

FREE RESOURCE

CELPIP Speaking Templates

Ready-to-use response frameworks for all 8 tasks
— CLB 7, 9, and 10+

celpipsimulator.com

How to Use These Templates

These templates give you a repeatable structure for each CELPIP Speaking task. They are frameworks, NOT scripts to memorize. Your goal is to internalize the structure so you can fill it with your own ideas naturally during the exam.

- Use these templates as scaffolding — fill in your own ideas and experiences.
- Practice each template 3–5 times before test day until the structure feels automatic.
- Focus on fluency and natural delivery, not memorized phrases.
- Record yourself practicing and listen back for hesitations and filler words.

TIP: CELPIP rates grade on four criteria, each worth 25%: Content/Coherence, Vocabulary, Listenability, and Task Fulfillment. A strong template helps you hit all four by keeping your response organized, on-topic, and complete.

Template Structure

Every speaking response should follow this pattern:

- **Opening (10–15 sec):** State your position or set the context clearly.
- **Body (40–60 sec):** Give 2–3 supporting points with brief elaboration.
- **Closing (10–15 sec):** Summarize your main point in one sentence.

Task 1: Giving Advice

90 seconds

You will give advice to a friend, family member, or colleague about a specific situation. You should recommend ONE option and explain why with clear reasons.

Template Structure

Opening (10–15 seconds):

"I would strongly recommend that you [action]. Let me explain why I think this is the best option."

Body — Reason 1 (20–25 seconds):

"The main reason is [reason 1]. [2–3 sentences elaborating with a specific example or explanation]."

Body — Reason 2 (15–20 seconds):

"Additionally, [reason 2]. [2–3 sentences elaborating]."

Body — Reason 3 (10–15 seconds):

"Another important point is [reason 3]. [Brief elaboration]."

Closing (10–15 seconds):

"So to summarize, I believe [action] would be the best choice because [brief recap of reasons]."

Sample CLB 9 Response

Prompt: Your friend is deciding between taking evening classes at a local college or enrolling in online courses. Give them advice.

I would strongly recommend that you enroll in online courses rather than evening classes. Let me explain why. The main reason is flexibility. With online courses, you can study at any time that works for you, whether that's early in the morning or late at night. This is especially important if your work schedule changes from week to week. Additionally, online courses are usually more affordable. You'll save money on transportation, parking, and course materials since most resources are available digitally. That extra savings could go toward other priorities. Another important point is that online learning lets you go at your own pace. If you need to review a difficult concept, you can replay a lecture as many times as you need without feeling rushed. So to summarize, I believe online courses would be the best choice because they offer more flexibility, lower costs, and the ability to learn at your own pace.

Pro Tips

- Always give 2–3 reasons, not just one — one reason isn't enough for CLB 7+.
- Use decisive language: "I would strongly recommend" not "maybe you should."
- Don't waste time listing both options — pick one immediately and explain why.

Task 2: Talking About a Personal Experience

60 seconds

You will describe a personal experience related to a given topic. Use past tense, include specific details, and describe how you felt.

Template Structure

Opening (10 seconds):

"I'd like to tell you about a time when [brief context]. It was a [positive/memorable/challenging] experience."

Body — What happened (30–35 seconds):

"It happened [when/where]. I was [doing what] when [event]. [Describe 2–3 specific actions you took]. [Describe the outcome]."

Closing (10–15 seconds):

"Looking back, this experience was [meaningful/rewarding] because [lesson or feeling]. It taught me that [takeaway]."

Sample CLB 9 Response

Prompt: Describe a time you helped a neighbour. What happened, what did you do, and how did it end?

I'd like to tell you about a time I helped my elderly neighbour, Mrs. Chen, during a heavy snowstorm last winter. It was a really rewarding experience. It happened one Saturday morning after an overnight blizzard that left about thirty centimetres of snow. I noticed that Mrs. Chen was struggling to shovel her driveway by herself. I grabbed my snow shovel and went over to help her. We spent about an hour clearing her driveway and the walkway to her front door. I also helped her spread salt on the icy patches so she wouldn't slip. When we finished, she invited me in for hot chocolate and homemade cookies. Looking back, this experience was truly rewarding because it reminded me how small acts of kindness can make a big difference in someone's day. It taught me that being a good neighbour doesn't require grand gestures — just showing up when someone needs help.

Pro Tips

■ Use specific details: names, places, times — they make your story believable.

■ Always end with a reflection or lesson learned — it boosts your Content score.

■ Stick to past tense throughout your response for consistency.

Task 3: Describing a Scene

60 seconds

You will look at a picture and describe what you see in detail. Cover who is there, what they're doing, where it is, and the overall atmosphere.

Template Structure

Opening (10 seconds):

"In this picture, I can see [general description of the scene — location and overall activity]."

Body — Details (35–40 seconds):

"In the foreground, [describe main subjects and actions]. They appear to be [activity/emotion]. In the background, [describe secondary details]. The setting looks like [describe environment]. I also notice [additional details like objects, signs, weather]."

Closing (10 seconds):

"Overall, the scene gives a [mood/atmosphere] impression. It looks like [summary statement]."

Sample CLB 9 Response

Prompt: Describe what you see: A busy community center on a Saturday morning.

In this picture, I can see a busy community centre on what appears to be a Saturday morning, with many people engaged in different activities. In the foreground, there is a group of about ten adults doing a fitness class. They are stretching on yoga mats and seem very focused. The instructor at the front is demonstrating a pose. On the left side, I can see several children playing in a small indoor playground area. They look very happy and energetic, climbing and sliding. In the background, there are a few staff members behind a reception desk, organizing papers and greeting people who are walking in. The space is bright and well-lit with large windows. I also notice a bulletin board with colourful flyers pinned to it. Overall, the scene gives a very lively and welcoming impression. It looks like a well-used community space where families come to stay active and socialize.

Pro Tips

- Move systematically: foreground → background, left → right, or people → setting.

■ Use present continuous tense: "they are playing," "she is holding."

■ Describe at least 3–4 different elements to fill the full 60 seconds.

Task 4: Making Predictions

60 seconds

You will look at a picture and predict what will happen next or what might have led to the scene. Use future tense and speculative language.

Template Structure

Opening (10 seconds):

"Based on what I see in this picture, I think [main prediction]. Let me explain what I believe will happen."

Body — Predictions (35–40 seconds):

"First, I think [prediction 1 + reason]. [Elaboration]. Next, [prediction 2 + reason]. [Elaboration]. Finally, [prediction 3 + reason]."

Closing (10 seconds):

"So overall, I believe [summary of what will happen] because [brief reasoning]."

Sample CLB 9 Response

Prompt: Look at this picture of a family packing boxes in their living room. What do you think will happen next?

Based on what I see in this picture, I think this family is preparing to move to a new home. Let me explain what I believe will happen. First, I think they will finish packing up their remaining belongings over the next few hours. The boxes in the picture are only half-full, so they still have quite a bit of work to do. The parents will probably label each box with the room it belongs to. Next, I predict they will call a moving company or rent a truck to transport everything. Since they have a lot of furniture and boxes, they'll likely need professional help. Finally, I think the children will feel a mix of excitement and nervousness about starting at a new school and making new friends. Moving is always a big change for kids. So overall, I believe this family is in the middle of an exciting transition to a new home, and while it's a lot of work, they seem to be working together as a team.

Pro Tips

- Use speculative language: "I think," "I predict," "It's likely that," "They will probably."

■ Give reasons for each prediction — don't just list what will happen.

■ Make 2–3 different predictions to fill the time and show depth.

Task 5: Comparing and Persuading

60 seconds

You will compare two options and persuade someone to choose one. You must clearly state your recommendation and explain why it's better.

Template Structure

Opening (10 seconds):

"While both options have their merits, I would strongly recommend [Option X]. Here's why."

Body — Comparison (35–40 seconds):

"The biggest advantage of [Option X] is [benefit 1]. [Elaboration]. Another reason is [benefit 2]. Unlike [Option Y], [Option X] also offers [benefit 3]. [Brief acknowledgment of Option Y's strength, then counter-argument]."

Closing (10 seconds):

"For these reasons, [Option X] is clearly the better choice, and I'm confident you'd be happy with it."

Sample CLB 9 Response

Prompt: Your friend is choosing between a downtown apartment and a suburban house. Persuade them to choose one.

While both options have their merits, I would strongly recommend the suburban house. Here's why. The biggest advantage of a suburban house is the space. You'll have a backyard for barbecues, a garage for storage, and separate rooms for a home office. In a downtown apartment, you'd be paying more for half the space. Another reason is that suburban neighbourhoods are quieter and safer, which is especially important if you're planning to start a family in the next few years. You'd have access to good schools and parks nearby. I know you might think a downtown apartment is more convenient for nightlife and restaurants, but honestly, you can always drive downtown for a night out. You can't easily add more space to a tiny apartment. For these reasons, the suburban house is clearly the better choice, and I'm confident you'd be happier with the extra space and peaceful environment.

Pro Tips

■ Pick ONE option and commit — don't sit on the fence.

■ Briefly acknowledge the other option to show balance, then counter it.

■ Use comparative language: "more," "better," "unlike," "whereas."

Task 6: Dealing with a Difficult Situation

90 seconds

You will describe how you would handle a challenging or uncomfortable situation. Show empathy, propose a solution, and explain your reasoning.

Template Structure

Opening (10–15 seconds):

"This is definitely a tricky situation, but I think the best approach would be to [main action]. Let me explain how I would handle it."

Body — Step-by-step approach (50–60 seconds):

"First, I would [step 1 — usually understanding/empathizing]. [Why this matters]. Then, I would [step 2 — the main action/conversation]. I would say something like, "[example dialogue]." If that doesn't resolve things, I would [step 3 — escalation or alternative]. [Elaboration]."

Closing (10–15 seconds):

"I believe this approach would work because [reasoning]. The key is to be respectful while still addressing the issue."

Sample CLB 9 Response

Prompt: Your coworker keeps scheduling meetings during your lunch break. How would you handle this?

This is definitely a tricky situation, but I think the best approach would be to have a polite, private conversation with my coworker about the scheduling conflict. Let me explain how I would handle it. First, I would consider that my coworker might not even realize the meetings conflict with my lunch break. They might have a different lunch schedule or simply overlooked the timing. It's important not to assume bad intentions. Then, I would approach them privately and say something like, "Hey, I've noticed that several of our recent meetings fall during my lunch break, which is from twelve to one. Would it be possible to schedule them a bit earlier or later? I want to make sure I can attend and be fully focused." I'd keep the tone friendly and focus on finding a solution rather than placing blame. If that conversation doesn't lead to any changes, I would follow up by suggesting we use a shared calendar tool where everyone can block off their break times. That way, the issue is solved systematically for the whole team. I believe this approach would work because it addresses the problem directly while maintaining a positive working relationship. The key is to be respectful while still standing up for your own needs.

Pro Tips

- Show empathy first: "I understand why they might..." before proposing a solution.
- Include example dialogue to demonstrate communication skills.
- Propose 2–3 escalating steps: gentle approach first, then alternatives.

Task 7: Expressing Opinions

90 seconds

You will state and defend your opinion on a social or community topic. You need a clear position with supporting arguments.

Template Structure

Opening (10–15 seconds):

"I firmly believe that [your position]. There are several compelling reasons to support this view."

Body — Arguments (50–60 seconds):

"First and foremost, [argument 1]. [2–3 sentences with evidence or example]. Secondly, [argument 2]. [Elaboration with real-world reference]. Furthermore, [argument 3]. [Elaboration]. Some people might argue that [counter-argument], but [your rebuttal]."

Closing (10–15 seconds):

"In conclusion, I strongly believe [restate position] because [brief recap]. The benefits clearly outweigh the drawbacks."

Sample CLB 9 Response

Prompt: Should public transit be free for all residents? Give your opinion.

I firmly believe that public transit should be free for all residents. There are several compelling reasons to support this view. First and foremost, free public transit would significantly reduce traffic congestion in major cities. If people didn't have to pay for the bus or subway, many would leave their cars at home, leading to fewer traffic jams and shorter commute times for everyone. Secondly, it would be a major step toward environmental sustainability. Fewer cars on the road means lower carbon emissions, cleaner air, and a healthier population. Cities like Luxembourg have already implemented free transit with positive results. Furthermore, free transit promotes social equity. Low-income families who spend a significant portion of their budget on transportation would benefit enormously, giving them better access to jobs, education, and healthcare. Some people might argue that free transit would be too expensive for taxpayers, but studies show that the economic benefits — reduced healthcare costs, increased productivity, and lower road maintenance — often outweigh the costs. In conclusion, I strongly believe free public transit is an investment in our future because it benefits the environment, the economy, and society as a whole.

Pro Tips

- Take a clear side — "I firmly believe" is stronger than "I kind of think."
- Include a counter-argument and rebuttal to show critical thinking.
- Use real-world examples or data to strengthen your points.

Task 8: Describing an Unusual Situation

60 seconds

You will see an unusual or unexpected scene and describe what is strange about it, speculate on how it happened, and suggest what might happen next.

Template Structure

Opening (10 seconds):

"This is quite an unusual scene! The most striking thing is [what's unusual]."

Body (35–40 seconds):

"What makes this strange is [explain why it's unusual]. Normally, you would expect [normal situation], but instead [what we see]. I think this might have happened because [speculation 1]. Another possibility is [speculation 2]."

Closing (10 seconds):

"Regardless of how it happened, I think [prediction of what happens next]. It's definitely not something you see every day!"

Sample CLB 9 Response

Prompt: Describe this unusual scene: A dog is sitting alone at a restaurant table with a napkin tucked into its collar.

This is quite an unusual scene! The most striking thing is that a dog is sitting at a restaurant table completely by itself, with a napkin neatly tucked into its collar as if it's about to order a meal. What makes this so strange is that dogs obviously don't dine at restaurants on their own. Normally, you would expect a person sitting at the table with a dog waiting underneath, but instead, the dog is sitting upright in the chair like a human customer. I think this might have happened because the dog's owner is a regular at this restaurant and perhaps stepped away for a moment, and the dog hopped up on the chair. The staff might have playfully put the napkin on as a joke. Another possibility is that someone is filming a funny video for social media and set up this scene on purpose. Regardless of how it happened, I think the dog is probably going to get a lot of attention from other customers who will find this adorable and take photos. It's definitely not something you see every day!

Pro Tips

■ React naturally: "This is unusual!" or "How strange!" — it shows engagement.

■ Give at least 2 possible explanations for the unusual situation.

■ End with a prediction to show you can think beyond what's in the picture.

Quick Reference Chart

Task #	Task Name	Time	Key Phrases	Common Mistakes
1	Giving Advice	90s	I strongly recommend, The main reason	Not giving enough reasons
2	Personal Experi...	60s	I'd like to tell you about, Looking back	Forgetting past tense
3	Describing a Scene	60s	In the foreground, I notice	Only describing one thing
4	Making Predictions	60s	I think/predict, It's likely	No reasons for predictions
5	Comparing/Persu...	60s	The biggest advantage, Unlike	Sitting on the fence
6	Difficult Situation	90s	The best approach, I would say	No empathy shown
7	Expressing Opin...	90s	I firmly believe, Furthermore	No counter-argument
8	Unusual Situation	60s	How unusual!, This might have	Not speculating enough

CELPIP Speaking Scoring Criteria

Your CELPIP Speaking score is the average of all 8 task scores. Each task is evaluated on four criteria, each worth 25%:

Content/Coherence (25%)

- **CLB 7:** Ideas are relevant but organization is basic. Some repetition.
- **CLB 9:** Ideas are well-developed, logically organized, with smooth transitions between points.

Vocabulary (25%)

- **CLB 7:** Uses common vocabulary correctly. Limited range of expressions.
- **CLB 9:** Uses a wide range of precise vocabulary, including idiomatic expressions and collocations.

Listenability (25%)

- **CLB 7:** Generally clear pronunciation but some hesitations. Basic intonation.
- **CLB 9:** Smooth, natural delivery with clear pronunciation, appropriate stress, and varied intonation.

Task Fulfillment (25%)

- **CLB 7:** Addresses the task but may miss some elements. Response may be too short.
- **CLB 9:** Fully addresses all aspects of the task with appropriate detail and timing.

TIP: Your Speaking CLB is the average of all 8 task scores. Focus on your weakest tasks for the biggest score improvement.

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