that your family is trying to decide on a new computer to buy. Then, in the next part of the question, it says to convince your brother. You should always pay attention to the question and talk to the right person! So, in this question, you should start your answer by saying “Hey John” instead of “Hey guys”.

# Key Terms

Tendency (likelihood, habit)

Surfing the web (browsing the internet)

Worth it (valuable enough)

# My Answer

Hey Ryan,

I know you're recommending the tablet, but I think the laptop would be a better choice for several reasons. First, it has a longer warranty. That's really important for our family because we have the tendency to break stuff! Second, it has a bigger screen which would be better for watching movies and surfing the web. Third, it would be better for doing schoolwork on. Typing on a tablet is so frustrating. I mean, I know you can buy external keyboards for tablets, but that would cost extra and it would be a hassle to carry around. I know the tablet has better battery life, but I think the laptop battery will be more than enough for us. We never leave the house for more than six or seven hours anyway, so we can just charge it whenever we're at home. Even though the tablet is \$300 cheaper, I think the extra price is worth it because we can do more things with the laptop and it has a longer warranty. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think we should definitely get the laptop instead of the tablet.

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You recently booked flight tickets for your vacation to Mexico next month. Your colleague has suddenly announced his surprise wedding which takes place over the dates of your vacation. Either call the airline company and ask for a refund, or call your colleague and explain to him why you can't attend his wedding.

# Tips

In this question, we don't know how close of a relationship you have with your colleague. If you're good friends with him, you could say "Hey Ron", but if you're only acquaintances, it would be better to say, "Hi Ron". If he is inviting you to his wedding, there is a good chance that you're good friends. In some questions on the test, it might be hard to know which word you should use. If you want to be safe, I would say:  
**Hey - family or friends**  
**Hi - work, school, or other professional situations like calling a doctor.**

# Key Terms

Switch (move)  
In spirit (in thought)

# My Answer

---

Hey Ron,

It's Greg calling here. I just found out that you're getting married!

Congratulations! It came as a real surprise to me. I had no idea you were even thinking of getting married anytime soon. I wish I had known about this earlier because I booked my vacation to Mexico yesterday! I called the airline this morning asking if I could switch the dates, but unfortunately they said I couldn't. If I cancel the flight, I'll only be refunded 50% of the cost. So unfortunately I won't be able to attend the wedding, but I'll be with you in spirit! And I'll be sure to bring you back an exotic present from Mexico! I hope you have a great wedding!

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**The gap between the rich and the poor is greater than ever before in history. The richest eight people control as much wealth as the poorest half of the world's population. Do you think governments should increase taxes on the rich?**

# Tips

There is no right or wrong answer with these questions. Just try to think of some good reasons to support your opinion.

If you think the government should not increase taxes, your reasons could be:

1. More incentive for people to try harder.
2. Individuals spend money more wisely than the government
3. Rich people will always find a way to avoid taxes anyway.

# Key Terms

**Accountant**

**Tax loopholes (way to escape taxes)**

**Corner (trap)**

**Yacht (luxury boat)**

**Renovated (fixed, improved)**

**Reputation**

**Step in (intervene, get involved)**

**Adequately (enough)**

# My Answer

I believe the government should increase taxes on the rich for several reasons. First off, rich people actually don't pay their fair share in taxes. They just hire accountants to find all the tax loopholes for them. So, the government not only needs to increase the taxes, but they also need to close the tax loopholes. Someone might respond by saying, "Well, if you close the tax loopholes, rich people will just move their money overseas." That's a very good point, and I would say governments should prevent that from happening. The recent discovery of the Panama Papers showed that rich people will go to any extreme to avoid taxes. That's why the government needs to corner these people and force them to pay their fair share in taxes. Another reason I think governments should increase taxes on the rich is because many services in the country are paid for by taxes. For example, schools, highways, and hospitals are all paid for by taxes. Rich people can afford to contribute more to the country. I mean, which is more important, that a rich person buys a new yacht, or that a school is renovated? I would say the school is much more important. That brings me to my third reason, rich people simply don't need the amount of luxury they currently have. If a rich person like Paris Hilton buys a handbag for \$100,000 instead of helping poor people, that proves that she's greedy and the government should tax her more. Rich people have a bad reputation when it comes to helping poor people. Not only that, but poor people are often exploited by the rich. That's why I think the government needs to step in and make sure poor people are adequately taken care of.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are on a road trip in Western Canada and suddenly see a dangerous situation about to happen. Call emergency services and describe what you see. Ask them to send help.



# Tips

When you call 911, you need to identify yourself and provide them with relevant information such as your location. Your answer should follow this structure:

1. Identify yourself
2. Provide relevant information
3. Describe the problem
4. Ask for help

# Key Terms

**Bullet train (high speed train)**

**About to happen (will happen soon)**

**Remote (isolated, inaccessible)**

# My Answer

---

Hi,

My name is Sheila, and I'm driving on a highway toward Calgary at the moment. I'm about 140kms away from Calgary, and I see a really dangerous thing about to happen. I see a bullet train crossing a tall bridge, and part of the bridge is broken. I'm sure the train is going to fall into the river! Please send emergency services to the scene! I think a lot of people are going to get injured so you'll need to send as many ambulances as you can. Also, I think you'll need to send a helicopter ambulance because the bridge is in a pretty remote area. I hope you can send help as soon as possible.

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your friend is moving to a new country. She doesn't know anything about the culture. Give her advice on how to make friends when she gets there.**

# Tips

To answer this question, choose a country that you know lots about (e.g., your home country). Tell the person why you are qualified to give advice. “I think I can give you some good advice because I lived there for 5 years.”

Give specific advice in your answer. Don’t just say, “Go to social events.” When a person is in a new culture, they don’t even know how to go to social events! Give them meaningful advice — not vague advice.

If you speak from personal experience, your advice will sound more convincing. Use personal examples.

# Key Terms

**Personable** (easy to make friends with)

**Perceived** (seen as)

**Laid back** (relaxed)

**Reciprocate** (respond in the same way)

**Be yourself** (act normal)

# My Answer

Hey Linda,

I'm so happy to hear that you're going to India! I can give you some good advice because I've been there a few times. The first thing you need to know is that Indian people are very friendly and personable, so you won't have any trouble making friends! There are a few things you should know though. Indian culture is more formal than Western culture. For example, if someone comes to your house for a visit, you should greet them at the door and invite them in. After the greetings, you should offer them some tea. If you don't do these things, you will be perceived as rude. Even though the culture is more formal, it's also more laid back. For example, I made friends with a local shopkeeper there and sat in his store with him for hours and practiced my Hindi. Can you imagine something like that happening in Canada? Not a chance! The nice thing about Indian culture is that if you make one friend, it'll easily lead to other friendships. For example, the shopkeeper invited me to his cousin's wedding. I had a great time and made so many new friends! If you're friendly to Indian people, they'll reciprocate that! Just be yourself and always remember to thank people for their hospitality!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about your favourite childhood memory. What happened and why was it memorable?**

# Tips

---

**Very often when native English speakers start telling a story, they use the word “so”.**

**“So, when I was 8, my dad bought me a new bike.”**

**The easiest way to answer this question is to tell a story. It's easy to speak for 60 seconds when you're telling a story!**

**Give a short conclusion like, “I can remember that moment like it was yesterday.”**

# Key Terms

**Remember it like it was yesterday**  
**(remember it very well)**

**Gaming console (Xbox, Playstation)**

**Family friends (a friend of our family)**

**Lend (give temporarily)**

**Bunch (several)**

**Brand (company)**

**Addicted**

**Day and night (all the time)**

**Distraught (very sad)**

**Reluctant (hesitating, not willing to)**

**Twisted his arm (convinced)**

**Get my hands on (touch, use, feel)**

**Controller (the thing you hold for games)**

**Ecstatic (overjoyed)**

# My Answer

---

So, when I was about 10 years old, one of our family friends lent us their gaming console. I can't even remember what brand it was, but it had a bunch of games on it. My brothers and I got so addicted to it. We played games on that thing day and night for about a month. When we had to give it back to our friend, we were so distraught. The next day we asked our dad if we could buy one. He was reluctant at first, but after a few weeks we twisted his arm. I remember going to the shop and looking at all the games and consoles. I was in heaven. I couldn't wait to get my hands on a controller! We found a good console and my dad bought it for us. We were ecstatic! I remember that moment like it was yesterday.

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Describe this scene**



# Tips

---

When you answer this question on the test, remember to say what the overall scene is first. Then, talk about the things you know. For example, if you don't know the word "diving board" don't start on the left side of the picture. Start with something easier like the boys playing in the swimming pool.

Remember to use "ing" words when describing things in this picture (playing, swimming, sunbathing).

# Key Terms

**Swimming pool**

**Desert**

**Sand dune (sand hills)**

**Beach**

**Diving board**

**Lifeguard**

**Waterslide**

**Pool chair (beach chair)**

**Sunbathing**

**Beach umbrella**

**Palm trees**

**Bushes**

**Puffy (fluffy)**

**Keeping watch (ensuring safety)**

# My Answer

This is a picture of a swimming pool in the middle of the desert. There are sand dunes around the pool with several palm trees and bushes. In the background, there is a blue sky with several white puffy clouds. There are two waterslides with some kids going down one of the slides. Below the waterslides, two boys are playing with a ball. On the left side of the picture, there are two diving boards. A big guy is on the high diving board and a boy is on the lower one. Between the diving boards and the waterslides, there's a lifeguarding keeping watch over the kids. In the lower right corner, there are two women sunbathing on light blue pool chairs. Alright, that's what I can see in the picture.

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

---

In this picture, you need to get a little bit creative. Don't say, "The women will keep sunbathing." Here are some things they might do:

Jump into the pool to cool off.

Order cold drinks from a nearby restaurant.

Sit under the umbrella to get some shade.

Put on sunscreen.

# Key Terms

**Husky** (nice way to say “fat”)

**Splash**

**Bored**

**Sunscreen** (sun protection lotion)

**Sunburned**

**Margarita** (cold fruity drink)

**Drown**

**Dive**

**Safe**

**Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation**

(an emergency procedure)

**Hit** (start doing)

**Inhale** (breathe in)

# My Answer

---

In this scene, there are several things that will happen next. First, the husky guy on the high diving board will jump into the pool and make a huge splash. Then, the kid on the lower diving board will dive into the water and swim toward the waterslides. The two boys playing with the ball will get bored and hit the diving boards. One of them will inhale water and start to drown. The lifeguard will dive into the pool and pull him out. Then he'll start doing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on him. The two women in the bottom right corner will put on some sunscreen to prevent getting sunburned. Then they'll order some margaritas from a nearby restaurant. Alright, those are some things that I think will happen in this picture.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You have received two job offers. Choose the one you prefer and persuade your family to support your preference.

## Bank teller

Working hours: 9am-5pm  
Wage: \$17/hr

Vacation time: 2 weeks  
Benefits: dental and vision

## Construction worker

Working hours: 2pm-10pm  
Wage: \$23/hr  
Vacation time: 1 week  
Benefits: massage therapy



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

You suddenly receive another job offer to work as an ice cream truck driver. Your family wants you to take this job.

### Ice cream truck driver

**Working hours:** weekends only 10am-10pm

**Wage:** \$30/hr

**No vacation time**

**Benefits:** free ice cream for family

### Bank teller

**Working hours:** 9am-5pm

**Wage:** \$17/hr

**Vacation time:** 2 weeks

**Benefits:** dental and vision

### Construction worker

**Working hours:** 2pm-10pm

**Wage:** \$23/hr

**Vacation time:** 1 week

**Benefits:** massage therapy



# Tips

In this question, your family is probably very excited about the free ice cream.

How are you going to persuade them that your choice is better? Probably the best way to handle this situation is to say:

“I know you guys are really excited about the free ice cream, but...”

# Key Terms

**24/7 (all day, every day)**

**Stability**

**Hourly wage**

**Epic (Awesome)**

# My Answer

Hey guys,

I know you're really excited about the possibility of eating free ice cream 24/7, but I want to explain why I think it would be better if I take the bank position. I want our family to have stability in the future. I think the bank job will provide our family with the most stability. I'll have a good schedule with a decent salary. I also want to be a good parent. I want to spend time with you guys in the evenings and on weekends. The nice thing about the bank job is that I'll get two weeks of holidays. We can go on a fun road trip across Canada! One of the problems with the ice cream job is that there's no vacation time. Even though the hourly wage is higher with that job, the total hours would be a lot less since I would only be working Saturday and Sunday. Another big consideration is that the bank job provides benefits for our whole family. I want to make sure you guys have good vision and dental care. Overall, the best way to provide for you guys is if I take the bank job. Just wait till we go on an epic family trip this summer. You'll know I made the right decision!

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You recently bought a three month membership at the swimming pool near your house. One week after buying the pass, the hot tub and sauna were shut down for renovations which will last two months. Call the swimming pool and voice your complaint. Demand a full or partial refund.

# Tips

In this situation, you have the right to be frustrated because you were not informed about the renovations before you bought the membership. The hot tub and sauna will be closed for almost the full duration of your membership! It's always good to be polite, but sometimes in these situations you have to get a bit demanding.

In these kinds of situations, it's best to start by saying, "Hi" or "Hello".

# Key Terms

**Facilities** (pool, gym, hot tub, etc.)

**Undergoing** (going through)

**Informed** (made aware of)

# My Answer

---

Hello,

My name is Wendy, and I recently bought a three month membership at your pool.

Yesterday, when I came to use your facilities, I found that the sauna and hot tub were closed. I asked one of the other members about it and they said the sauna and hot tub are undergoing renovations which will last for two months. I couldn't believe it because nobody informed me about that when I bought the membership! The sauna was the main reason why I bought the membership to begin with! I will still use the swimming pool a few times a week, but I am really disappointed that I won't get to use the sauna and hot tub. I would like a 70% refund of my membership cost to make up for this inconvenience.

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Frequent flyers often complain about crying babies on their flights. Should airlines consider banning children under 5 years old from their flights?**

# Tips

**Remember, the CELPIP people are not testing your morality. They are not going to do research any statistics that you provide. If you say, “75% of airline travellers are single people traveling for business purposes,” they are not going to research that to see if it’s true. So it’s fine if you make up statistics to defend your argument. An easy way to protect yourself in these situations is to say, “I read an article recently that said 75% of airline passengers are traveling for business purposes.” This way you’re putting the blame on the article, not on yourself if the statistic is unrealistic.**

**If you don’t have enough things to talk about, tell a story to take up time.**

# Key Terms

**Long-haul (long-distance)**  
**Revenue (income)**  
**Cutoff age (age limit)**  
**Raucous (disturbance)**  
**Diapers (baby underwear)**  
**Get on somebody's nerves (annoy)**

# My Answer

I believe airlines should ban children under the age of five from traveling on their planes. The first reason I think this is because children under the age of five cause the most problems for the rest of the passengers. Very often a baby will be screaming for hours on a long-haul flight. This is extremely frustrating for business passengers who need to get some rest on the flight. If airlines banned babies from their flights, more business travellers would want to fly with their company. This would boost their customer satisfaction. Also, it would boost a company's revenue because more people would want to travel on their planes. I read an article recently that said 75% of travellers are single people travelling for business. These people would definitely enjoy a quiet flight without screaming babies! I think five years old is a good cutoff age because kids older than five rarely cause a ruckus. Also, kids this age don't need to have their diapers changed, so they won't take up as much bathroom time. It's frustrating when there is a line for the bathroom and someone is taking a long time changing their baby. One time I was on a flight from Karachi to Istanbul and a mother spent about 35 minutes in the bathroom with her baby. All the passengers were getting really impatient. Then, after she got out of the bathroom, her baby was screaming for like an hour. It was definitely getting on everyone's nerves! Anyway, those are some reasons why I think airlines should ban kids under the age of five.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are hiking in the mountains and come across a strange scene. It looks like two people are climbing a cliff to steal some eggs from a bird's nest. Call a park ranger and tell him about your concerns. Describe your location to him.



# Tips

A park ranger's job is to protect the nature and wildlife in an area. When people kill animals unlawfully, it's called poaching. You could assume the bird is an endangered species and the climbers are trying to kill it or capture it.

# Key Terms

**Report** (notify about something)  
**Disturbing** (harmful)  
**Endangered** (facing extinction)  
**Binoculars** (device used to see far away)  
**Surroundings** (things nearby)  
**Log cabin** (small wooden house)  
**Lumberjack** (wood cutter)  
**ASAP** (As Soon As Possible)

# My Answer

Hi,

My name is Jack, and I'm hiking in Redstone National Park. I would just like to report a disturbing scene. I see two people climbing a cliff toward a bird's nest. They don't look like typical climbers at all. I think they might be trying to steal the eggs in the nest. Or they might be trying to kill or capture the bird. It looks like a rare species. It might be endangered. It has a purple body with blue wings and a pink breast. I think both climbers are women, but it's hard to tell cause I'm far away. I'm using my binoculars. One of the climbers seems to be wearing a business outfit with high heels. The other climber is wearing a green suit with a green helmet. I'm not exactly sure of my location, but I'll describe my surroundings to you. There are mountains in the distance and a big valley between me and the mountains. There's a log cabin in the valley with a lumberjack cutting down a tree. Anyway, I hope you can come to the scene ASAP.

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your friend is thinking of joining a sports team this summer, but she doesn't know anything about sports. Which sport would you recommend for her?**

# Tips

For this question, just pick any sport and start thinking of reasons. My notes would look like this:

## Soccer

1. Not hard / few rules
2. Team sport / make friends
3. Cheap cost

## Things to remember:

Talk to the person (Hi Zoe).

Give her casual advice.

Use one or two examples to fill up the time.

Use a natural introduction.

End with a short conclusion.

# Key Terms

- Take up (start an activity)
- Rec league (recreation league - casual/fun)
- Net (goal)
- A ton (a lot of)
- Pop (Coke, Sprite, Root Beer, etc)
- Cleats (soccer shoes)
- Have a blast (have a good time)

# My Answer

Hey Zoe,

I think it's great that you want to take up a sport for the summer! I would recommend joining a soccer team. There are lots of rec leagues that you could join for the summer. These are just casual leagues for people who want to have fun and get some exercise. It's okay if you don't have any experience playing soccer! The nice thing about soccer is that it's not a hard sport to understand. Basically, you just try to get the ball into the other team's net. Just remember that in soccer you can't use your hands or arms! The nice thing about a team sport is that there will be others on the team who can give you some coaching if you don't know what to do. You'll probably make a lot of friends if you join a soccer team. Last summer I joined a soccer team and I made a ton of friends! After most games, we would either go to a pub or go to someone's house for a BBQ. That was actually the best part! I was hoping to lose some weight by playing soccer, but I actually gained weight because of all the hamburgers and pop I had after the games! The other nice thing about soccer is that it's really cheap to play. It costs about \$50 to join the league, and if you don't have cleats, you can just use running shoes. Anyway, I'd really recommend playing soccer and I think you'll have a blast!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about how you met your best friend.**

# Tips

This question is asking you to describe the whole event or process of meeting your best friend. Don't focus too much on the word "how". Actually, the question should include all these aspects too:

When?

Where?

Who?

How did the friendship develop?

Maybe the story of how you met your best friend was not very exciting. Maybe you can only think of, "We met in college." Your answer doesn't need to be exciting, but it needs to be much longer than one sentence! Try to think of some details. Maybe talk about how your relationship developed.

# Key Terms

**Just so happened (by chance)**  
**Hit it off (instant connection)**  
**Gym (place for indoor sports)**

# My Answer

When I was in my first year of college, I met my best friend Rubina. We were in the same marketing class and sat next to each other. The college was in Toronto, but we just so happened to be from the same city in India! When we discovered that fact about each other, we immediately hit it off. We spent the rest of that semester studying together every day. We had other things in common too. For example, her and I used to play badminton in India, so we would go to the college gym every weekend and play badminton with each other. She also loved cooking, so I would invite her to my house for cooking nights. One time we tried cooking spaghetti for the first time and we overcooked it and the noodles turned to mush. We gave it to my cat instead of eating it ourselves. Our friendship grew a lot in college, and after college we each got married and had our own families. We live in different cities now, but we still talk every week on Skype.

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



# Tips

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**Remember to describe the overall scene in one or two sentences before you talk about the details. There are lots of things to describe in this picture, so don't spend all your time on one thing. One minute goes by fast!**

# Key Terms

**Desert island (tropical island)**

**Lion**

**Clear water**

**Shark**

**Octopus**

**Tropical Fish**

**Coral**

**Parrot**

**Rowboat**

**Signpost**

**Tuft (small clump)**

**Shore (place where land meets water)**

**Jagged (sharp and pointy)**

# My Answer

This is a picture of a desert island in the middle of the ocean. The island has palm trees and golden sand on it. In the middle of the picture, there is a lion. To the right of the lion, there is a signpost with a tuft of grass under it. In the trees above the signpost, there is a red parrot. On the left shore of the island, there is a small rowboat. The foreground of the picture shows an underwater scene. In the centre, there is a shark with jagged teeth and a purple octopus. On the bottom corners of the picture there are colourful tropical fish and a variety of sea plants including coral. In the background, there is a blue sky with white puffy clouds. Those are a few things I can see in the picture.

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

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This is a good picture to practice making short term and longer term predictions. For example, the shark will obviously attack the octopus. That would be a short term prediction. It will happen in a few seconds. But what will the lion do? There is nothing obvious that he will do in the next few seconds, so think of a longer term prediction. Maybe there is a person on the island and the lion will try to find him and eat him! Or maybe the lion has just finished eating the owner of the rowboat and will take a nap under a tree.

# Key Terms

**Repel (resist)**

**Distract (take attention away from)**

**Nap**

**Warn**

**Treasure**

**Pirate**

# My Answer

---

In this scene, there are several things that I think will happen next. First, the shark will attack the octopus, but the octopus will repel the attack. The fish will try to help the octopus by distracting the shark. In the end the shark will give up the fight and swim away. On the island, the lion will start looking for some lunch because it is hungry. I think there is a pirate on the island who came searching for treasure. The lion will try to find him and eat him. The parrot will fly to the pirate and try to warn him that the lion is coming. Then the pirate will climb a tree to stay safe. The lion will give up his search and take a nap under a tree. In the end, the pirate will row back to his ship and continue his hunt for treasure.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your family is considering taking up a winter activity. Choose an option and persuade your family that your choice is better.

## Hockey

Cost: \$1000  
Distance to rink: 2kms  
2 games per week  
Season length: 4 months

## Skiing

Cost: \$1500  
Distance to ski hill: 100kms  
Go every weekend  
Season length: 6 months



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

## Your family is recommending curling.

### Curling

**Cost: \$400**

**Distance to rink: 4kms**

**3 games per week**

**Season length: 5 months**

### Hockey

**Cost: \$1000**

**Distance to rink: 2kms**

**2 games per week**

**Season length: 4 months**

### Skiing

**Cost: \$1500**

**Distance to ski hill: 100kms**

**Go every weekend**

**Season length: 6 months**



# Tips

---

Regardless of your choice, curling is much cheaper and you can do the activity more frequently. How are you going to handle these aspects? As you go through this book, I want to help you get better at handling these challenges. I would recommend using one of these sentences:

Even though....

or

I know that...

Even though curling is much cheaper, grandma gave us enough money to cover the cost of skiing.

I know that you guys want to choose curling, but I think we should pick hockey because it will be better exercise.

# Key Terms

Blood pumping (increase heart rate)  
Hit the slopes (go skiing)

# My Answer

Hey guys,

I'm really excited about doing a family activity together this winter. I know you guys are suggesting curling, but I think skiing would be a lot better for us. One of the reasons we wanted to do an activity together is so that we would get fresh air and exercise. Curling is fun, but it won't really get our blood pumping. Think of the great exercise we would get if we hit the slopes every weekend! Even though curling is a lot cheaper, the cost doesn't really matter because grandma gave us enough money to cover any activity we choose. I know curling is a lot more frequent, but the thing is that we're pretty busy during the week and I don't think we could even go that often. I have band practice twice a week, and I'm not sure when I would find time to do my homework if we also went curling three times a week. I think one all-day activity would be better than three short activities during the week. Anyway, those are the reasons why I think we should definitely pick skiing!

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You recently bought a new pair of shoes and realize that they are slightly too small. You want to exchange them for a larger pair but you can't find the receipt! Call the store and explain your problem. Ask if you can exchange your shoes.

# Tips

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In this situation, the store probably needs proof of purchase before they allow you to exchange shoes. One thing you could do is offer to show them your credit card statement as proof that you bought the shoes at their store.

Very often people mispronounce the word “receipt”. The “p” is silent. It’s just “reeceet”.

# Key Terms

Pick them out (select them)  
Store clerk (store worker)

# My Answer

---

Hi,

My name is Beth, and I recently bought a pair of shoes from your store. After arriving home, I tried them on and realized that they're a bit too small. I should have gotten half a size larger. I would like to come back and exchange them, but I can't find my receipt. I'm wondering if I can still exchange them without a receipt? If you need proof of purchase, I have my credit card statement which shows the name of your store and a purchase of \$89.95. Also, I remember the store clerk who helped me pick them out. His name was Brandon. I think he'll remember helping me if you ask him. Anyway, I'm just wondering if I can come in this afternoon to exchange them.

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Some people are allergic to fragrances such as perfumes and colognes. Do you think fragrances should be banned in public places to make life easier for people with these allergies?**

# Tips

**Remember, you should clearly state your opinion at the beginning. I would recommend doing it in the first sentence.**

**If you can think of three points to defend your opinion that would be great. If not, just try to keep talking until the time is up.**

# Key Terms

**Perfume (fragrance for women)**  
**Cologne (fragrance for men)**  
**Barely (hardly)**  
**Alternatives (other options)**

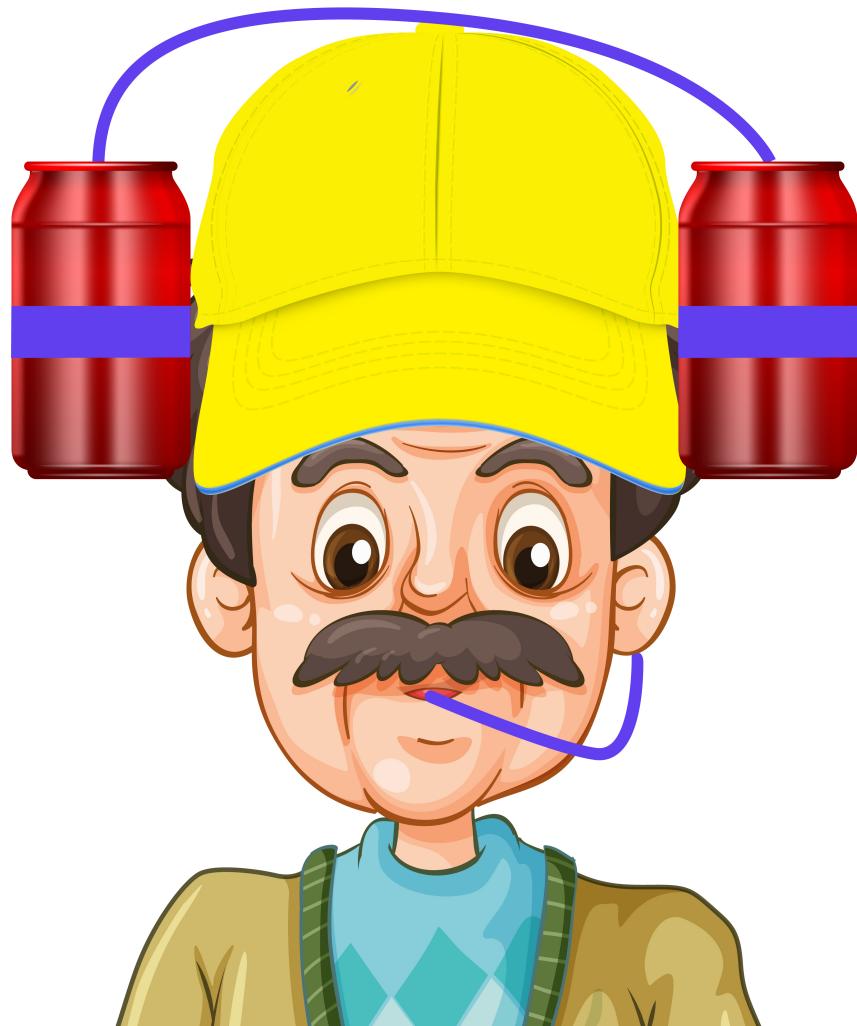
# My Answer

In my opinion, fragrances should be banned in public for several reasons. First, a lot of people these days are allergic to fragrances. If stores and shopping malls were fragrance free, it would improve the quality of life for so many people. Even for people who aren't allergic to fragrances, I think they would appreciate it too. For example, last week I was on a flight from Houston to Vancouver. The woman next to me was wearing such strong perfume! I could barely breathe. Then, when I was in a taxi going home from the airport, the driver was wearing really weird smelling cologne. Both those experiences are examples of how normal people can have negative experiences with fragrance too. I would say that I don't like about 90% of fragrances on the market today. And I'm not even allergic to them! Another reason I think fragrances should be banned is because fragrances are basically just chemicals that we breathe into our lungs. It's not healthy for the whole population to be breathing in those chemicals. There are natural alternatives that people can use instead of perfumes and colognes. Actually, I bought some natural soap a few months ago and it is the best soap I've ever used! My skin feels so soft. I realized that my dry skin problem was caused by using soap filled with chemicals! I think our society would be so much healthier if we got rid of chemicals completely. Anyway, those are the reasons why I think fragrances should be banned in public.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are in a hat store and see a very interesting hat that you think your friend will like. Call your friend and describe it to him/her. Ask if you should buy it.



# Tips

After describing the appearance of the hat, it would be a good idea to talk about how your friend could use the hat. What situations would he use it in?

# Key Terms

**Baseball cap**

**Drink holders**

**Cans**

**Pop (Canadian word for soda)**

**Straw**

**Merge (become one)**

**Sporting event**

**Instantly**

**Break the bank (hurt financially)**

# My Answer

---

Hey Josh,

It's Tim here. I'm just in a hat store right now and I'm looking at a really weird hat. I'm just wondering if you'd want me to buy it for you. I'll describe it to you. It's a yellow baseball cap with two drink holders attached to the sides. Each holder is holding a can of pop or beer. There is a straw coming out of each can and then both straws merge into one straw and that straw goes into your mouth so that you can drink from both cans at the same time. I think you could use this hat at sporting events or at parties. I know you like weird stuff like this so I thought of you instantly when I saw it. It only costs 20 bucks, so it won't break the bank if I buy it, but I don't want to buy it for you if you won't use it. Let me know what you think.

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your cousin wants to start learning a musical instrument. Which instrument would you recommend for him?**

# Tips

For this question, just pick any instrument and start thinking of reasons. My notes would look like this:

## Guitar

1. Easy to get started
2. Cheap cost
3. Portable

For this question, you could compare a guitar with other instruments. For example, you could say, “I think learning guitar is great because you can buy a used guitar for less than \$50. A used piano, on the other hand, would cost a lot more and is harder to find.”

# Key Terms

Take up (start an activity)  
Resources  
Semi-pro (almost professional)  
Half-decent (pretty good)  
Pick up (buy)  
Bucks (dollars)  
Kijiji (a popular website for used things)  
Poking around (looking / browsing)  
Really (very)  
Lug (carry)

# My Answer

Hey Sam,

I think it's great that you want to take up an instrument! I would recommend guitar for several reasons. First, there are so many resources to help you learn. I have a friend who became semi-pro by just watching YouTube videos and teaching himself! So you don't even have to spend any money on lessons. The second reason why I would recommend guitar is because the instrument itself is really cheap. For under a hundred bucks, you can pick up a new beginner model or a half-decent used one. There are so many used guitars listed on Kijiji. I'd recommend poking around on there for a while. You need to be careful though. You don't want to buy one that has any problems. My brother knows a lot about guitars, so I could ask him to go with you when you find one you want to look at. Another reason why I'd recommend taking up guitar is because the instrument is really portable. If you want to join a band in the future, you can just take your guitar wherever you go. Imagine trying to lug a piano everywhere! You would need to buy a truck for that! My brother has a backpack style case for his guitar and he just skateboards to his friend's house every evening for band practice. Anyway, those are some reasons why I'd recommend taking up guitar. Have fun making your decision!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about a time you  
overcame a challenge.**

# Tips

---

**Remember, the CELPIP people are not evaluating your personality, morality, life goals and accomplishments, etc. They are simply evaluating you on your English proficiency. You don't need to think of a huge challenge in your life. A simple one is fine too, as long as you can speak for 60 seconds on the topic.**

**In your answer, you should describe the challenge and how you overcame it. It's a very open question. You could talk about how the challenge affected your life. Just remember to use simple past tense verbs.**

# Key Terms

Hit with (experienced)  
Bout (case)  
Drastically (in a big way)  
Insomnia  
Countless (many)  
Turned the corner (started making progress)  
Persevere (keep going despite hardship)  
Trial (hard time)

# My Answer

Four years ago, I got hit with a serious bout of depression. It drastically affected my life. I couldn't work for a whole year. It felt like a storm cloud of negative thoughts was always over my head and I couldn't get rid of it no matter how hard I tried. I developed insomnia over that time. I saw several doctors and counsellors, but they couldn't help me. I did a lot of my own research over that time. I watched countless YouTube videos of people who had depression. Their stories encouraged me and gave me the strength to keep trying. Finally after a long time, I turned the corner on my depression. Now I've made a full recovery and I can work again and live a normal life. Looking back on that challenge, I'm thankful for it now because I can help other people who are struggling with the illness. I'm really proud of myself for persevering through that trial, and I consider myself a better person because of it.

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



# Tips

---

Sometimes the overall scene might not be clear. Is this scene a park? Is it a backyard? Just use the word that makes the most sense to you and don't worry about it. On the test, you don't have time for worry and regret! Just try your best and forget the rest! :)

# Key Terms

**Backyard**

**Fence**

**Gate**

**Tree house**

**Base (bottom)**

**Ladder**

**Inflatable pool**

**Helicopter**

**Skydiving**

**German shepherd (kind of dog)**

**Squirrel**

# My Answer

This is a picture of a backyard. There's a wooden fence that goes around the yard with a big wooden gate in it. There's green grass and colourful flowers all around the yard. On the left side of the picture, there's a big tree with a tree house in it. A boy is playing in it. Near the base of the tree, a baby is climbing the ladder to the tree house. His mother is running from the other side of the yard to take him off the ladder. On the right side of the picture, a girl is playing in an inflatable pool. Her brother is playing with a car beside the pool. In the background, there is a helicopter and a man is falling out. Maybe he's skydiving. There's also a blue sky, a sun, and some white clouds. Alright, that's what I can see in the picture.

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

---

In this picture, there are at least five easy predictions you can make. Try not to waste all your time on one prediction. Personally, I wouldn't take notes for the picture questions. But if I did take notes, they might look like this:

**Mom saves baby**  
**Boy falls from tree house**  
**Skydiver pulls parachute**  
**Dog barks at squirrel**  
**Boy joins sister in pool**

# Key Terms

Injure

Parachute

Bark

Grab (take)

Clinic (doctor's office)

# My Answer

---

In this scene, there are several things that I think will happen next. The mother will run and grab her baby off the ladder. I think the boy playing in the tree house will fall and injure himself. His mom will take him to a clinic to make sure he's okay. The boy playing on the grass will get bored and join his sister in the swimming pool. The dog will start barking at the squirrel and try to catch it. The man who is falling will pull his parachute and land safely. I think more skydivers will jump out of the helicopter. Okay, those are some predictions I'll make about the picture.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your family inherited money from your grandpa. You are considering buying a new vehicle. Choose the option you prefer and persuade your family to agree with your choice.

## Jeep

Cost: \$30,000

Purpose: driving in the mountains

Number of seats: 4

Good fuel economy

## Camper van

Cost: \$40,000

Purpose: going on road trips

Number of seats: 7

Bad fuel economy



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

## Your family is recommending a boat.

### Boat

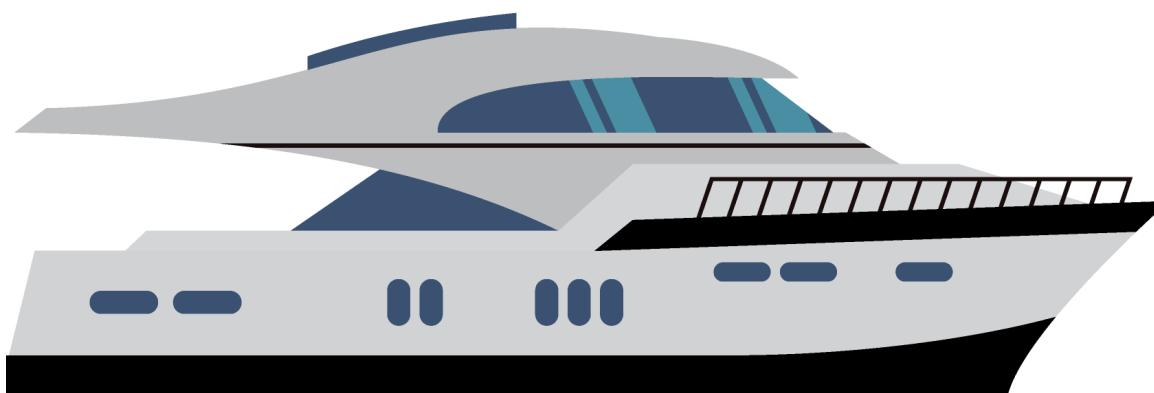
Cost: \$70,000  
Purpose: fishing  
Capacity: 10 people  
Fuel economy: extremely bad

### Jeep

Cost: \$30,000  
Purpose: driving in the mountains  
Number of seats: 4  
Good fuel economy

### Camper van

Cost: \$40,000  
Purpose: going on road trips  
Number of seats: 7  
Bad fuel economy



# Tips

---

**Remember, you're not comparing the first two pictures you see. Sometimes the third picture is a bit crazy, so you should be ready to make some interesting comparisons.**

# Key Terms

**Off-roading (driving on unpaved roads)**

**4 x 4 (pronounced four by four)**

**Sea-doo (jet ski)**

**Dock (wooden platform beside water)**

# My Answer

---

Hey guys,

I'm so happy we can buy a new vehicle this summer! I know you're suggesting getting a boat, but I think it would be better if we bought the jeep. Our family has always loved off-roading. If we had a 4x4, think of all the cool places we could go! We could go on so many awesome trips in the mountains. I know the boat can carry more people, but it doesn't really matter because our family only has four people anyway. So the jeep is perfect for us! Another reason why I think we should get the jeep over the boat is because it's a fraction of the cost. We could spend that extra \$40,000 on a sea-doo! I know you guys really like fishing, but we can just fish from the dock. I think going on adventures in the jeep would be way cooler than just sitting in a boat. Anyway, that's my two cents. I hope you guys agree!

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Your grandparents are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this Saturday. Your classmate, Anna, needs urgent help with a school project on Saturday. She might fail her class if you don't help her. Talk to either your grandparents or Anna and explain your situation.

# Tips

---

Which of these do you think is more important?

What you say.

or

How you say it.

I think both are equally important in this situation. No matter what your answer is, you need to show empathy. Your tone needs to be empathetic.

# Key Terms

**Stay up (stay awake)**  
**Festivities (celebrations)**  
**Family gathering (extended family gets together)**

# My Answer

---

Hey Anna,

It's Cynthia calling here. I'm just calling to talk about this weekend. I know you asked me to help you with your big project on Saturday. I just remembered that my grandparents are having their 50th wedding anniversary that day! I feel so bad that I won't be able to help you! My entire extended family will be there, and we're going to take family pictures. It will be the biggest family gathering we've had in over 10 years. I was thinking of several options to solve this situation. One option would be staying up really late on Saturday night. I could help you after all the festivities are over. Another option is that Amanda from our class is really smart with this stuff and we could ask her to help you with the project. Anyway, those are two options we could think about. I'm really sorry again!

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Many parents are choosing to homeschool their children because they have lost faith in the education system. Should the government make it mandatory for children to attend a normal school?**

# Tips

I think it's a good idea to practice arguing for both sides. Try answering this question twice and take different sides each time.

## Should be mandatory

1. The government can ensure quality
2. Students will have easier entry to college
3. Many employers require a high school diploma

## Should not be mandatory

1. Kids will become more creative
2. Kids will learn to be independent
3. Parents can choose which values to teach

# Key Terms

Jaded (tired, bored)  
Junior high (grade 7,8,9)  
Retain (keep)  
Bullying  
Squashed (killed)  
Peer pressure (pressure to conform)

# My Answer

In my opinion, governments should not make it mandatory for children to attend normal school. There are several reasons why I believe this. Firstly, kids often get jaded with the school system by the time they reach junior high. If they are homeschooled, they retain their love for learning. Often kids face bullying in junior high and high school if they are different in some way. This doesn't happen in homeschooling because the kids just learn at home! I think it's good if children's uniqueness can be encouraged instead of squashed by peer pressure. A lot of people say that kids who are homeschooled end up lacking good social skills. In my experience, this isn't true at all. My nephews and nieces are homeschooled, and they have lots of friends! Actually, they seem to participate in society even more than normal students do. I think the biggest reason why parents choose to homeschool their kids is so that they can teach their kids certain values. I've met many homeschooling parents who didn't want their kids learning about sex education in school. A lot of homeschooling families are religious, so it makes sense that they might want their children to grow up with similar values as they had. I think that right should be respected. People should have the freedom to raise their family however they like. Anyway, those are just a few reasons why I think governments should keep allowing homeschooling.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are in a shopping mall and see a very strange man standing outside a store. Call your friend and describe what you see.



# Tips

The most important word in this situation is “costume”. You need to use that word. You have to describe the overall scene before you describe the details. Very often people will start a question like this by saying:

“I see an egg.” Wrong!

“I see a funny man who looks like an egg.” Wrong!

“I see an egg with arms and legs.” Wrong!

“I see an egg yolk.” Wrong!

You need to start your answer by giving a correct description of the scene.

“I see a man wearing an egg costume.”

Right! :)

# Key Terms

Costume  
Promotion  
Easter  
Broken through  
Cracked  
Sleeves  
Pants  
Bowling shoes (shoes for bowling)  
Turquoise (blue green)

# My Answer

Hey Bill,

It's Bob here. I'm just in Willowbrook Mall right now and I see a really funny thing. There's a guy wearing an egg costume standing outside a store. I'm not sure why he's standing there. It might be for some sort of promotion. Maybe the store sells eggs. Or maybe it has something to do with Easter. I'll just describe what the guy looks like so you can picture it. The main part of the costume is the shell of the egg. It almost covers the guy's whole body. His arms and legs have broken through the shell, and the shell is cracked in those areas. The top of the shell is brown, but most of the egg is white. There is a yellow yolk in the middle of the egg. It looks like it's sliding down the front of the shell. The man has brown sleeves and brown pants. His shoes are orange and turquoise. They sort of look like bowling shoes. He's also wearing glasses and a red bow tie. Anyway, I hope that gives you a good idea of what he looks like.

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your brother wants to buy his girlfriend a nice present for Valentine's Day. Give him some advice on what he should buy her.**

# Tips

---

**For this question, you could talk about a recent sale you saw at a jewelry store. To answer the question “what?”, you can also talk about where, when, and how he can buy the item. Also, give reasons why you think his girlfriend would like the product you are recommending.**

# Key Terms

**Obsessed with (crazy about)**  
**Poster**

**Display (glass counter showing products)**  
**Chain**

**Embedded (fixed into)**  
**Elegant (classy)**

# My Answer

Hey Greg,

It's great that you want to get Britney a nice present for Valentine's Day. I would recommend a pair of diamond earrings. I think she would love them so much because you know she's obsessed with jewelry. She's always wearing new earrings or a new necklace. And girls always love diamonds! The nice thing about diamonds is that they match with anything. If you got her something pink or red, it would only match with certain clothing. Last week when I was at Sunridge Mall, I walked past a jewelry store and there was a poster in the window that said "50% off everything. No payments for 6 months!" I also noticed a pair of diamond earrings in one of the displays for \$399. If you got 50% off that price, that means you'd only have to pay \$200 after 6 months. I know you just started your new job and probably can't afford \$200 now, but after 6 months, you should easily be able to afford \$200. The earrings were basically a thin silver chain with the diamonds embedded in a silver ring on the end of the chain. They looked really simple yet elegant. I think they would match her style perfectly! And if she doesn't like them, I saw that the store has a 3 month return policy. Anyway, that's what I would recommend! Good luck in your search!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about the most fun party  
you ever attended.**

# Tips

The word “party” means something different in each culture. You don’t need to worry if the party is not like a typical Canadian party. Just try to explain any cultural factors that might be hard to understand for the listener. For example, if the party is an Eid party, you could just say, “Eid is the most important celebration for Muslim people.” That will help the listener understand what the story is about.

# Key Terms

**Brand new (very new)**

**Cultural Vocabulary**

**Eid (Muslim festival)**

**Shalwar Kameez (Pakistani clothing)**

**Halwa (kind of dessert)**

**\* Remember to explain foreign words.**

# My Answer

The most fun party I ever attended was an Eid party at my uncle's house in Lahore, Pakistan. Eid is the most important festival in Muslim countries like Pakistan. My family was living in Multan at the time, and we traveled by train to Lahore to celebrate Eid with my uncle. In Pakistan, parties are never just one day. They usually last several days. My family spent a week at my uncle's house. On the first day of Eid me and my brothers got brand new clothes. I got a new light blue shalwar kameez which is the local style of dress in Pakistan. It was fun to see my cousins again. We flew kites and played so many games all day and night! We also ate so much good food. That was probably the best part of the trip! My family had brought lots of halwa from Multan to celebrate the festival. Halwa is a special kind of dessert. Multan is known for making the best halwa. I ate so much of it! Anyway, I had such a great time at that party and I'll never forget it!

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Describe this scene**



# Tips

---

**People often spend too much time trying to introduce the scene. Just keep it simple. One short sentence is enough. It doesn't need to be 100% accurate. For example, you could say:**

**“This is a typical forest scene.”**

**It's possible that it's not a forest, but don't worry about it. “Forest” is close enough.**

**Ideally, you want to have enough time to describe all the animals in the scene.**

# Key Terms

**Grizzly (kind of bear)**

**Bush**

**Berries**

**Skunk**

**Beaver**

**Oak tree**

**Base (bottom)**

**Patch (area)**

**Dirt**

**Lake (or river)**

**Duck**

**Pine trees**

**Wolves**

**Howling**

**Sunrise (or sunset)**

**Deer**

**Bank (shore)**

# My Answer

---

This is a picture of a typical forest scene. There is a lake in the middle of the picture with a duck swimming on it. In the bottom of the picture, there's a grizzly bear eating berries from a bush. Behind the grizzly, there's a skunk. On the left side of the picture, there's a big oak tree with a beaver under it. Around the base of the oak tree, there's a big patch of dirt with no grass. On the opposite bank, there's a deer close to the water and two wolves howling in the background. There are also a few pine trees and a beautiful orange sunset!

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

---

In this picture, the most natural predictions involve the animals.  
What are they going to do next? Just keep things simple.

# Key Terms

Spray

Gnaw (chew)

Cut down

Dam (beaver's house)

Munch (eat)

Retaliate (get revenge)

Out of sight (can't see it anymore)

Nightfall (when darkness comes)

# My Answer

---

In this scene, there are several things I think will happen next. The bear will keep munching on the berries, but the skunk will get scared and spray the bear. The bear will retaliate and kill the skunk. The beaver will start gnawing on the tree trunk and try to cut the tree down because it wants to build a dam. The duck will keep swimming toward the left side of the picture until it is out of sight. The deer will get scared by the wolves and run away. The wolves will probably keep howling until nightfall and then go hunting. Alright, those are some things I think will happen next in this scene.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

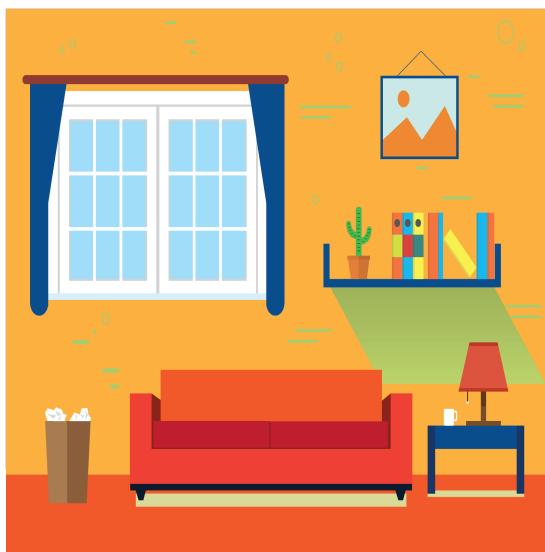
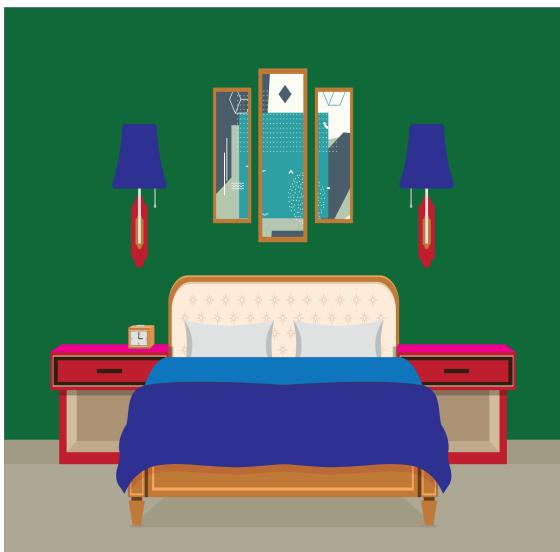
You and your spouse have decided to renovate one room of the house this summer. Which room do you think it should be? Persuade your spouse that your choice is better.

## Bedroom

Cost: \$4000  
New paint and carpets  
Length of project: 1 month  
Do it yourself

## Living room

Cost: \$7000  
New windows and floor  
Length of project: 2 weeks  
Hire professionals



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

## Your spouse is recommending the kitchen.

### Kitchen

Cost: \$10,000  
New cupboards and counters  
Length of project: 1 week  
Your uncles will help

### Bedroom

Cost: \$4000  
New paint and carpets  
Length of project: 1 month  
Do it yourself

### Living room

Cost: \$7000  
New windows and floor  
Length of project: 2 weeks  
Hire professionals



# Tips

**By now, you should know how to handle the positive aspects of the other person's recommendation. The kitchen will take less time. How are you going to handle that?**

**Very often people use the words “firstly, secondly, thirdly, lastly, finally, etc.” when they give their reasons. That’s great, but you don’t need to do that. You can answer questions without using those words.**

# Key Terms

**Renovate** (fix, improve)

**Housesit** (take care of house)

**Chunk** (piece)

**Tackle** (take on a project)

# My Answer

Hey Gina,

I know you're recommending that we renovate the kitchen, but I think it would be better to renovate the living room instead. The thing is that our summers always go by so fast, and I don't want to waste time on a project like this. If we hire professionals to renovate the living room for us, we'll have time to go camping together. We can just ask your cousin Mandy to housesit for us while we're gone. She can let the workers in and out of the house every day. I know the kitchen project would go faster with the help of Uncle Tom and Uncle Jerry, but if we go camping for two weeks, it won't really matter how long the project took. The other thing is that we're trying to save up for a new vehicle next year. I know the kitchen would only be \$3000 more than the living room, but that money could pay for a big chunk of the new car. Anyway, those are the reasons why I think we should renovate the living room. Maybe we can tackle the kitchen next summer!

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Your daughter's birthday is next week. She has wanted a new smartphone for a long time.**

**Yesterday, you found a good deal on the latest iPhone and bought it.**

**Today, she calls you from a store asking for your permission to buy the same one you bought for her. If you tell her that you already bought it for her, it will ruin the surprise. Tell her she can't buy it and make up some reasons why she should wait.**

# Tips

These are interesting situations that happen in real life. That's why the CELPIP people have included this task on the test. They want to see how you handle situations like this. Situations like this reveal the range of someone's English ability. Many people have told me that the IELTS speaking test is easier than the CELPIP. The reason is because IELTS does not have questions like task 6 or task 8.

Learning how to handle difficult situations will be very helpful for your life in Canada. Remember, you're not just trying to pass a test. You're probably trying to LIVE in Canada for a long time. Improving your English will really help you in your life in Canada.

# Key Terms

**Press event (media event)**  
**Specs (specifications, features)**  
**Pricey (expensive)**  
**Outdated (old model)**

# My Answer

---

Hey Chrystal,

I know you want to buy the new iPhone today, but I think you should wait a few days. Apple might announce a newer one at their upcoming press event. I know you've had your old phone for like 5 years, and you've taken such good care of it. That's why I want your next phone to be one you really love. If you buy a new one now, it might be outdated in a few months. I would recommend waiting to see the specs of the new iPhone. If it's too pricey or if you don't like it, then you can get the one you're looking at now. Hey, I'll make you an offer. If Apple announces a new one at their upcoming event and if you like it, I'll pay for the difference in cost between the two phones. How does that sound? I love you, and I always want the best for you.

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Children these days often watch movies with violence, bad language, and sexual content. Do you think parents should place restrictions on what their kids can watch?**

# Tips

---

The biggest challenge with this question is that you barely have any time to prepare. Anyone could give a perfect answer to this question if they had time to prepare. Ideally, it would be good to have three points to support your opinion, but realistically you probably won't have time to think of three points. That's why filling the time with stories is good. For example, you could talk about the rules your parents made when you were a kid.

# Key Terms

Long run (long term)  
Capacity (ability)  
Comprehend (understand)  
Profound (deep)  
Desensitized (become unaffected by)  
Profane (bad)  
Immediate (short term)  
Wellbeing (health)  
Nightmares (bad dreams)  
Monitor (watch)  
Exposed to (experience)

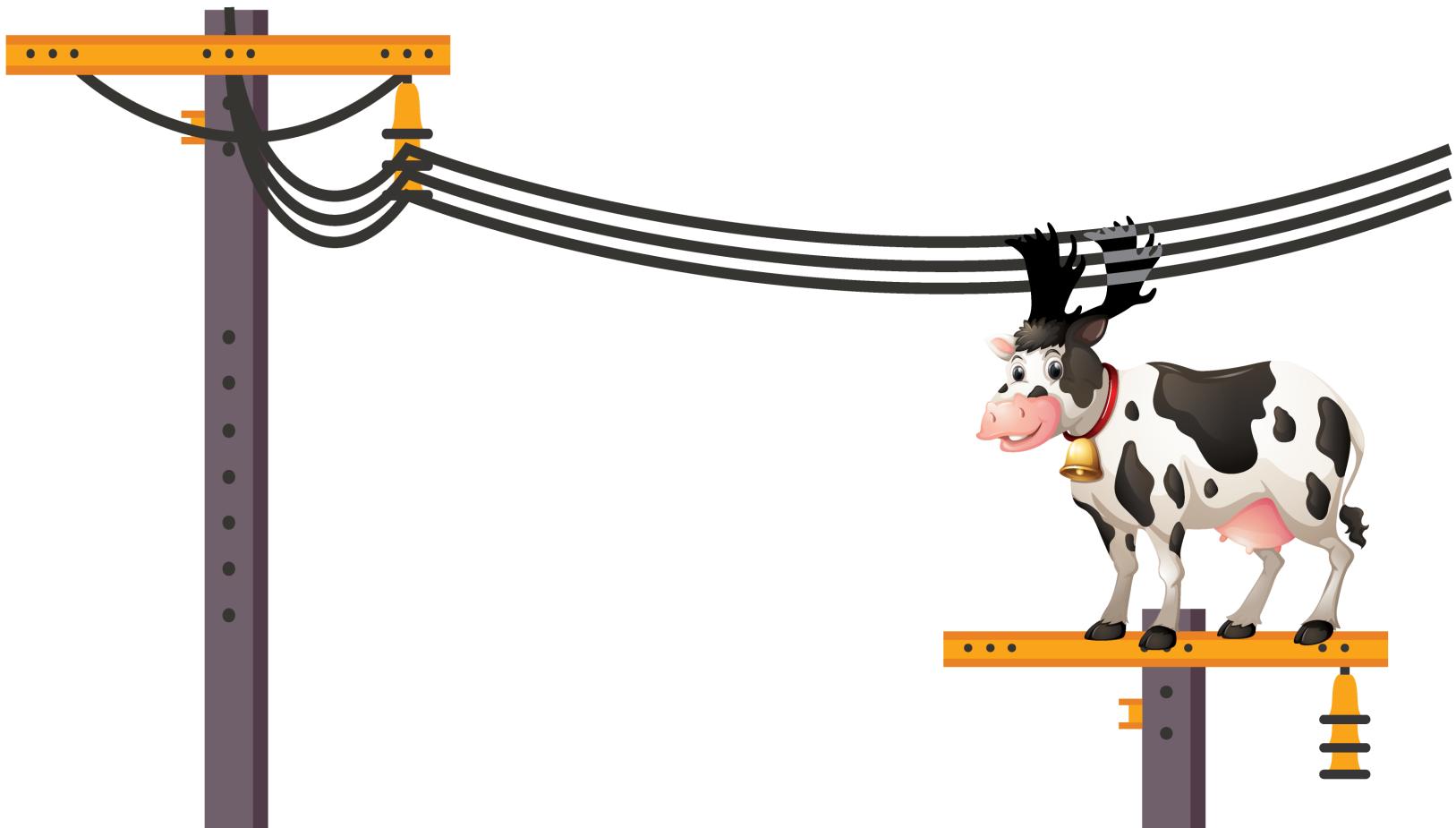
# My Answer

In my opinion, parents should place restrictions on the movies their kids can watch. I have two reasons for this opinion. First, it will protect the kids in the long run. Kids don't have the capacity to comprehend certain things that are adult themed. For example, if they see violence, it could affect them in profound ways. They might grow up believing that's how the world is supposed to be. I don't think it's good if kids become desensitized to that kind of stuff. When I was a kid, my parents didn't allow me to watch movies with violence, sexual content, or profane language. I didn't really understand their decision at the time, but now I'm really thankful I filled my mind with other things that are more positive. The second reason I think parents shouldn't allow their kids to watch bad movies is because it will affect their kids' immediate wellbeing. Kids often get nightmares after watching movies. I remember, as a kid, even watching cartoons with scary content would give me nightmares. I'm thankful that my parents protected me from these things. I mean, sure there were times where I broke the rules and watched bad movies, but I'm sure I would have watched a lot more bad movies if my parents had not put any restrictions in place. Those are some reasons why I think parents should monitor the content that their kids are being exposed to.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are walking down the road and see a very strange sight. Call your dad and ask if he's ever seen anything like this before.



# Tips

**Remember, pay attention to the question. At some point in your answer, you should ask your dad if he has ever seen anything like this.**

**Also, remember to describe the overall scene before the individual parts.**

**In this scene, the cow cannot be real because how would it get on top of a telephone pole?! Also, its horns are touching the wires, so if it was real, it would be getting electrocuted...not smiling! Haha. But if you describe it as a real cow, that would probably be okay too. But then you need to explain how you think the real cow got up there!**

# Key Terms

**Statue (sculpture)**

**Telephone pole (electricity pole)**

**Power lines**

**Horns**

**Horizontal (opposite of vertical)**

**Crossbeam (horizontal beam)**

**Antlers**

**Snout (mouth and nose)**

**Udder (where milk comes from)**

**Spots**

**Hooves (feet)**

# My Answer

---

Hey Dad,

I'm just walking along Greenwood Avenue, and I see a really strange sight. There's a statue of a cow on top of a telephone pole. Its horns are supporting the power lines, and it's standing on the horizontal crossbeam on top of the pole. Actually, its horns look more like antlers. It has a pink snout, pink ears, and a pink udder. It also has a bell on its neck. The body of the cow is white with black spots. Its hooves are also black. Anyway, just wondering if you've ever seen anything like this before.

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your grandma wants to learn how to use the internet so that she can communicate with her grandchildren. She doesn't know what kind of electronic device to buy. Give her some advice on what to buy.**

# Tips

---

Always remember to consider the person you're talking to when you answer the CELPIP speaking questions. In this situation, you're going to talk to your grandma. She probably doesn't know anything about technology, so you need to give her a simple explanation.

# Key Terms

Questions like this don't require advanced vocabulary, but they require a knowledge of how people in our culture communicate. In China, many social media outlets are blocked by the government. This means Chinese people might need to learn about Skype, Facebook, Instagram, etc. In Korea, everyone uses Kakaotalk. In India and other countries, apps such as Viber are popular. You need to learn about the apps that are popular in Canada. Most Canadians have probably never heard of Wechat, Viber, or any other app that might be popular in your country.

# My Answer

Hey Grandma,

It's great that you want to keep in contact with all your grandkids! I would recommend getting an iPad. They are very easy to use, and you won't have to waste time learning a lot of new things like you would if you bought a computer. I could help you set up a Skype account and add all your grandkids as contacts. Basically, when want to call someone, you would just press one button to turn on the iPad, then you touch the Skype logo on the screen, then you choose a contact and call them! Another reason I would recommend an iPad is because you could take it with you wherever you go and always keep in touch with people. You would only need to charge it every two or three days. You could get in the habit of plugging it in every night before bed and then you would never have to worry about it running out of battery life! I'll help you get another app called Instagram. It's super easy to use as well. On that app, you can see all the cool pictures that your grandkids post. Just today, for example, I saw some really cool pics that Tina posted from her trip to Venezuela! The nice thing about an iPad is that you can use it as a camera too! That way you can send your grandkids pics of you too. They would love that. Anyway, I'd definitely recommend getting an iPad!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about a frustrating experience you had in the workplace.**

# Tips

---

**Before you take the CELPIP test, you should think of past events in your life that evoked different emotions. Think about events that caused fear, anxiety, excitement, surprise, anger, etc. Task 2 on the test could definitely involve an emotion!**

# Key Terms

**Prep work (preparation)**

**Coworker**

**Boss**

**Tolerate (put up with)**

**Tardiness (being late)**

**Fed up (no more patience)**

**Vent (to express frustration)**

**Ultimatum (demand, time limit)**

**Walked off the job (quit)**

# My Answer

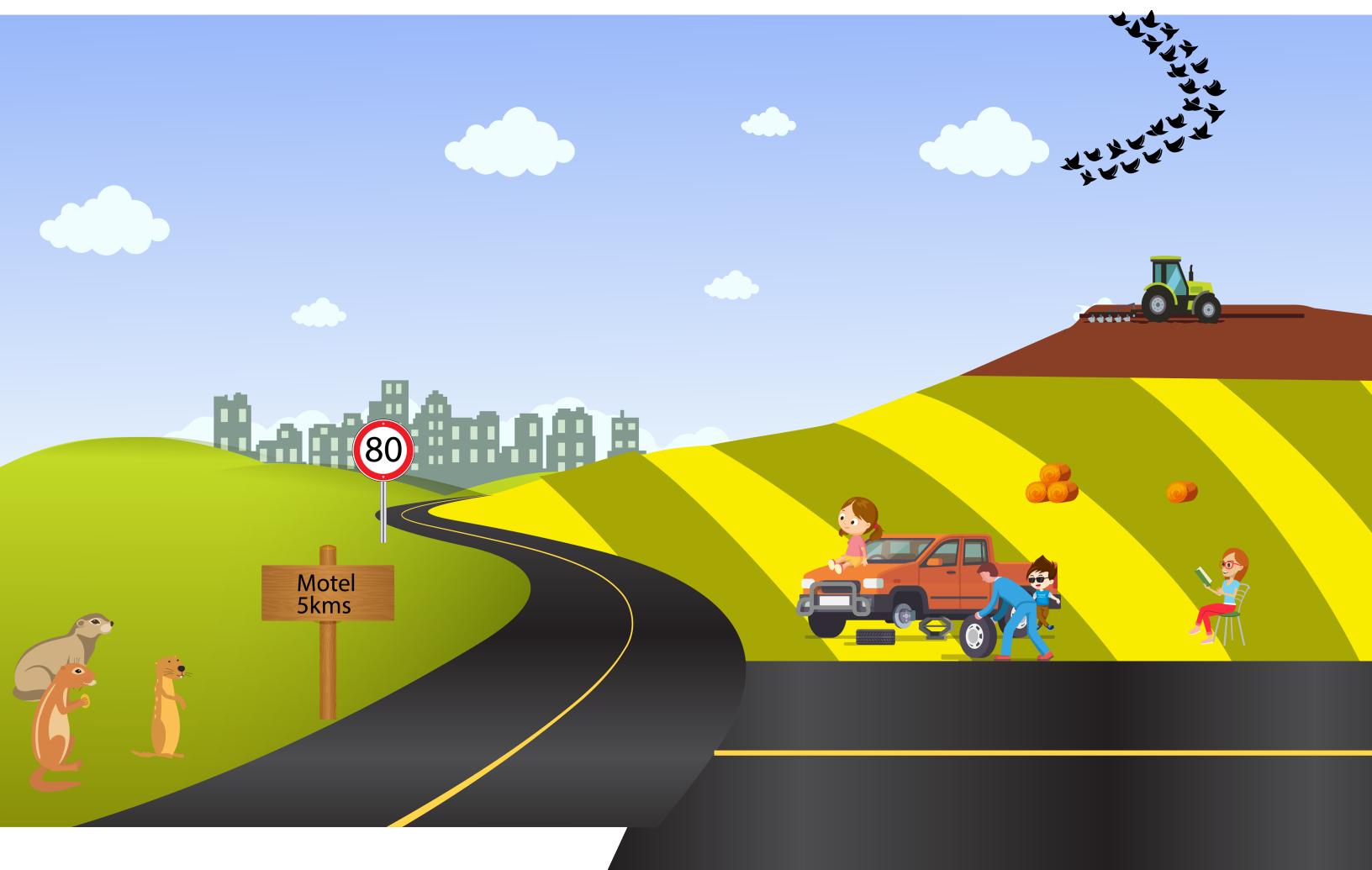
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So, four years ago I worked at a restaurant. I had to start work at 5am every morning, even though the restaurant only opened at 7am. I was in charge of doing all the prep work for the day. One of my coworkers was supposed to start work at the same time, but he was always late. Sometimes he would come in over an hour late. That meant I had to do a lot more work. At first, I tolerated his tardiness, but after a few months, I got really fed up. I vented to my boss about it one day. I told him that I was doing most of the work and it wasn't fair. My boss said he would deal with the situation, so I calmed down for a while. But after a few weeks, I realized the situation wasn't getting any better. So I gave my boss an ultimatum. I told him if my coworker was late one more time, I would quit. The next day my coworker was late again, so I walked off the job. That was a really frustrating experience I had.

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



# Tips

This picture is an example of how important vocabulary is. You probably don't know some of the specific vocabulary in this picture. That's why it's also important to know some generic words to describe things. For example, the animals in the bottom left of the picture are called gophers. If you don't know that word, you could call them "rodents". Rodents are animals like mice, beavers, squirrels, etc.

Also, if you don't know any vocabulary about farming, you could use the word "crops" to talk about the field. Or if you don't know the word "tractor", you could say, "farming vehicle".

\* If you can use specific vocabulary, your score will improve!

# Key Terms

Prairies (middle provinces of Canada)

Road trip

Pickup truck

Highway

Flat tire

Spare tire

Hood

Lawn chair (foldable chair)

Gophers

Speed limit sign

Field

Bales

Tractor

Canada geese

Flying in a V (the formation geese fly in)

T-intersection

Canola (a kind of yellow crop)

# My Answer

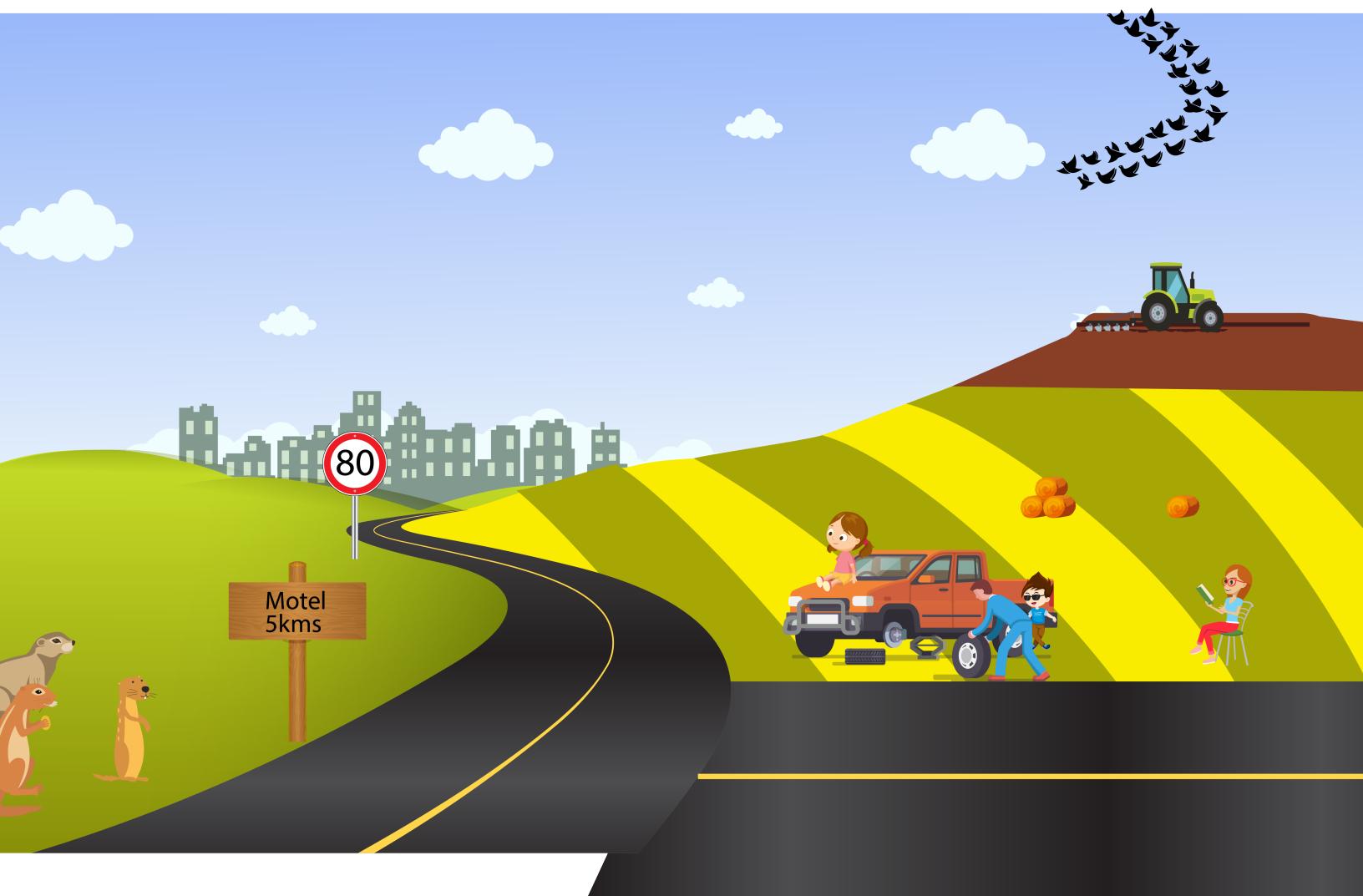
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This is a picture of a family going on a road trip through the Prairies. Their pickup truck has gotten a flat tire and they are stopped on the side of the road. The father is putting on the spare tire, and the son is helping him. The daughter is sitting on the hood of the vehicle. The mother is sitting on a lawn chair reading a book. There are two highways that meet in a T-intersection in the bottom of the picture. One of the highways goes toward a city in the distance. There is a speed limit sign that says 80 kilometres per hour. Also, there is a sign that says “Motel 5 kilometres”. In the bottom left corner, there are a few gophers. In the top left corner there are some Canada geese flying in a V. In the middle of the picture, there is a big yellow canola field. There are some bales on the field. A green tractor is working on part of the field. Alright, that's what I can see in this picture.

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

---

In this picture, it might take the father a few minutes to change the tire, so you could start by making some smaller predictions before making the big prediction about the family continuing their trip.

# Key Terms

**Beg (ask)**

**Cultivate (dig up the field)**

# My Answer

---

There are several things I think will happen next in this scene. I think the gophers in the bottom left corner will cross the highway and start begging for food from the girl. I think the girl will get some chips from inside the vehicle and start feeding them. I think the father will teach his son how to fix a flat tire. The mother will keep enjoying her book while the others work. The geese will fly out of the picture in the next few seconds. The tractor will probably keep working until the whole field has been cultivated. In the end, the family will continue on their road trip and spend the night in the motel which is 5kms away.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your friends want to go to a sporting event this weekend. Choose the option you prefer and persuade your friends that your choice is the best.

## Baseball

Cost: \$20  
Free hotdog  
Game takes 2.5 hours  
Seats in last row

## Boxing

Cost: \$40  
Free beer  
Match takes 1 hour  
Seats in first row



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

**Your friends are suggesting a soccer match.**

**Soccer**

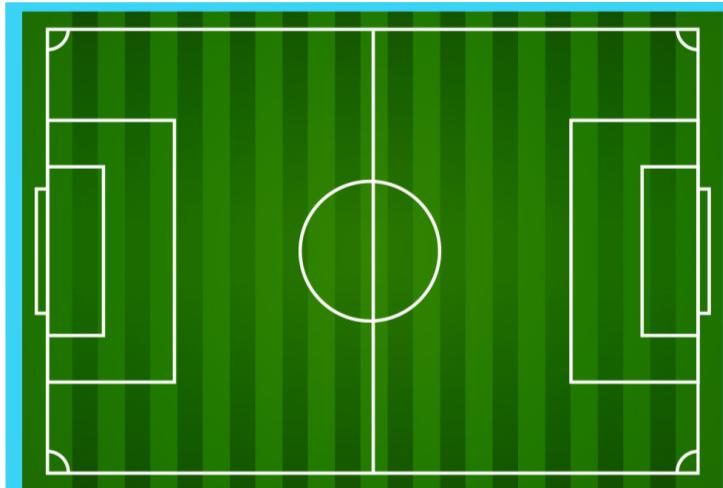
**Cost: \$10  
Free pizza  
Game takes 1.5 hours  
No seats**

**Baseball**

**Cost: \$20  
Free hotdog  
Game takes 2.5 hours  
Seats in last row**

**Boxing**

**Cost: \$40  
Free beer  
Match takes 1 hour  
Seats in first row**



# Tips

In North American English we use the word “game” instead of “match” to talk about most sports. For example,

Soccer game

Football game

Baseball game

Hockey game

But with boxing, we use “match”.

In some of my answers in this book, you’ll see that I use rhetorical questions. A rhetorical question is a question where you’re not asking for an answer. The answer is obvious. The following question is an example of a rhetorical question that doesn’t need an answer.

“Do you really want to stand for one and a half hours?”

# Key Terms

**Bucks (dollars)**

**Overrated (not as good as you hoped)**

**Have a blast (have fun)**

# My Answer

---

Hey guys,

I know you're suggesting we go to the soccer game, but I think the baseball game would be more fun. Do you really want to stand for one and a half hours? I would way rather have some seats! Plus, at the baseball game, we would get a free hotdog. I like hotdogs more than pizza. I know the baseball game is more expensive, but it's only 10 bucks more and we get an extra hour of enjoyment! We want to have a relaxing evening together, so the longer the better! Also, I know the seats are in the last row, but with baseball, it's actually nice to get a big perspective of everything. One time I went to a baseball game with my dad and we had front row seats. It was a bit overrated. Anyway, that's why I think the baseball game would be better. I know we'll have a blast!

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**It's your anniversary and you booked a table at a fancy restaurant. One hour before going to the restaurant, you get a call from a person at the restaurant saying they overbooked the restaurant and will have to cancel your reservation. Either call the manager of the restaurant and demand that they fulfill your reservation, or talk to your spouse about a different option.**

# Tips

---

Sometimes businesses make mistakes which hurt you in some way. In this case, it's a very special occasion for you and your spouse. You should explain your situation and if they don't comply, you might need to get demanding.

# Key Terms

**Special occasion (special event)**

**Place (restaurant)**

**Notice (warning)**

**Set aside (reserve)**

# My Answer

---

Hi Sir,

My name is Randy, and I just received a call from one of your staff saying that they canceled my reservation for tonight. Tonight is very important for my wife and I because it's our 25th anniversary. We don't have enough time now to reserve a table at any other place. If we had been given more notice about this cancellation, we could have booked a different place. I think it's completely unacceptable that your staff waited till an hour before the reservation time to call us! I understand that your restaurant is overbooked, but I'm requesting that you make room for us. I'm sure nobody else in the restaurant is celebrating their 25th anniversary! This is a very special occasion for us! I really hope you can set aside a table for us. I really appreciate your help.

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Do you think parents should pay for their children's education? Provide reasons to support your opinion.**

# Tips

Try not to speak too fast. You might be nervous because you couldn't think of some good reasons. People usually speak faster when they're nervous and their quality of English deteriorates. Also, if you have a strong accent, it's important that you speak a bit slower and more clearly. If the listener can't understand you, you'll get a bad mark!

To help your opinion be clear, you should emphasize the words “should” or “not”.

I believe parents **SHOULD** pay...  
I believe parents should **NOT** pay...

# Key Terms

**Burdened** (overwhelmed)

**Bogged down** (burdened)

**Out of place** (awkward)

**Neck deep** (very deep)

**Throw into the deep end** (abandon)

**Transition** (go from one thing to another)

# My Answer

In my opinion, parents should pay for their children's education. There are several reasons why I believe this. Firstly, most kids have no ability to save money before the typical university age. They are busy with high school until age 18 and can't afford to go to university. They only have two options: either get burdened with student loans, or work for several years to save up. If they take a few years off to work, they might feel out of place when they try to re-enter the education system. If they get bogged down in debt, it will really stress them out for a long time. If parents help them financially, it will solve both these problems at the same time. Another reason I think parents should pay for their kids' education is because kids will probably need to take out other loans to pay for big events coming up in their life. Many people get married in their twenties or buy their first house. If young people are neck deep in student loans, they won't qualify for a mortgage or a loan for their wedding. If parents save them from going into debt early on, it will really help them later in life. The last reason why I think parents should pay for their kids' education is because it lets the kid know that they are loved. Some parents just throw their kids into the deep end after high school. I don't think that's a good idea because kids can feel very lost when they go through a big transition like that. They need their parents' love and support. Anyway, that's why I think parents should help their kids pay for school.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are walking through a park and see a very strange animal. Call the local zoo and ask if they are missing an animal.  
Describe the animal to them.



# Tips

---

With strange animals, a very useful term is “cross between”. This means that the animal is the baby of two different species. For example, in this picture, you could say, “This animal looks like a cross between a zebra, a walrus, an eagle, a deer, and a cheetah.”

# Key Terms

Zebra

Walrus

Deer

Eagle

Cheetah

Stripes

Spots

Antlers

Tail

Hooves

Tusks

Wings

Pupils (inner part of eye)

# My Answer

---

Hi,

My name is Fred, and I'm just calling from a local park here in Ottawa. I was walking through the park and suddenly saw a really strange animal hiding in the bushes. I'm wondering if it might be missing from the zoo. I'll just give you a quick description of it. It looks like a cross between a zebra, a walrus, an eagle, a deer, and a cheetah. It has the body of a zebra with black and white stripes, and it has two big wings on either side of the body. It has the head of a walrus with two big tusks. It has big eyes with huge green pupils. On top of its head it has big antlers. Its tail is like a cheetah...orange and white with black spots. The animal also has black hooves. Have you lost an animal like this?

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your friend wants to start a business, but she has no idea what kind of business to start. Give her some advice on what kind of business would be successful for her.**

# Tips

---

In questions like this, you can make up details about the person you're talking to. For example, you could say, "Mary, I know you love baking, so why don't you start a small bakery in the community?"

Pay attention to the gender in the question. If it says "she", don't start your answer by saying "Hi Tom".

# Key Terms

**Entrepreneur** (person who starts a business)  
**Persevere** (endure)  
**When the going gets tough** (hard times)  
**Cinnamon buns**  
**Rally behind** (support)  
**Baked goods** (pies, cakes, cookies, etc.)  
**Black Forest cake** (chocolate cherry cake)  
**Endeavours** (goals)

# My Answer

Hi Mary,

I think it's great that you want to be an entrepreneur! I would be happy to give you some advice. I think the most important thing about business is that you're passionate about it. If you love what you do, you'll be able to persevere even when the going gets tough. I've known you for a long time, and I think the thing you're most passionate about is baking! You make the best cinnamon buns! I would recommend starting a small bakery in the community. I think the community would really rally behind you! Everyone already knows about your baking skills! Also, there's no competition in the area. The closest store to buy baked goods is Walmart. People would way rather buy your baking than Walmart baking! I would recommend starting with a simple plan. Just choose 3 or 4 popular desserts that will build your reputation. For example, you could offer cinnamon buns, chocolate chip cookies, apple pie, and Black Forest cake. Whenever people order from you, you could ask them what other items they are interested in. After a several months of doing this, you would have a good idea of what the community wants. The nice thing about baking is that there will always be a demand for it! Especially around Christmas and Easter! You love baking so much that it wouldn't even feel like work for you. Anyway, that's what I would recommend. Let me know what you decide, and I'll support you in your new endeavours!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about something you did for the first time. It could be playing a new sport, trying new food, etc.**

# Tips

Usually, when you do something for the first time, it's a bit scary. You might feel unsure of yourself. Your answer should reflect the emotions you felt at the time.

# Key Terms

Intimidating (scary)  
Layover (stopover)  
Navigate (figuring out)  
Terminal (airport building)  
Take off (airplane leaves ground)  
Plugged (blocked)  
Yawn (open mouth when tired)

# My Answer

---

When I came to Canada last month, I flew on a plane for the first time. That was a pretty intimidating experience for me because I had never even left the country before. I had a layover in London and had to navigate my way through the airport to a different terminal. I stopped every few minutes to ask people for directions. I'm so thankful I can speak English otherwise my trip would have been a disaster! The people were really helpful and friendly. Even though the whole trip was pretty scary for me, I actually realized that I love flying! I enjoyed the feeling I got during take off. When we landed, my ears were a bit plugged, but after yawning a few times, they opened up. All in all, it was a good experience for me, and I'll never forget it!

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



# Tips

If a picture has several things happening in it, try to think of what the activities have in common. In this picture, for example, all the activities are winter activities. So, you could start your answer by saying, “This is a picture of some people doing winter activities.”

# Key Terms

Hockey rink

Ice hockey

Sled

Chase (run after)

Hockey sticks

Helmets

Lodge (a big log cabin in the mountains)

Mittens

Gloves

Scarf

Tuque

Skates

Teal (blue green colour)

Pine tree

# My Answer

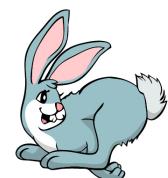
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This is a picture of several people doing winter activities. On the right side of the picture, there is an ice hockey rink. There are several kids playing ice hockey on it. They are all wearing helmets and holding hockey sticks. In the bottom left corner of the picture, there is a boy pulling his younger brother on a sled. He is wearing a teal jacket with brown pants. He is also wearing orange gloves, an orange scarf, and an orange tuque. His brother is wearing a blue jacket, purple pants, and orange shoes. He's also wearing green mittens, a green scarf, and a green tuque. In the bottom right corner of the picture, there is a dog chasing a rabbit. In the top left corner of the picture, there is a wooden lodge with a snow-covered roof. In the background of the picture, there are lots of pine trees.

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

---

**Remember, the predictions should be relevant to the picture. If you say, “The kids’ mothers will come out of the lodge and bring hot chocolate to the kids,” that would be a good prediction because it’s relevant to the scene.**

# Key Terms

Hot chocolate

Catch

Fireplace

Warm up (get warm)

Suppertime (dinnertime)

# My Answer

---

In this picture, there are several things I think will happen next. First, the dog is going to catch the rabbit and eat it. Next, the boy who is pulling his brother on the sled will get bored and join the other kids playing hockey. His younger brother will go into the lodge and warm up by the fireplace. I think the boys are going to play hockey for a long time. They'll get really cold, but their mothers will come out of the lodge and bring them hot chocolate to help them warm up. After a few hours, the kids will go into the lodge for suppertime. After supper, they'll play games and tell stories till late at night. Alright, those are some things I think will happen in this picture.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

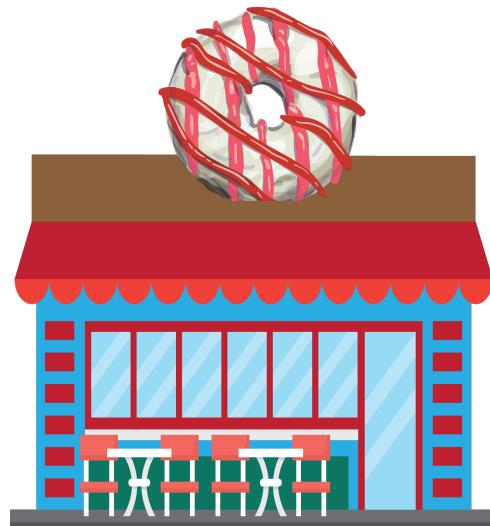
You and your business partner are considering buying a new business. Choose the option you prefer and persuade your business partner that your choice is better.

## Pizza shop

Cost: \$80,000  
Profit: \$20,000/year  
Location: near a university  
Can fit 20 customers

## Donut shop

Cost: \$60,000  
Profit: \$13,000/year  
Location: near a subway stop  
Can fit 15 customers



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your business partner is suggesting a hotdog stand.

### Hotdog stand

Cost: \$10,000  
Profit: \$6,000/year  
Location: moveable  
Can serve 20 customers per hour

### Pizza shop

Cost: \$80,000  
Profit: \$20,000/year  
Location: near a university  
Can fit 20 customers

### Donut shop

Cost: \$60,000  
Profit: \$15,000/year  
Location: near a subway stop  
Can fit 15 customers



# Tips

In this question, don't try to calculate advanced numbers (unless you're really good at math). Just use simple numbers. It would be good to use the term “rate of return” in this question. Rate of return means the relationship between the cost of the investment and the income it generates. Obviously, the hotdog stand has a higher rate of return (over 50%) whereas the other options offer a 25% return. Since the hotdog stand has more than double the rate of return, how are you going to handle this challenge? You will need to convince your partner that the other factors are more important.

# Key Terms

Minimum wage  
Long run (long term)  
Truck (pickup truck)  
Traffic (people walking by)  
Stream (flow)  
Going by (walking by)

# My Answer

Hey Mike,

I know you're suggesting that we buy the hotdog stand, but I think it would be better if we bought the donut shop. The thing is that the hotdog stand would require an employee who has a truck to move it everywhere. Personally, I don't want to waste my time driving the hotdog stand all around the city. I don't think anyone making minimum wage would own a truck, so one of us would have to do it. I know the hotdog stand would have a higher rate of return than the donut shop, but with the donut shop, we would actually make more revenue in the long run. The nice thing about the donut shop is that we would have a constant stream of traffic going by because of the subway station. The other nice thing is that we could accommodate 15 customers at a time in the building. Most people only stay for a few minutes to eat a donut, so we would probably be able to serve hundreds of people per day. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think we should buy the donut shop.

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Your company is hosting a charity event tomorrow. Your boss has asked you to organize the event. You suddenly get a call from your friend asking for urgent help because his basement has flooded. Either call your friend and tell him you can't help him, or call your boss and explain your friend's situation.**

# Tips

You have a minute to think. Stop and breathe for a few seconds. Which answer will be easier to talk about? Briefly think about what you would say for each option. Make a decision and take a few notes. Here is what my notes would look like.

Call my friend

No idea how to fix water damage.

Big opportunity for work.

Will help financially.

# Key Terms

**Basement** (part of house below ground)  
**Flooded** (water damage)  
**Breakthrough** (positive change)  
**Swing by** (stop by, visit)

# My Answer

---

Hi Andrew,

It's Carson calling here. I'm so sorry to hear that your basement flooded! To be honest, I don't know anything about fixing water damage. I think it would be best to leave that to professionals. I can help you financially if you need it. I actually have an important event at work tomorrow which is why I don't think I can be there to support you. I'm in charge of a charity event and I think if the event is successful my boss will give me a promotion. I really need that right now because I feel stuck in my career. If I can get this promotion, that will be a huge breakthrough for me. I really need a higher salary because I'm taking care of my parents right now. Thanks so much for understanding my situation. I'd be happy to swing by on Saturday to see how things are going.

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

In many countries, working 40 hours a week is standard; however, in some countries, such as the Netherlands, working 30 hours a week is average. Do you think governments should lower the number of hours people have to work?

# Tips

---

You need to make sure that your opinion is clear. Remember to emphasize these words.

I believe governments **SHOULD...**  
I believe governments should **NOT...**

**Remember to keep an eye on the time.**  
**You should try to have a short conclusion.** If you have three points in your notes, but you are running out of time, just forget about the third point and end your speaking on a calm, confident note.

# Key Terms

**Around the clock (24 hours)**

**Right into the ground (burn out)**

**Fatigue (extreme tiredness)**

**Social bonds (relationships)**

**Overburdened (too much work)**

**Loved ones (family)**

# My Answer

In my opinion, governments should lower the number of hours people have to work. There are several reasons why I think this. First off, people these days are way too stressed out. It's outrageous how much stress there is in our society. People are expected to work around the clock. Businesses are expected to be open around the clock. For example, the Walmart near my house is open 24 hours. Who the heck goes shopping in the middle of the night?! I was in Germany a few years back, and I was astonished that all the stores were closed on Sunday. It took me a while to get used to it, but after a while I started appreciating the slower pace of life there. I think it's really important for people to take time to rest during the week. If governments don't put restrictions on how many hours people can work, people will work themselves right into the ground. This places a greater burden on the healthcare system because more people get sick when they are burned out. I think fatigue is a huge cause of illness in our society. Another reason I think governments should lower the number of working hours is because social bonds suffer when people are overburdened. So many kids are being raised by childcare workers these days instead of their own parents! If people worked less, they could have more time to spend with their loved ones. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think governments should restrict the number of hours people can work.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are in a furniture store and see a very strange chair. Call your friend and describe it to him/her. Ask if you should buy it for them.



# Tips

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Questions like this can be extremely hard. Even for native speakers, task 8 could be a challenge. I've seen lots of sample questions for task 8. Some questions have more than one thing in the scene. I think questions like that are a bit easier. Questions with only one thing in the scene are usually extremely hard. If you get stuck and need time to think, you should say, "Wow, this is really hard to describe." This is what I would say in this situation. Native English speakers have a hard time describing things too!

# Key Terms

Cross between  
Wheelbarrow  
Reclining chair  
Backrest  
Footrest  
Armrest  
Frame  
Handles  
Wheel  
Grass  
Leg support  
Brace (support)  
Padding (soft part of chair)

# My Answer

Hi Larry,

It's Barry calling here. I'm just in a furniture store and see a really interesting chair that I think you might like. It looks like a cross between a wheelbarrow and a reclining chair. And it has grass growing on it. Umm, wow, it's actually really hard to describe. I don't even know where to start. Well, the seat of the chair and the backrest and footrest are all covered in grass. The backrest reclines about 45 degrees and the footrest is also at about a 45 degree angle. The frame of the chair is red and it only has one armrest on the right side. The handles of the wheelbarrow are behind the backrest. The wheel is directly under the seat of the chair. In between the wheel and the handles, there are two leg braces. The whole frame is made of metal and the padding of the seat is made of grass. I'm not sure if it's real grass or fake grass. Anyway, I'm just wondering if you want me to buy it for you.

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your boss wants to host an office party for everyone at your workplace. Give him some advice on how to host a good party.**

# Tips

---

**Before you answer this question, think about the various aspects of a party:**

**Invitations**

**Food**

**Beverages**

**Activities**

**Delegating responsibilities**

**Talk about some of these aspects when you give advice to your boss.**

# Key Terms

Throw a party (have a party)  
Flyers (advertisement posters)  
Finger food (food you can eat with your hands)  
Ordering in (ordering from a restaurant)  
Big hit (popular)  
Paper plates  
Paper cups  
Atmosphere  
Mood

# My Answer

Hey Bill,

That's great that you want to throw a party for everyone in our office! I think an office party is really similar to any other kind of party. There are several things I think you should consider. The first one is the invitations. It's important that everyone knows about the party. You could print off some flyers and post them around the office. It's important that the day and time are clearly stated on the flyer so that nobody forgets! The other thing that would be good is to send out emails to remind everyone about it. For example, you could send out an email one week in advance and then another one the day before the party. Another thing that is really important for a good party is food and beverages. I would suggest ordering in a bunch of finger food like pizza, wings, and spring rolls. Food like this is always a big hit! Also, I would suggest using paper plates and cups for the party. That way it will be much easier to clean up afterwards! Another thing you might want to consider is music. Music always helps create a relaxed atmosphere for the party...unless it's too loud. Ideally, people should be able to have good conversations without having to shout into each other's ears. Nice background music puts everyone in a good mood to enjoy the party. Anyway, that's my advice. I look forward to participating in whatever you decide to do!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about a time someone helped you when you were in trouble.**

# Tips

If you can't think of a real situation, just make something up. Here are some examples:

You locked your keys in your car.

You lost your wallet.

Your car broke down.

You lost your job.

You lost your passport.

# Key Terms

Startled (scared, surprised)  
Clued into the fact (realized)  
Rear (back)  
Flat  
Jack (thing to lift the car)  
Popped (opened)  
Spare tire (extra tire)  
Staring (looking)  
Pull up (arrive)  
No time (little time)

# My Answer

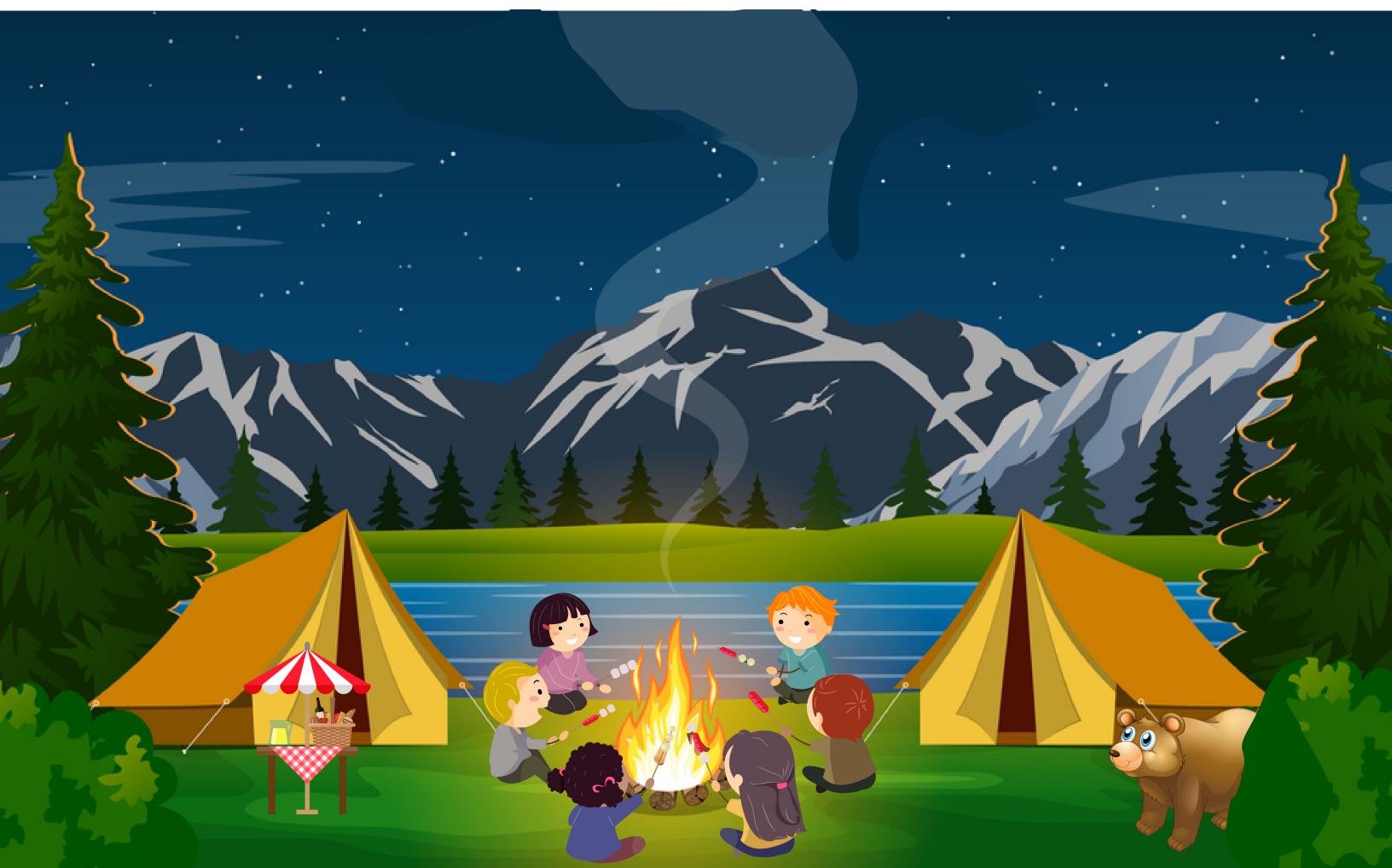
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One time I was driving home from work, and I heard a loud bang from the back of my car. At first it startled me and I didn't know what it was. Then I clued into the fact that one of my rear tires had exploded. I pulled over to the side of the road and got out of my vehicle. Sure enough, the tire was completely flat. It was the first time I had had a flat while driving that vehicle. I popped the trunk and took out the spare tire. Then I realized the jack was missing! How was I going to change the tire without a jack?! As I was standing beside my car staring at the flat tire, a truck pulled up beside me and a guy asked if I needed help. I explained my situation, and he said he would be happy to help me. He jacked up my car we changed the tire in no time! I was so thankful for his help.

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



# Tips

---

This picture is very relevant to Canadian culture. Many immigrants struggle with a picture like this because they have never experienced anything like it before. This is called “camping”. There are some specific words in this picture that you should definitely use. If you don’t use the right words, your score will not be very good on this question.

# Key Terms

---

**Camping**

**Campfire**

**Roasting (cooking over fire)**

**Beige (dark yellow colour)**

**Hot dogs**

**Marshmallows**

**Tents**

**Picnic table**

**Bear**

**Smoke**

**Pine tree**

# My Answer

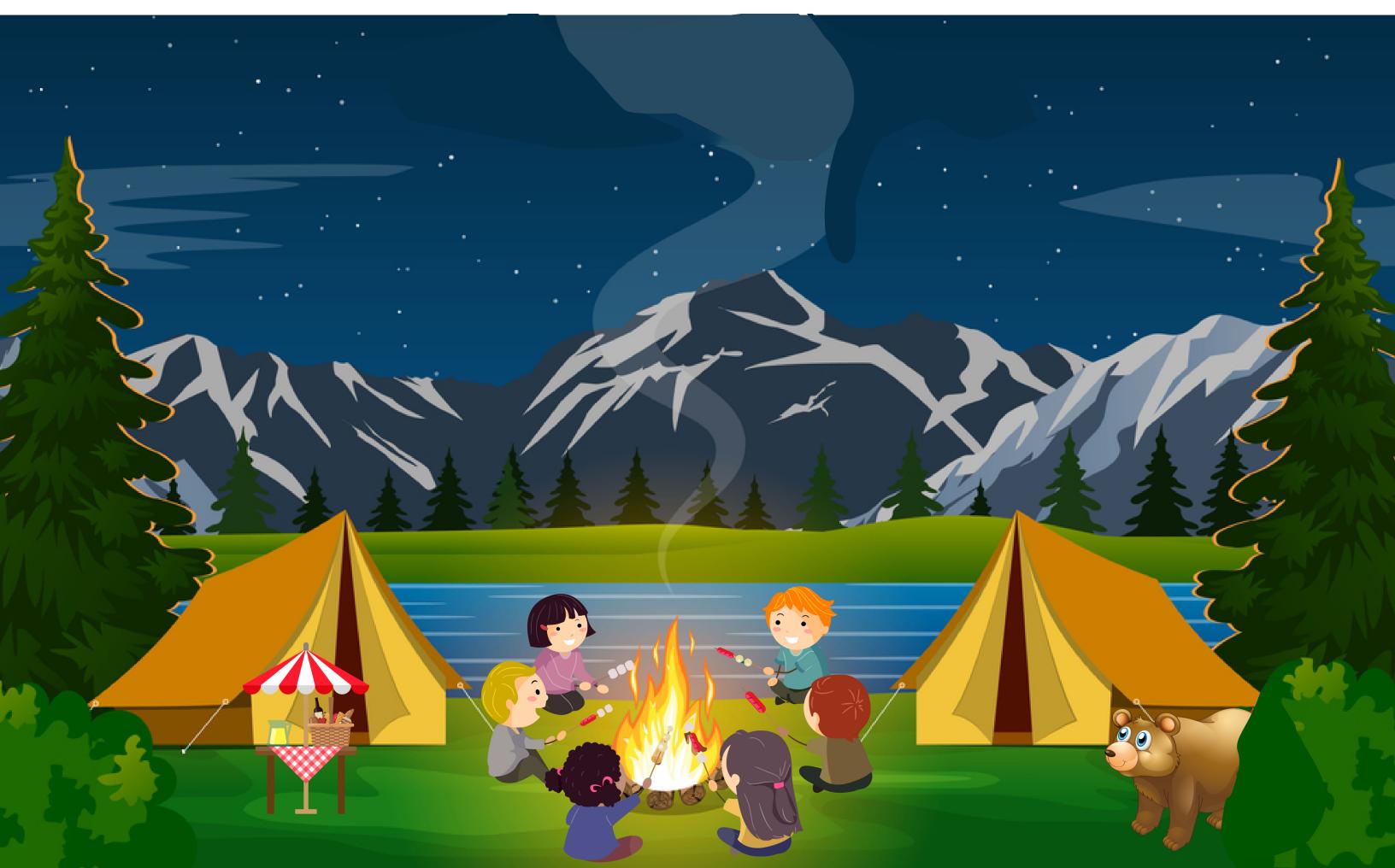
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This is a picture of several children camping. They are sitting around a campfire roasting hotdogs and marshmallows. There are two beige tents near the campfire. In front of the tent on the left, there is a picnic table with some food on it. In the bottom right corner, there is a bear looking at the children. On each side of the picture, there is a tall pine tree. In the background of the picture, there is a lake, some mountains, and some pine trees. The top part of the picture is a dark sky with stars. The smoke from the campfire is going up to the top of the picture.

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

---

In this question, your predictions will obviously need to be longer because there are only two main things — the kids and the bear.

# Key Terms

**Telling jokes**

**Smore** (marshmallow, chocolate, cracker)

**Stargazing** (looking at the stars)

**Spot** (see, notice)

**Freak out** (get scared)

**Park ranger** (someone who works at the park)

**Tranquilize** (put to sleep)

# My Answer

---

In this picture, there are several things I think will happen next. The kids are going to eat their hotdogs and tell jokes around the fire. Then, after eating the hotdogs, they're going to make smores. After sitting around the fire for a while, they'll lie down on the grass and do some stargazing. Suddenly, they will spot the bear and freak out. They'll run into their tents to hide. The bear looks really friendly. I don't think it's interested in eating the children. I think it's gonna go to the picnic table and start eating the food on it. One of the kids will call a park ranger on their cellphone. The ranger will come and tranquilize the bear and take it away in a truck. Then the kids will go back to the fire and keep telling stories. Anyway, those are some predictions I would make about the picture.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your friends want to do a weekend workshop together. Choose the option you prefer and persuade your friends to agree with your choice.

## Pottery making

Cost: \$120  
Two free pots  
Location: 1hr. drive away  
Duration: 4 hours

## Cooking

Cost: \$70  
Free three-course meal  
Location: local college  
Duration 3 hours



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

# Your friends are suggesting basketweaving.

## Basketweaving

Cost: \$50

One free basket

Location: instructor comes to your house  
2 hour class

## Pottery making

Cost: \$120

Two free pots

Location: 1hr. drive away

Duration: 4 hours

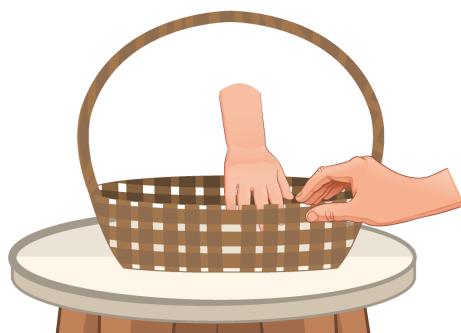
## Cooking

Cost: \$70

Free three-course meal

Location: local college

Duration 3 hours



# Tips

The word “course” has two meanings. It can mean a class or program. For example, “I’m taking an English course.” Or, it can mean a part of a meal. A three course meal means that there are three parts to the meal. First, you eat some appetizers. Then, you eat the main dish. Then, you eat dessert.

A workshop is a short course that usually takes a few hours or a few days. The basketweaving workshop is cheaper which is a clear advantage, but some factors could be good or bad depending on what you want. For example, is it good or bad that the workshop only takes two hours? Well, in this case, you might want to spend as much time with your friends as possible. So, you might not like a short class. On the other hand, maybe four hours is too long for you to concentrate on one thing.

# Key Terms

Clay (like mud)

Pot

Vase (flower holder)

Splurge (spend money and have fun)

Time flies (time goes by fast)

# My Answer

---

Hey guys,

I know you're suggesting the basketweaving workshop, but I think pottery making would be a lot more fun! Just think, we get to make our own pots and vases! I think clay pots are much more useful than baskets. I know the basketweaving would be a lot cheaper, but we only do this kind of thing once a year, so I think we can splurge a bit! Even though the pottery making workshop is an hour drive away, I think it would be a fun trip! We could all fit in my van. I'll pay for gas. The other thing I like about the pottery making workshop is that it lasts for 4 hours. Time flies when you're having fun! I think two hours would be too short to enjoy our time together. Anyway, those are my reasons why I think we should choose pottery making. I hope I've convinced you!

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You are preparing to give a speech at your company's annual conference. Ten minutes before your speech, your coworker accidentally spills coffee all over your pants. It looks like you peed your pants. You are embarrassed now and don't know what to do. Either call your boss and tell him why you can't give the speech, or give the speech and explain to everyone why your clothes are wet.

# Tips

This is a very awkward situation! What would you do? “Pee” means “urine”.  
Peed = Urinated

If you call your boss, you should say, “Hi Sir” or “Hi Mr. Brown” or you could just say his first name if you have a close relationship.

If you go ahead with the speech, you should start by saying, “Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen”.

Sometimes you can turn a bad situation into a funny situation where everyone will laugh.

**It's okay to use humour in your answers!**

# Key Terms

**Dress pants** (formal clothing)  
**Hold my bladder** (hold in pee)  
**Adversity** (challenges)  
**Power through** (be resilient)  
**Recession** (bad economy)  
**Intact** (in one piece, alive)  
**Thrive** (be very successful)

# My Answer

---

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen,  
You might have noticed that my dress pants  
are wet. Either I was so excited for this  
speech that I couldn't hold my bladder, or I  
had an accident with a cup of coffee. I'll let  
you make up your own minds what  
happened. Haha. Actually, the accident I  
had fits well with the theme of this  
conference — overcoming adversity. I was  
considering canceling this speech and going  
home to change clothes, but I decided to  
power through and fulfill my duties. I believe  
our company has been in a similar situation  
this year. We have faced hard times in the  
recent recession, but thanks to everyone's  
resilience, we have made it through the year  
intact. In my presentation today, I would like  
to talk about how we can thrive in the new  
year ahead of us.

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Graffiti is considered vandalism in Canada. Do you think the government should change this law to allow local artists to paint buildings, bridges, and other public areas?**

# Tips

---

**Do you know what graffiti is? Do you know what vandalism is? Vandalism means destroying property in some way. Graffiti means writing or drawing (usually with spray paint) on buildings or other public places.**

**After your preparation time, a voice will say “START SPEAKING NOW”. If you have not finished reading the question, or if you need more time to understand the question, you should say this: “Hmm, let me gather my thoughts for a second.”**

# Key Terms

**Downright (absolutely)**  
**Rowdy (rebellious)**  
**Egg each other on (encourage each other)**  
**Consequences (punishment)**  
**Misbehaviour (bad behaviour)**  
**Fined (pay money)**  
**Not to mention (in addition to)**  
**Redhanded (doing the act)**

# My Answer

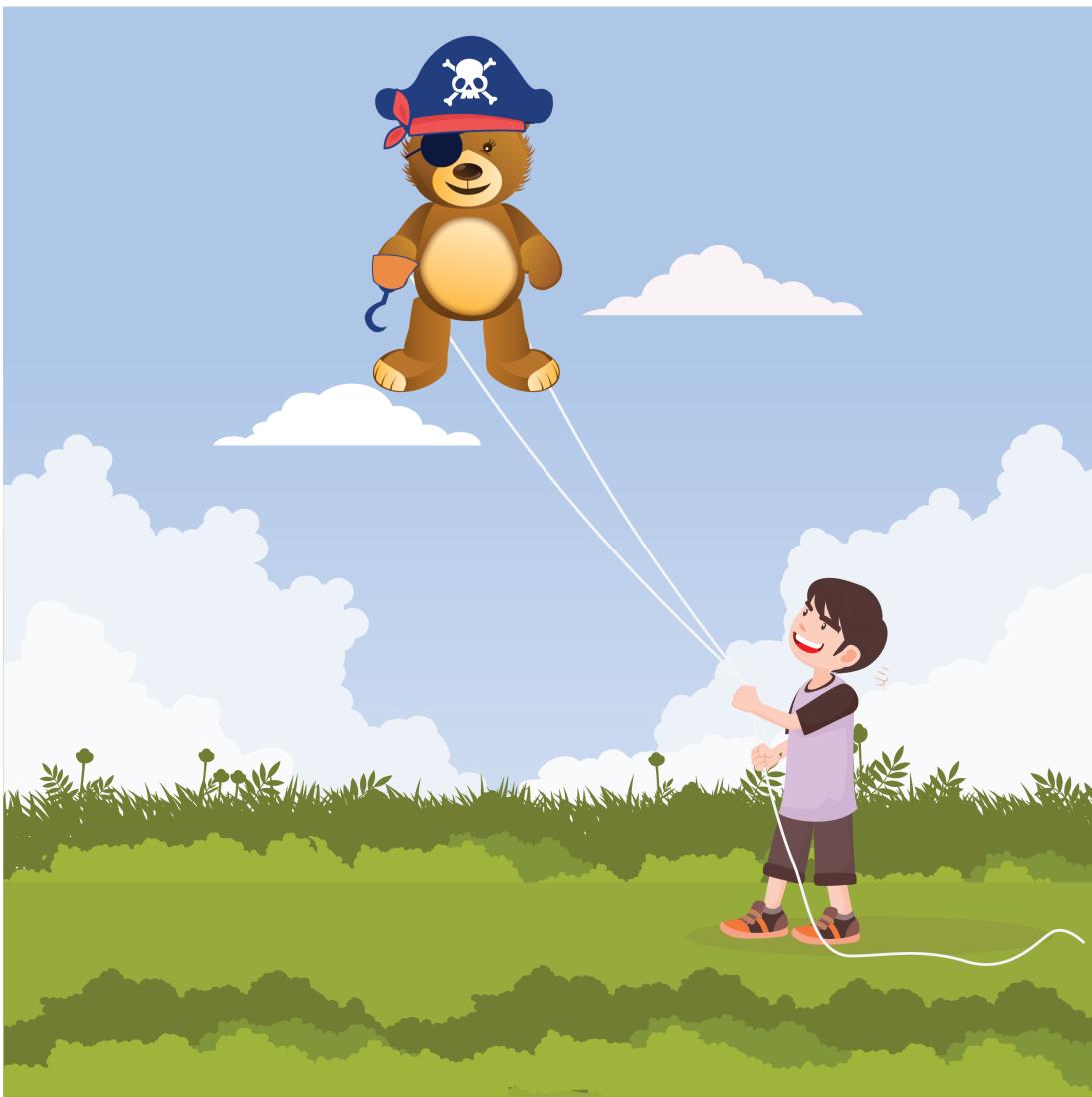
Hmm, let me gather my thoughts for a second...

Okay, I've gathered my thoughts. In my opinion, I do not think the government should change its law regarding graffiti. There are several reasons why I think this. First, most graffiti is downright ugly. Sure, some graffiti looks nice, but how would the government control the quality of it? If they allow it, I think the city would get a lot uglier. The second reason I think they should not allow it is because it encourages bad behaviour. Rowdy teenagers would egg each other on to paint stupid things all over the city. These kinds of people need to face consequences for their misbehaviour. They should be fined or thrown in jail. A third reason I think graffiti should remain illegal is because it costs so much to undo the damage. For example, my neighbour's garage was spray painted with profanity and it took him three days to paint over all the graffiti — not to mention the cost of the paint! He's a really nice guy and did nothing to deserve that kind of treatment. A few weeks later, the police caught the teenagers redhanded and fined them \$1000 dollars. In my view, that's not enough. They should have sent them to jail for a month. But anyway, those are some reasons why I think the government should not change the law to legalize graffiti.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You see a boy in a park doing an activity.  
Call your nephew and ask him if he would like to come and see it.



# Tips

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**Remember, if you're talking to your niece or nephew, you should identify yourself as Uncle Tom or Aunt Lindsey on the phone.**

# Key Terms

Kite  
Pirate  
String  
Bandana  
Eye patch

# My Answer

---

Hey Alex,

It's Aunt Lindsey calling here. I'm just in a park right now and see a boy flying a really cool kite. It looks like a big teddy bear dressed up like a pirate. There are two strings going from the kite to the boy's hands. The teddy bear is wearing a blue pirate hat and a red bandana on its head. It also has an eyepatch on one of its eyes and a hook on its right hand. It looks really happy. The kid looks really happy too! Would you like to come to the park to see it? Maybe you could join him! It's perfect weather for flying a kite today!

# Question 1

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Your neighbour has been single for many years, but he wants to find a partner. Give him some advice on how he can meet someone special and start a relationship.**

# Tips

This is a common scenario around the world. Most people want to be in a relationship, but they often can't find the right person. There is no right or wrong answer to this question. You can recommend whatever strategy makes the most sense to you! Since you have 90 seconds to answer this question, you should give at least 2 or 3 recommendations. Here's what I would choose:

Meeting someone online  
Joining a club  
Hosting neighbourhood parties

# Key Terms

In the same boat (in the same situation)  
Daunting (scary, overwhelming)  
Sifting (browsing)  
Avenue (option, method)

# My Answer

Hey Eric,

It's great that you want to find a girlfriend. I think I can offer you some good advice! The good news is that there are so many people who are in the same boat as you, so I don't think you'll have a problem finding a good woman to be with. The first thing I would recommend is looking online. There are so many dating sites and apps these days. E-harmony, for example, matches you with people based on your personality. My cousin joined that site and met an awesome girl in less than a week. They're getting married next month! Meeting someone online can seem a bit daunting at first, but once you start talking to some women, you'll see that it's not too bad. It's actually kind of fun sifting through hundreds of profiles looking for the right person. While you're pursuing that avenue, I would also recommend joining some sort of club in our neighbourhood. For example, my colleague is part of a wine club, and he always tells me stories of the great people he is meeting in the club. I know you like drinking wine, so I could ask my colleague for more information about the club! Another thing I would suggest is hosting parties at your house. You have such a nice house and you never have any guests over! In my experience, a lot of people don't like going to bars because they're expensive and it's hard to make genuine friends in places like that. I think a lot of people are looking for social events that are more down to earth. So, I would definitely recommend hosting a few parties at your place! Anyway, I hope those tips help, and I look forward to hearing about your experiences!

# Question 2

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Talk about the best gift you ever received.**

# Tips

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**Questions like this are completely subjective. The gift doesn't need to be big. Just pick any gift that was meaningful to you and then take a few notes.**

**Your answer should include the 5 W's:  
Who?**

**What?**

**Where?**

**When?**

**Why?**

# Key Terms

**Baseball cap**

**Sentimental value** (value comes from the memory)

**Passing** (death)

**Worn** (not in new condition)

**Tradition**

**Priceless** (extremely valuable)

# My Answer

---

The best gift I ever received was the baseball cap my grandpa used to wear. My grandma gave it to me after my grandpa's passing. The cap is old and worn, so it's not very nice to look at. But it has a lot of sentimental value for me. When I was a kid my grandpa would take me to baseball games in the summertime. He would always wear the cap. When I see the cap now, it reminds me of the great times I had in my childhood. After every baseball game, we had a tradition of going to McDonald's for ice cream. Those memories are priceless to me. That's why I wear the cap so proudly today.

# Question 3

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Describe this scene



# Tips

In this picture, you need to know some Christmas vocabulary. You may have never celebrated Western holidays such as Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, etc., so it would be good to do some research before taking the test to know these vocabulary words.

# Key Terms

**Christmas tree**

**Ornaments (hanging decorations on tree)**

**Candy canes**

**Angel**

**Fireplace**

**Stockings**

**Coffee table**

**Rocking chair**

**Elderly (polite way to say “old”)**

**Snowman**

# My Answer

---

This is a picture of a living room at Christmas time. On the left side of the picture, there is a Christmas tree with a brown cat climbing on it. The tree is covered in Christmas ornaments. On the top of the tree, there is a golden angel. There are some candy canes on the tree as well. Under the tree, there are three presents. In the middle of the picture, there is a fireplace with stockings hanging above it. In front of the fireplace is a brown coffee table and turquoise rug. On the right side of the picture, there is an elderly woman sitting in a rocking chair. There is a window behind her, and I can see two kids building a snowman. Alright, that's how I would describe this scene.

# Question 4

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

**Make predictions**



# Tips

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In this picture, you should use your imagination. What will the grandma do next? She might fill the stockings with candy. She might call the kids inside for some fresh apple pie. She might start knitting some mittens for her grandkids.

# Key Terms

**Knock over (make fall)**

**Chase**

**Set up**

**Knitting**

**Turn up (increase heat)**

**Snowball fight (throw snowballs)**

**Oven**

**Basement (part of house underground)**

**Deep freeze (large horizontal freezer)**

# My Answer

---

In this picture, there are several things I think will happen next. The cat is going to knock over the Christmas tree. The grandma will quickly chase the cat out of the house and start setting up the tree again. After she is finished doing that, she will close the window because it's cold outside. Then she will turn up the fireplace and start knitting near the fire to stay warm. The kids will start a snowball fight when they finish making the snowman. After a while, the grandma will pull a fresh apple pie out of the oven and call the kids inside to eat it. She'll go into the basement and get a pail of vanilla ice cream from the deep freeze to go along with the pie. The kids are going to love it. That's what I think will happen in this picture.

# Question 5

Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your family is thinking about buying some exercise equipment. Choose the option you prefer.

## Exercise bike

**Cost:** \$300  
**Purpose:** cardio  
**Warranty:** 1 years  
**Features:** timer, calorie counter

## Weight set

**Cost:** \$100  
**Purpose:** building muscle  
**Lifetime warranty**  
**Features:** 5lb, 10lb, 25lb weights



Selection: 60 seconds Preparation: 60 seconds Speaking: 60 seconds

Your family is suggesting getting a gym pass instead.

### Gym pass

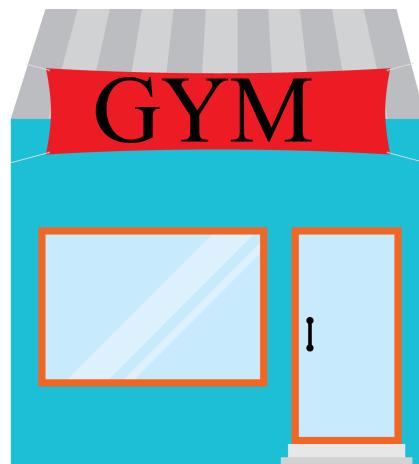
Cost: \$400/yr  
Full gym  
Swimming pool and sauna  
15 minute drive from home

### Exercise bike

Cost: \$300  
Purpose: cardio  
Warranty: 1 years  
Features: timer, calorie counter

### Weight set

Cost: \$100  
Purpose: building muscle  
Lifetime warranty  
Features: 5lb, 10lb, 25lb weights



# Tips

In this question, you need to argue against the gym. What points could you make?

1. It's far from home.
2. We are lazy and won't drive there often.
3. We want to be able to exercise from home.
4. We only have one vehicle, so the whole family would need to go at one time.
5. Family members' schedules don't match.

You could say anything, but the point of this question is that you need to persuade your family that your choice is better than theirs. To do that, you need to show the strengths of your choice and the weaknesses of their choice.

# Key Terms

**Membership** (pass)

**Coordinate** (align)

**Consideration** (something to think about)

**Fraction** (a small part of)

**Treadmill** (machine that you can run on)

# My Answer

Hey guys,

I know you want to get the gym membership, but I think it would be much better to get the weight set. The main problem with the gym membership is that we have to drive 15 mins to get there. We only have one car and our schedules are all different. I think we're too lazy to coordinate our schedules. Even though it would be awesome to hit the sauna every evening, I'm concerned that we would only go once or twice a week, so that wouldn't be worth the \$400/yr. If we have a weight set at home, we can exercise anytime we want. Another major consideration is the cost. The weight set is a fraction of the price! We could use the \$300 savings to buy an exercise bike or a treadmill! The other thing is that if we got the weight set, we would have the same kind of weights that we would use at the gym anyway. And the weights have a lifetime warranty, so we don't have to worry about losing our investment! Overall, I think it would be much better to buy the weight set.

# Question 6

Preparation: 60 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

Your aunt and uncle are driving through your city this weekend. They live far away, and you only get to see them once a year. They want to visit you this Saturday, but you already made plans to go to your friend's housewarming party. Either call your friend and tell her you can't attend her party, or call your uncle and aunt and tell them you won't be able to see them.

# Tips

When someone moves into a new apartment or house, they often have a housewarming party, and the guests bring small gifts for the host.

Remember to apologize. Don't just make excuses for why you can't see them. It might hurt their feelings if you just give reasons why you can't see them. Say, "I'm really sorry about that." Also, you can suggest something that would make them happy. For example:

## Uncle and Aunt

I was actually thinking of doing a road trip to visit you guys next month! What do you think?

## Friend

I was thinking I could bring over Mexican food next week to celebrate your new house.

# Key Terms

**Housewarming party** (celebrate new house)  
**Ferry** (boat for transportation)

# My Answer

---

Hey Uncle Joe and Aunt Lina,  
It's Eric calling here. I was really surprised to hear that you guys are driving through Winnipeg! Unfortunately, I already have plans for this weekend, and I won't be able to see you guys! I'm so sorry about that. My best friend just bought a house, and I promised to help her set it up and attend her housewarming party. I was actually thinking of doing a road trip out to Victoria to visit you guys next month! What do you think? I know the summers in Victoria are gorgeous, and I want to take the ferry! I remember taking the ferry a few years ago. It was so much fun! I could spend a whole week with you guys in June if that works for you. Anyway, I'm really sorry again that I can't see you this weekend!

# Question 7

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 90 seconds

**Parents these days often put their children into daycare so that they can work. This is a real necessity especially for single parents. Do you think the government should provide free daycare for its citizens?**

# Tips

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**Remember, state your opinion right away. Make sure your opinion is clear. Try to think of some reasons to support your opinion. If you don't have enough to talk about, use personal examples or stories to fill your time. Your answer doesn't need to be honest. You could say, "In my home country, the government provides free daycare, and that helped me so much when my kids were young."**

**Try to become a good liar. ;)**

# Key Terms

**Make ends meet (survive financially)**  
**Long run (long term)**

# My Answer

I believe the government should provide free daycare for its citizens. There are several reasons why I believe this. Firstly, as a single parent myself, I know how hard it is to make ends meet. I worked as a hairdresser for several years when my kids were young. I didn't earn very much money, and I had to pay \$30/day for daycare. It was almost impossible to afford rent and food every month. If the government had provided free daycare, it would have helped me so much in those years! I hope single mothers never have to go through the struggle I had to go through. That's why I think governments should provide free daycare. Another reason I think that is because parents don't have to work as much if they receive free daycare. They can spend more time with their kids and not have to worry about paying an extra bill every month. I remember how happy I was to see my kids at the end of the day. I just wish I could have spent more time with them and less time working! A third reason why I think governments should provide free daycare is so that parents can save money for buying a house or investing for their children's future. The more money parents have, the better quality of life the child will receive in the long run. The government should really try to help parents give their children the best lives possible. Anyway, those are some reasons why I think the government should provide free daycare to its citizens.

# Question 8

Preparation: 30 seconds      Speaking: 60 seconds

You see a very strange vehicle in the mountains. Call your uncle and describe it to him.



# Tips

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**Remember to address your uncle as “Uncle Tim”.**

**Remember that you can use the words “cross between” for animals and for other things too.**

**Remember to describe the object in a general way before you start describing the details.**

# Key Terms

Pair of skis (two skis)  
Smart car (a small car)  
**Body**  
**Door**  
**Door handle**  
**Roof rack**  
**Slanted (tilted, angled)**  
**Lights**  
**Suitcase (luggage, baggage)**  
**Wheels (tires)**

# My Answer

Hey Uncle Tim,  
It's Paul calling here. I'm just driving through the mountains, and I see a really strange vehicle. It looks like a cross between a smart car and a pair of skis. The car doesn't have wheels. Instead, it has a pair of skis on the bottom. The body of the car is blue, but the back door is dark green. The door handle is red on the front door and white on the back door. Both the front and the back lights are yellow. The car also has a pink roof rack that is slanted forward. There's a green suitcase on it. Anyway, I'm just wondering if you've ever seen a car like this. It looks awesome!

# Closing Comments

I want you to stop for a moment and congratulate yourself for all the English you have learned. And I want to congratulate you too! **CONGRATULATIONS!** Regardless of your score on the CELPIP exam, you should be proud of yourself for speaking another language. That is a huge accomplishment!

As you read through this book, you probably realized that I didn't follow the same structure in every answer. Many people want to memorize a structure that they can apply to every question. The problem with that strategy is that your answer will sound contrived (fake). In this book, I tried to show you how to answer questions in a natural way. Don't start every question with the same phrase! For example, some people say, "In my view, my favourite trip was to France." The phrase "in my view" sounds very unnatural here because the question is not asking for your view!

The difference between beginner speakers and advanced speakers is that beginners cling to memorized words, phrases, and structures. If you want to have more variety in your speaking, you need to learn more words and phrases. I think a great way to do that is to watch my YouTube videos.

Sometimes people fail the test multiple times. Just remember, every time you fail, you are learning more English! Knowing English will really help you in your real life here in Canada. I hope you pass the first time, but don't worry if you fail. If your score is very close to what you need, my advice would be to simply retake the test (if you can afford it).

If you need an 8 in all categories, and your score is something like 7-7-6-5, I think it would be better to forget about CELPIP for a few months. Focus on learning more English. Then, try again and see how you do.

Thanks again for reading this book and supporting my work! I wish you all the best as you study for CELPIP!

You will definitely succeed if you do these things:

1. Relax
2. Keep learning
3. Keep trying

Take care!

Mark