CELTESTPIP

CELPIP Speaking Questions with Sample Answers

All 8 tasks: one practice question and a full sample answer each, why it works, and two more questions to practise



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Inside this lesson

Free to download and print. Record your own answers with a timer at celtestpip.com/speaking

How to use this PDF 3

Speaking Task 1: Giving Advice 4

Speaking Task 2: Talking about a Personal Experience 5

Speaking Task 3: Describing a Scene 6

Speaking Task 4: Making Predictions 7

Speaking Task 5: Comparing and Persuading 8

Speaking Task 6: Dealing with a Difficult Situation 9

Speaking Task 7: Expressing Opinions 10

Speaking Task 8: Describing an Unusual Situation 11

How to use this PDF

- CELPIP Speaking has 8 tasks. Each one gives you a short preparation time, then the microphone opens and you speak until the clock stops.
- Raters score every answer on four dimensions: Content/Coherence, Vocabulary, Listenability and Task Fulfillment. There is no separate grammar score; grammar is part of Listenability.
- For each task: read the question, set a timer, and record your own answer FIRST. Then read the sample and compare.
- The samples show the shape of a strong answer. Do not memorise them. Your test question will be different, and an answer that does not fit the question loses marks on Task Fulfillment.

Every question and answer in this PDF was written by CELTESTPIP for practice. Each sample is our example of a strong answer, not scored by CELPIP. Only CELPIP's trained raters can give a real level.

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Task	Name	Prepare	Speak
1	Giving Advice	30 s	90 s
2	Talking about a Personal Experience	30 s	60 s
3	Describing a Scene	30 s	60 s
4	Making Predictions	30 s	60 s
5	Comparing and Persuading	60 s to choose (no speaking), then 60 s to prepare	60 s
6	Dealing with a Difficult Situation	60 s	60 s
7	Expressing Opinions	30 s	90 s
8	Describing an Unusual Situation	30 s	60 s

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Speaking Task 1: Giving Advice

30 seconds to prepare, 90 to speak

Question

Your friend Ana moved to your city three months ago for a new job. She likes the job, but she has not made any friends outside work and she feels lonely on weekends. She is quite shy. Give Ana some advice on how to meet new people.

Sample answer (about 195 words)

Hi Ana. First of all, I'm really glad you told me, because three months is still very early, and a lot of people feel exactly like this after a move. I have a few ideas that might help.

My first suggestion is to join something that happens every week, not a one-time event. A running club, a choir or a pottery class works well, because you see the same faces again and again, and friendships grow from that. You don't have to be outgoing. You just have to keep showing up.

Second, since you're shy, choose activities where you do something together, not just talk. On a volunteer shift at a food bank, for example, you are sorting boxes side by side, so the conversation comes naturally.

Third, say yes to one invitation from work, even a small one. Your co-workers have friends outside the office, and that's often how your circle grows.

And finally, be patient with yourself. If you try one new thing each month, by the summer this city will feel like home. Let me know which one you pick, and I'll come with you the first time if you like.

Why it works

- **Content/Coherence:** four pieces of advice, each with a reason, signposted (first, second, third, finally) so the listener never gets lost.
- **Task Fulfillment:** the advice fits Ana. Because she is shy, the second idea is chosen for shy people, and the tone stays warm from start to finish.
- **Listenability:** short and long sentences mixed, with linking words that explain (because, since, so).

Two more to practise

1. Your co-worker wants to start cycling to work but is worried about safety and bad weather. Give him advice.
2. Your neighbour's teenage son wants a part-time job but has never worked before. Give him advice on how to find one.

Practise this now: record your answer to a Task 1 practice question in the real test format, free.

Speaking Task 2: Talking about a Personal Experience

30 seconds to prepare, 60 to speak

Question

Talk about a time when you helped someone you did not know. What happened, how did you feel, and why do you still remember it?

Sample answer (about 145 words)

About two years ago, I was waiting for the bus on a really cold evening in January, and I noticed an older man standing at the stop looking at his phone, completely confused. He told me he had just arrived to visit his daughter, his phone battery was almost dead, and he didn't know which bus went to her neighbourhood.

So I checked the route for him, and since it was the same direction as mine, I rode with him and walked him to her building. When she opened the door, she hugged him and almost cried.

Honestly, I felt a bit nervous at first, because I didn't know him. But by the end I felt really happy.

I still remember it because, when I first moved here, a stranger did exactly the same thing for me. It felt good to pass it on.

Why it works

- **Content/Coherence:** it answers all three parts of the question in order: what happened, how it felt, why it is memorable.
- **Vocabulary:** concrete details (a cold evening in January, a dead phone battery) make the story easy to picture.
- **Listenability:** the past tenses stay consistent, and "So", "since" and "because" move the story along.

Two more to practise

1. Talk about a time you had to learn something new very quickly. What was it, how did you learn it, and how did it go?
2. Talk about a celebration that did not go as planned. What happened, and what did you learn from it?

Practise this now: record your answer to a Task 2 practice question in the real test format, free.

Speaking Task 3: Describing a Scene

30 seconds to prepare, 60 to speak

Question

Describe some things that are happening in the picture as well as you can. The person you are speaking to cannot see the picture. **The picture shows:** A farmers' market in a town square on a sunny Saturday morning. On the left, a man in a straw hat sells strawberries from a wooden stand. In the middle, a young woman plays the guitar next to an open guitar case. On the right, a family with a stroller is buying bread. In the background there is a clock tower, and a small dog is drinking from a water bowl in front of the bread stand.

Sample answer (about 140 words)

This picture shows a busy farmers' market in a town square, and it looks like a sunny Saturday morning.

On the left, there's a man in a straw hat selling strawberries from a wooden stand. He's holding up a basket and smiling, so I think he's trying to get people's attention.

In the middle of the square, a young woman is playing the guitar. Her guitar case is open in front of her, so people can drop in some money.

On the right, a family with a baby in a stroller is buying bread. The father is paying, and the mother is pointing at a loaf on the top shelf. Right in front of that stand, a small dog is drinking from a water bowl.

And behind everything, there's a tall clock tower. Overall, it looks like a relaxed, friendly morning.

Why it works

- **Content/Coherence:** one sentence for the whole scene, then left, middle, right and background, so the listener can build the picture in order.
- **Vocabulary:** position words (on the left, in front of, behind) and exact nouns (stroller, loaf, straw hat).
- **Listenability:** the present continuous ("is playing", "is buying") is used for every action, which is what describing a picture needs.

Two more to practise

1. A busy airport check-in area on a holiday weekend.
2. A community garden on a summer evening, with people of different ages working.

Practise this now: record your answer to a Task 3 practice question in the real test format, free.

Speaking Task 4: Making Predictions

30 seconds to prepare, 60 to speak

Question

In this picture, what do you think will most probably happen next? **The picture shows:** A campsite beside a lake in the late afternoon. A couple is putting up a tent, and one pole is lying on the ground away from them. Two children are running toward the lake with fishing rods. A man at a picnic table is lighting a camping stove. Dark clouds are coming in over the hills on the far side of the lake.

Sample answer (about 145 words)

I think a few things will probably happen in the next little while.

First, the couple putting up the tent will probably notice that one pole is missing. It's lying on the ground a few metres away, so I imagine they'll get frustrated for a minute and then find it.

Second, the two children running to the lake with fishing rods will most likely try to catch a fish before dinner, but they may not have much time.

That's because, and this is the big one, the dark clouds over the hills are moving closer. I'm fairly sure it will start raining soon. When it does, the man lighting the camping stove will probably have to move his cooking under the tent, and the parents will call the kids back.

So in the end, it might turn into a cozy, rainy dinner inside the tent.

Why it works

- **Content/Coherence:** three predictions, each tied to something in the picture, and the strongest one (the rain) saved for last.
- **Vocabulary:** future language at different levels of certainty (will probably, most likely, may, I'm fairly sure, might).
- **Task Fulfillment:** it talks about what will happen next, not only what is happening now.

Two more to practise

1. A kitchen where a family is preparing a birthday party, and a cake is close to the edge of the table.
2. A city street where workers are setting up for a parade and the road is half closed.

Practise this now: record your answer to a Task 4 practice question in the real test format, free.

Speaking Task 5: Comparing and Persuading

60 seconds to choose, 60 to prepare, 60 to speak

Question

Part 1: Your brother wants to get fit this winter. Choose the option you would recommend. **Option A:** a gym membership near his office. $55 a month, open 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., group classes included. **Option B:** an exercise bike for his apartment. $480 once, folds away, comes with a free fitness app. **Part 2:** Your brother says he prefers Option B, because he would never have to leave home. Persuade him that your choice (Option A) is better.

Sample answer (about 145 words)

Hey Sam. I know the bike sounds easier, because you'd never have to go out in the snow. But I really think the gym near your office is the better choice.

First, think about the price. The bike is four hundred and eighty dollars up front. The gym is fifty-five a month, so you could try it for a few months and stop if it doesn't work, without losing a big amount.

Second, the gym is right next to your office and open until eleven, so you can go straight after work, before you get home and sit on the sofa. Honestly, a lot of home bikes end up holding laundry.

And finally, the group classes. You've always said you get bored exercising alone. A class gives you people and a schedule.

So I'd go with the gym. Why don't you try one class this week?

Why it works

- **Task Fulfillment:** it answers his reason (never leaving home) instead of ignoring it, and it never says his option is "bad".
- **Content/Coherence:** three comparisons (price, location and hours, classes), each using a detail from the options and one he did not mention (the bike holding laundry).
- **Vocabulary:** numbers said out loud and comparison language (up front, a month, better choice).

Two more to practise

1. Your friend is choosing a phone plan: a cheap plan with 5 GB of data, or a more expensive one with unlimited data and free calls to other countries.
2. Your manager is choosing a location for the team's end-of-year dinner: a restaurant downtown, or a catered lunch in the office.

Practise this now: record your answer to a Task 5 practice question in the real test format, free.

Speaking Task 6: Dealing with a Difficult Situation

60 seconds to prepare, 60 to speak

Question

You share an apartment with your friend Leo. He wants to host a party in your apartment on Friday night, but you have an important exam on Saturday morning. Choose ONE: Talk to Leo. Ask him to move the party to another night, and explain why. **OR** Talk to your friend Priya. Ask if you can stay at her place on Friday night, and explain why.

Sample answer, talking to Leo (about 135 words)

Hey Leo, do you have a minute? It's about the party on Friday. First, I think it's a great idea, and I know you've been planning it for a while. But there's a problem I should have told you about earlier. I have my licensing exam on Saturday morning at eight, and I really need a good night's sleep before it.

I was wondering if you could move the party to Saturday night instead. That way, I could actually join you, because the exam will be over, and honestly, I'd love to celebrate.

If Saturday doesn't work for your friends, maybe we could find another option, like having it at Max's place, and I'll help you set up the day before.

I'm really sorry about the short notice. What do you think? Could Saturday work?

Why it works

- **Task Fulfillment:** it picks one option and does what that option asks: make the request and explain why.
- **Tone:** polite and friendly for a roommate. It starts with something positive, apologises once, and offers something in return.
- **Content/Coherence:** the reason is specific (an exam at eight), and there is a second solution in case the first one fails.

Two more to practise

1. Your manager asks you to work this Saturday, but you promised to help your sister move. Choose: talk to your manager, or talk to your sister.
2. You borrowed your neighbour's ladder and it broke while you were using it. Choose: talk to your neighbour, or talk to the hardware store to ask about a repair.

Practise this now: record your answer to a Task 6 practice question in the real test format, free.

Speaking Task 7: Expressing Opinions

30 seconds to prepare, 90 to speak

Question
Do you think public transit in cities should be free for everyone? Explain your reasons.

Sample answer (about 205 words)

In my opinion, public transit should be free in cities, or at least much cheaper than it is now. I have three main reasons.

First, it would help people who are struggling with the cost of living. For a family with two working parents, monthly passes can easily cost more than two hundred dollars. If transit were free, that money could go to groceries or rent.

Second, it would get more cars off the road. Many people drive because, for short trips, a bus ticket and parking cost about the same. Take the ticket price away, and a lot of them would leave the car at home. That means less traffic and cleaner air for everyone, including the people who still drive.

Third, it would make cities fairer. Students, seniors and newcomers often depend on transit the most, and they are also the people with the least money. Free transit would make it easier for them to get to school, to appointments and to job interviews.

Of course, someone has to pay for it, and that would probably mean higher taxes. But I think it's worth it, because the whole city benefits. So overall, yes, I believe free transit is a smart investment.

Why it works

- **Content/Coherence:** a clear position in the first sentence, three reasons, each with an example, and one counter point answered before the close.
- **Vocabulary:** topic words (cost of living, monthly pass, investment) used naturally.
- **Task Fulfillment:** it stays on one side, sounds sure, and fills most of the 90 seconds.

Two more to practise

1. Do you think employers should let all office workers work from home two days a week? Explain your reasons.
2. Do you think children under 12 should be allowed to have their own smartphones? Explain your reasons.

Practise this now: record your answer to a Task 7 practice question in the real test format, free.

Speaking Task 8: Describing an Unusual Situation

30 seconds to prepare, 60 to speak

Question

You are in a furniture store and you see an unusual bookshelf. Your sister Mia has just moved into her first apartment and needs a bookshelf. Call Mia, describe the bookshelf, and ask if she wants you to buy it for her. **The picture shows:** A bookshelf shaped like a tree, made of light wood. The trunk is a tall, thin post, and six shelves stick out from it like branches, at different heights. Small green leaves made of felt hang from the ends of the top shelves. There is a round seat cushion at the bottom, wrapped around the base of the trunk. The price tag says $260.

Sample answer (about 145 words)

Hi Mia, it's me. You said you still need a bookshelf for the new place, right? Well, I'm at the furniture store downtown, and I've just found one I think you'll love. It's not a normal bookshelf at all.

It's shaped like a tree. In the middle there's a tall, thin wooden post, like the trunk, and six shelves come out of it, like branches, at different heights, some on the left and some on the right. The wood is light, so it would match your floor. On the ends of the top shelves there are little green leaves, made of a kind of soft fabric. And at the bottom, around the trunk, there's a round cushion, so you could sit there and read.

It's two hundred and sixty dollars. Do you want me to buy it for you? Okay, call me back. Bye!

Why it works

- **Content/Coherence:** it gives the whole object first ("shaped like a tree"), then the parts in order from the middle out and from top to bottom.
- **Vocabulary:** when the exact word is hard (felt), it builds one from simple words ("a kind of soft fabric"), which keeps the answer moving.
- **Task Fulfillment:** a reason for calling, the description, the question the task asks for, and a goodbye inside the minute.

Two more to practise

1. You are at a car show and see a car painted to look like a giant watermelon. Call your friend who loves cars and describe it.
2. At the airport, you see a sculpture made of old suitcases. Call your artist cousin and describe it.

Practise this now: record your answer to a Task 8 practice question in the real test format, free.

Ready for the real clock?

Reading a sample is the easy part. The skill is answering a question you have never seen, in 60 or 90 seconds, out loud.

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Matthew is a CELPIP teacher on the CELTESTPIP team and the voice of most of our YouTube lessons. He focuses on helping candidates reach the CLB level their immigration or PR file needs.

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