

FREE RESOURCE

200 Essential Words for CLB 9+

Definitions, example sentences, and
CELPIP-specific usage for each word

celpipsimulator.com

How to Use This Guide

- Learn 10 words per day — you'll complete all 200 in 20 days.
- Read the definition, then the example sentence.
- Write your OWN sentence using the word — this builds active recall.
- Review previous words before learning new ones (spaced repetition).
- Focus on words from categories relevant to your weakest CELPIP section.

TIP: Don't memorize the example sentences. Understand each word well enough to create your own sentences naturally. CELPIP raters reward natural, contextually appropriate vocabulary.

Difficulty Levels

- ★ CLB 7: Basic upgrade words — use instead of simple words
- ★★ CLB 9: Advanced words that demonstrate strong vocabulary
- ★★★ CLB 10+: Expert-level words showing native-like proficiency

Section Tags

- Writing ♦ — Especially useful in CELPIP Writing tasks
- Speaking ♦ — Especially useful in CELPIP Speaking tasks
- Reading ♦ — Helps you understand CELPIP Reading passages
- Listening ♦ — Helps you understand CELPIP Listening passages

Category 1: Academic & Formal

ELABORATE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To explain something in more detail or add further information.

■ *"Could you elaborate on your experience with community volunteering?"*

SUBSTANTIAL (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Large in amount, value, or importance.

■ *"There has been a substantial increase in public transit usage this year."*

COMPREHENSIVE (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Including all or nearly all elements or aspects of something.

■ *"The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the environmental issue."*

FACILITATE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To make an action or process easier or more achievable.

■ *"Online platforms facilitate communication between students and teachers."*

IMPLEMENT (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To put a decision, plan, or agreement into effect.

■ *"The city plans to implement a new recycling program next year."*

PREDOMINANTLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Mainly; for the most part.

■ *"The neighbourhood is predominantly residential with few commercial buildings."*

CONSEQUENTLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

As a result or effect of something.

■ *"Traffic increased dramatically; consequently, commute times nearly doubled."*

NEVERTHELESS (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In spite of that; notwithstanding; all the same.

■ *"The weather was poor; nevertheless, the outdoor event was well attended."*

FURTHERMORE (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In addition to what has already been said.

■ *"The policy is costly. Furthermore, it may not achieve its intended goals."*

NOTWITHSTANDING (prep) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In spite of; despite.

■ *"Notwithstanding the challenges, the community project was completed on time."*

ALBEIT (conj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Although; even though.

■ *"The results were positive, albeit somewhat unexpected by the researchers."*

PARAMOUNT (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

More important than anything else; supreme.

■ *"Safety is paramount in any construction project or industrial workplace."*

INDISPENSABLE (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Absolutely necessary; essential.

■ *"Technology has become indispensable in modern education and healthcare."*

UNPRECEDENTED (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Never done or known before; unparalleled.

■ *"The city experienced unprecedented population growth over the last decade."*

INEVITABLE (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Certain to happen; unavoidable.

■ *"Change is inevitable in any growing organization or community."*

INHERENT (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Existing in something as a permanent, essential, or characteristic attribute.

■ *"There are inherent risks in any financial investment or business venture."*

FEASIBLE (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Possible and practical to do easily or conveniently.

■ *"The committee determined that the proposed plan was both feasible and affordable."*

VIABLE (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Capable of working successfully; practical.

■ *"Public transit is a viable alternative to driving in most urban areas."*

PERTINENT (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Relevant or applicable to a particular matter.

■ *"The speaker raised several pertinent points during the community meeting."*

CONDUCTIVE (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible.

■ *"A quiet environment is conducive to focused study and deep concentration."*

DETRIMENTAL (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Tending to cause harm; damaging.

■ *"Excessive screen time can be detrimental to both sleep quality and mental health."*

BENEFICIAL (adj) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Resulting in good; favourable or advantageous.

■ *"Regular exercise is beneficial for both physical and mental health."*

PIVOTAL (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Of crucial importance in relation to the development of something.

■ *"Education plays a pivotal role in promoting social mobility and equality."*

PROFOUND (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Very great or intense; having deep meaning.

■ *"The new policy had a profound impact on local businesses and employment."*

COMPETENT (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Having the necessary ability, knowledge, or skill.

■ *"She proved to be a highly competent manager during the organizational transition."*

PROMINENT (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Important; famous; well-known.

■ *"A prominent researcher presented the findings at the international conference."*

RIGOROUS (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Extremely thorough, exhaustive, or accurate.

■ *"The graduate program requires rigorous academic preparation and commitment."*

CONCISE (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Giving a lot of information clearly in a few words; brief but comprehensive.

■ *"The report was concise and well-organized, making it easy to understand."*

COHERENT (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Logical and consistent; easy to understand.

■ *"Her argument was coherent and persuasive, convincing most of the audience."*

COMPELLING (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Evoking interest or attention in a powerfully irresistible way.

■ *"She made a compelling case for investing in renewable energy sources."*

SUBSTANTIATE (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Provide evidence to support or prove the truth of something.

■ *"The data substantiates the researcher's claims about climate change."*

ADVOCATE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To publicly recommend or support a particular cause or policy.

■ *"Many health experts advocate for increased funding for mental health services."*

ENCOMPASS (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To surround and have or hold within; include comprehensively.

■ *"The curriculum encompasses a wide range of subjects and practical skills."*

ALLOCATE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To distribute resources or duties for a particular purpose.

■ *"The government allocated additional funds for affordable housing construction."*

MITIGATE (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To make something bad less severe, serious, or painful.

■ *"Urban green spaces help mitigate the effects of air pollution in cities."*

CONSTITUTE (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To be a part of a whole; to make up or form.

■ *"Women now constitute approximately 52% of the Canadian workforce."*

DIMINISH (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To make or become less; to reduce.

■ *"The new regulations may inadvertently diminish small business growth."*

UNDERSCORE (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To emphasize or draw special attention to something.

■ *"The incident underscores the need for better workplace safety measures."*

FOSTER (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To encourage or promote the development of something.

■ *"Community programs aim to foster creativity and confidence in young people."*

AUGMENT (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To make something greater by adding to it; to increase.

■ *"Technology can augment traditional teaching methods to improve learning outcomes."*

Category 2: Transition & Linking

FURTHERMORE (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In addition to what has already been mentioned.

■ *"The plan saves money. Furthermore, it reduces our environmental impact."*

HOWEVER (adv) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Used to introduce a statement that contrasts with a previous one.

■ *"The project was expensive; however, the results justified the investment."*

MOREOVER (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

As a further matter; besides; in addition.

■ *"The location is convenient. Moreover, the rent is surprisingly affordable."*

CONSEQUENTLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

As a result or effect.

■ *"She studied diligently; consequently, she achieved the highest score in her class."*

NEVERTHELESS (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In spite of that; nonetheless.

■ *"The task was difficult; nevertheless, the team completed it ahead of schedule."*

IN ADDITION (phrase) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Also; as well as; besides.

■ *"The park has walking trails. In addition, it features a children's playground."*

ON THE OTHER HAND (phrase) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Used to present an alternative or contrasting viewpoint.

■ *"City life is exciting; on the other hand, it can be stressful and expensive."*

AS A RESULT (phrase) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Because of something; therefore.

■ *"Funding was cut. As a result, several community programs were cancelled."*

IN CONTRAST (phrase) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Used to show how two things are different.

■ *"Rural areas are peaceful. In contrast, urban centres are fast-paced and noisy."*

SIMILARLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In a similar way; likewise.

■ *"Students benefit from group study. Similarly, professionals thrive in collaborative teams."*

LIKEWISE (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In the same way; also.

■ *"Parents should model healthy eating. Likewise, schools should offer nutritious meals."*

ALTERNATIVELY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

As another option or possibility.

■ *"You could take the bus. Alternatively, the subway is faster during rush hour."*

SUBSEQUENTLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

After a particular thing has happened; afterwards.

■ *"He completed his degree and subsequently found employment in his field."*

ULTIMATELY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Finally; in the end; at the most basic level.

■ *"Ultimately, the decision should be based on what benefits the community most."*

CONVERSELY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Introducing a statement that reverses or contrasts with a previous one.

■ *"Some students thrive under pressure. Conversely, others perform better with flexibility."*

ACCORDINGLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In a way that is appropriate to the particular circumstances.

■ *"The budget was reduced; accordingly, the team adjusted their project scope."*

HENCE (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

As a consequence; for this reason.

■ *"The roads were icy; hence, schools were closed for the day."*

THEREBY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

By that means; as a result of that.

■ *"She automated the process, thereby saving the company hundreds of hours annually."*

WHEREAS (conj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In contrast or comparison with the fact that.

■ *"Urban residents rely on transit, whereas rural residents depend on personal vehicles."*

DESPITE (prep) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Without being affected by; in spite of.

■ *"Despite the heavy rain, the outdoor concert attracted a large enthusiastic crowd."*

NOTWITHSTANDING (prep) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In spite of; regardless of.

■ *"Notwithstanding budget constraints, the library expanded its digital collection."*

REGARDLESS (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Without paying attention to the present situation; despite the circumstances.

■ *"Regardless of the outcome, the experience was valuable for all participants."*

MEANWHILE (adv) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

At the same time; in the intervening period.

■ *"The manager reviewed the proposal. Meanwhile, the team prepared the presentation."*

SIMULTANEOUSLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

At the same time.

■ *"The new system allows users to work on multiple projects simultaneously."*

NOTABLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In particular; especially; to a great degree.

■ *"Several improvements were made, notably in customer service response times."*

SPECIFICALLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In a way that is exact and clear.

■ *"The report recommends changes, specifically in how data is collected and stored."*

ESSENTIALLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Used to emphasize the basic or fundamental nature of something.

■ *"The two proposals are essentially the same, with only minor differences."*

FUNDAMENTALLY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In a central or primary way; at the most basic level.

■ *"The new policy fundamentally changes how applications are processed."*

PARTICULARLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To a higher degree than is usual or average; especially.

■ *"This issue is particularly relevant for newcomers adjusting to Canadian winters."*

ADMITTEDLY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Used to acknowledge that something is true, especially reluctantly.

■ *"Admittedly, the initial costs are high, but the long-term savings are significant."*

Category 3: Opinion & Persuasion

ADVOCATE (verb) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

To publicly recommend or support.

■ *"I would advocate for more green spaces in urban residential areas."*

CONTEND (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To assert or maintain something as a position in an argument.

■ *"Some researchers contend that bilingual education improves cognitive flexibility."*

ASSERT (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To state a fact or belief confidently and forcefully.

■ *"The report asserts that early childhood education has lasting benefits."*

MAINTAIN (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To state something firmly and continue to hold that opinion.

■ *"She maintains that community involvement is essential for neighbourhood safety."*

ARGUE (verb) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To give reasons for or against something; to make a case.

■ *"Critics argue that the policy will increase costs without improving outcomes."*

PROPOSE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To put forward a plan or suggestion for consideration.

■ *"The committee proposes extending library hours to accommodate working parents."*

RECOMMEND (verb) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To suggest that someone do something or that something is suitable.

■ *"I would strongly recommend taking a preparation course before the exam."*

ENDORSE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To declare one's public approval or support.

■ *"Several community leaders endorsed the new youth mentorship program."*

EMPHASIZE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To give special importance or prominence to something.

■ *"I want to emphasize that consistent practice is key to improving your score."*

INSIST (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To demand something forcefully; to state firmly.

■ *"The residents insist that the city address the parking shortage immediately."*

ACKNOWLEDGE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To accept or recognize that something exists, is true, or is valid.

■ *"I acknowledge that there are challenges, but the benefits outweigh the risks."*

CONCEDE (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To admit that something is true after first resisting.

■ *"I concede that the initial cost is high, but the investment pays for itself."*

DISPUTE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To argue about something; to call into question.

■ *"Some experts dispute the effectiveness of standardized testing in education."*

REFUTE (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To prove a statement or theory to be wrong or false.

■ *"The study refutes the claim that longer hours lead to higher productivity."*

JUSTIFY (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To show or prove to be right, reasonable, or warranted.

■ *"It is difficult to justify spending on luxury items when essentials are lacking."*

RATIONALIZE (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To attempt to explain or justify with logical reasons.

■ *"People often rationalize unhealthy habits by focusing on short-term pleasure."*

VALIDATE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To confirm or prove the truth of; to make valid.

■ *"The survey results validate concerns about rising housing costs in the city."*

CHALLENGE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To dispute the truth of or call into question.

■ *"I would challenge the assumption that technology always improves learning."*

CRITIQUE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To evaluate something in a detailed and analytical way.

■ *"The article critiques the government's approach to affordable housing policy."*

EVALUATE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To form an idea of the value or quality of; to assess.

■ *"We must evaluate both the costs and benefits before making a final decision."*

FIRMLY BELIEVE (phrase) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

To hold a strong conviction about something.

- *"I firmly believe that access to clean water is a basic human right."*

STRONGLY SUGGEST (phrase) ★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

To recommend with emphasis.

- *"I would strongly suggest starting your exam preparation at least one month early."*

IN MY VIEW (phrase) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

From my perspective; in my opinion.

- *"In my view, investing in public education produces the greatest societal returns."*

IT IS EVIDENT (phrase) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

It is clear; it is obvious.

- *"It is evident that climate change requires immediate and coordinated global action."*

WITHOUT A DOUBT (phrase) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Certainly; unquestionably.

- *"Without a doubt, learning a second language opens up many career opportunities."*

IT STANDS TO REASON (phrase) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

It is logical to conclude; it makes sense.

- *"It stands to reason that more affordable housing would attract young professionals."*

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE (phrase) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

In my opinion; as I see it.

- *"From my perspective, community gardens strengthen neighbourhood connections."*

I AM CONVINCED (phrase) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

I am certain or sure about something.

- *"I am convinced that early intervention programs reduce crime rates significantly."*

IT IS WIDELY ACCEPTED (phrase) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

It is generally agreed upon by most people.

- *"It is widely accepted that exercise improves both physical and mental well-being."*

ONE COULD ARGUE (phrase) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

It is possible to make the case that.

- *"One could argue that remote work increases productivity for many employees."*

Category 4: Description & Narrative

VIVIDLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In a way that produces powerful feelings or clear images in the mind.

■ *"She vividly described the sunset over the mountain range during her trip."*

METICULOUSLY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In a way that shows great attention to detail.

■ *"The architect meticulously designed every aspect of the community centre."*

THOROUGHLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In a complete and careful way.

■ *"The inspector thoroughly examined the building before approving it for occupancy."*

ENTHUSIASTICALLY (adv) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

In a way that shows eager enjoyment, interest, or approval.

■ *"The volunteers enthusiastically participated in the neighbourhood cleanup event."*

RELUCTANTLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In an unwilling or hesitant way.

■ *"He reluctantly agreed to relocate for the job, leaving his hometown behind."*

INEVITABLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

As is certain to happen; unavoidably.

■ *"As the city grows, traffic congestion will inevitably become a bigger challenge."*

DRAMATICALLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In a way that is sudden, striking, or significant.

■ *"Property prices have dramatically increased in the past five years."*

GRADUALLY (adv) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In a gradual way; slowly; by degrees.

■ *"Her English skills gradually improved after she started practising daily."*

SIGNIFICANTLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In a sufficiently great or important way.

■ *"The new transit line has significantly reduced commute times for suburban residents."*

PREDOMINANTLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Mainly; for the most part.

■ *"The festival audience was predominantly young families with children."*

REMARKABLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In a way that is worthy of attention; surprisingly.

■ *"The student's writing improved remarkably after just one month of practice."*

EXCEPTIONALLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To a greater degree than normal; unusually.

■ *"The team performed exceptionally well despite the tight deadline they faced."*

NOTICEABLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In a way that is easily seen or noticed.

■ *"Air quality has noticeably improved since the new emissions standards took effect."*

INCREASINGLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To an ever greater extent; more and more.

■ *"Canadians are increasingly choosing to work from home when given the option."*

CONSISTENTLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In a way that does not change over time; steadily.

■ *"She has consistently achieved high marks throughout her academic career."*

INTERMITTENTLY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

At irregular intervals; not continuously.

■ *"The region experiences intermittent power outages during severe winter storms."*

SPONTANEOUSLY (adv) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

In a natural, unplanned way.

■ *"The neighbours spontaneously organized a welcome party for the new family."*

DELIBERATELY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Consciously and intentionally; on purpose.

■ *"She deliberately chose a career path that would allow her to help others."*

INSTINCTIVELY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In a way that comes naturally, without conscious thought.

■ *"He instinctively reached out to steady the elderly woman who stumbled."*

OVERWHELMINGLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To a very great degree or with a great majority.

■ *"The proposal was overwhelmingly approved by the city council members."*

SUBTLY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In a way that is so delicate or precise as to be hard to detect.

■ *"The author subtly wove themes of immigration throughout the narrative."*

ABRUPTLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Suddenly and unexpectedly.

■ *"The meeting ended abruptly when the fire alarm went off in the building."*

PERSISTENTLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In a continuous or repeated way; without giving up.

■ *"She persistently worked to overcome the language barrier after moving to Canada."*

DILIGENTLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In a way that shows care and effort in work or duties.

■ *"The student diligently reviewed her notes every evening before the exam."*

EFFORTLESSLY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

In a way that requires no effort; smoothly.

■ *"The experienced speaker effortlessly engaged the audience for over an hour."*

PAINSTAKINGLY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

With great care and thoroughness.

■ *"The restoration team painstakingly repaired the century-old heritage building."*

SEAMLESSLY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Smoothly and continuously, with no apparent gaps.

■ *"The new software seamlessly integrates with the existing office systems."*

INADVERTENTLY (adv) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Without intention; accidentally.

■ *"The company inadvertently disclosed confidential client information in the report."*

PROFOUNDLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

In a profound or extremely significant way.

■ *"The volunteer experience profoundly changed her perspective on community service."*

WHOLEHEARTEDLY (adv) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

With complete sincerity and commitment.

■ *"I wholeheartedly support the proposal to build a new community recreation centre."*

Category 5: Emotion & Feeling

EXHILARATED (adj) ★★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Very happy, animated, or elated.

■ *"She felt exhilarated after completing her first marathon in under four hours."*

DISMAYED (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Feeling distress or concern caused by something unexpected.

■ *"Residents were dismayed to learn about the proposed construction on the park."*

APPREHENSIVE (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Anxious or fearful that something bad will happen.

■ *"She felt apprehensive about starting a new job in an unfamiliar city."*

OVERWHELMED (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Feeling too much emotion, work, or stimulation to handle.

■ *"New immigrants often feel overwhelmed during their first few months in Canada."*

GRATEFUL (adj) ★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Feeling or showing thanks and appreciation.

■ *"I am deeply grateful for the support my community provided during that time."*

FRUSTRATED (adj) ★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Feeling upset because of inability to change or achieve something.

■ *"Many commuters feel frustrated by the frequent delays on the transit system."*

ENTHUSIASTIC (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Having or showing intense and eager enjoyment or interest.

■ *"The students were enthusiastic about the new hands-on science curriculum."*

CONCERNED (adj) ★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Worried; troubled; anxious about something.

■ *"Parents are increasingly concerned about children's excessive screen time."*

DELIGHTED (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Feeling or showing great pleasure.

■ *"We were absolutely delighted with the quality of the community event."*

DEVASTATED (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Extremely upset, shocked, or overwhelmed with grief.

■ *"The family was devastated when the historic neighbourhood bakery closed down."*

BEWILDERED (adj) ★★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Perplexed and confused; very puzzled.

■ *"The tourist looked bewildered by the complex subway map and signage."*

CONTEMPLATIVE (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Deeply thoughtful; engaged in or given to deep thought.

■ *"She sat in contemplative silence, reflecting on her journey to this point."*

OPTIMISTIC (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Hopeful and confident about the future.

■ *"Despite the setbacks, she remains optimistic about finding employment soon."*

PESSIMISTIC (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Tending to see the worst aspect of things.

■ *"Some analysts are pessimistic about the housing market improving this year."*

INDIFFERENT (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Having no particular interest or sympathy; unconcerned.

■ *"The public seemed largely indifferent to the proposed changes in transit routes."*

NOSTALGIC (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Feeling a sentimental longing for the past.

■ *"Looking at old photos made her feel nostalgic for her childhood neighbourhood."*

AMBIVALENT (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something.

■ *"Many residents feel ambivalent about the new development: excited but worried."*

EXASPERATED (adj) ★★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Intensely irritated and frustrated.

■ *"After the third delay, passengers were visibly exasperated with the airline."*

REJUVENATED (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Made to feel or look young, fresh, or energetic again.

■ *"After a week of vacation, she returned to work feeling completely rejuvenated."*

DISHEARTENED (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Having lost determination or confidence; discouraged.

■ *"Students can feel disheartened after a low test score, but improvement is possible."*

ELATED (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Ecstatically happy; thrilled.

■ *"He was elated when he received his permanent residency approval letter."*

ANXIOUS (adj) ★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Experiencing worry, unease, or nervousness.

■ *"She felt anxious about the job interview but prepared herself thoroughly."*

PERPLEXED (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Completely baffled; very puzzled.

■ *"The sudden policy reversal left many stakeholders perplexed and uncertain."*

SYMPATHETIC (adj) ★★ | Speaking ♦ Writing

Feeling or showing sympathy and concern for others.

■ *"The counsellor was sympathetic to the student's challenges balancing work and school."*

RESENTFUL (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Feeling bitterness or indignation at having been treated unfairly.

■ *"Long-time residents feel resentful about being priced out of their neighbourhood."*

Category 6: Problem & Solution

MITIGATE (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To make less severe, serious, or painful.

■ *"Green infrastructure can mitigate the effects of flooding in urban areas."*

ALLEVIATE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To make suffering, a problem, or a deficiency less severe.

■ *"The new bus routes will alleviate traffic congestion in the downtown core."*

ADDRESS (verb) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To think about and begin to deal with an issue or problem.

■ *"The council must address the growing demand for affordable daycare spaces."*

RESOLVE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To settle or find a solution to a problem or dispute.

■ *"Mediation can help resolve disputes between tenants and landlords effectively."*

IMPLEMENT (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To put a plan or decision into effect.

■ *"Schools should implement anti-bullying programs to create safer environments."*

TACKLE (verb) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To make determined efforts to deal with a problem.

■ *"The government has pledged to tackle youth unemployment through job training."*

OVERCOME (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To succeed in dealing with a problem or difficulty.

■ *"With practice and dedication, anyone can overcome the fear of public speaking."*

RECTIFY (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To put right; to correct something.

■ *"The company took immediate steps to rectify the billing errors customers reported."*

REMEDY (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To set right an undesirable situation.

■ *"One way to remedy the skills gap is to invest in vocational training programs."*

COUNTERACT (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To act against something in order to reduce its effect.

■ *"Regular breaks can counteract the negative effects of prolonged screen time."*

ELIMINATE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To completely remove or get rid of something.

■ *"The new regulations aim to eliminate single-use plastics by the end of 2027."*

REDUCE (verb) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To make smaller or less in amount, degree, or size.

■ *"Carpooling can significantly reduce your monthly transportation expenses."*

PREVENT (verb) ★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To keep something from happening or arising.

■ *"Proper hand hygiene can prevent the spread of infectious diseases."*

MINIMIZE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To reduce something to the smallest possible amount.

■ *"Careful planning can minimize disruptions during the road construction project."*

ENHANCE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To intensify, increase, or further improve the quality of.

■ *"Adding green spaces would enhance the quality of life for urban residents."*

OPTIMIZE (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To make the best or most effective use of something.

■ *"The new scheduling system helps optimize resource allocation across departments."*

STREAMLINE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To make an organization or process more efficient.

■ *"The company plans to streamline its application process to reduce wait times."*

RESTRUCTURE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

To organize differently; to change the structure of.

■ *"The department decided to restructure its teams to improve collaboration."*

REVAMP (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To give new and improved form or structure to.

■ *"The city plans to revamp the waterfront area into a vibrant public space."*

TRANSFORM (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

To make a thorough or dramatic change in form or character.

■ *"Technology has the power to transform how we access healthcare services."*

Category 7: Word Replacements

BENEFICIAL / ADVANTAGEOUS (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'good' — CLB 7: beneficial | CLB 9+: advantageous, commendable.

■ *"A diverse workforce is advantageous for companies seeking innovation."*

DETRIMENTAL / ADVERSE (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'bad' — CLB 7: negative, harmful | CLB 9+: detrimental, adverse.

■ *"Air pollution has adverse effects on respiratory health in urban areas."*

PARAMOUNT / INDISPENSABLE (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'important' — CLB 7: significant | CLB 9+: paramount, indispensable.

■ *"Accurate data collection is paramount to the success of any research study."*

CONTEND / MAINTAIN (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'think' — CLB 7: believe, consider | CLB 9+: contend, maintain.

■ *"Many urban planners contend that mixed-use zoning creates healthier communities."*

EXCEPTIONALLY / REMARKABLY (adv) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'very' — CLB 7: extremely | CLB 9+: exceptionally, remarkably.

■ *"The volunteer response to the flood relief effort was remarkably swift."*

A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF (phrase) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'a lot' — CLB 7: numerous | CLB 9+: a substantial number of.

■ *"A substantial number of respondents supported the proposed transit expansion."*

ILLUSTRATE / EXEMPLIFY (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'show' — CLB 7: demonstrate | CLB 9+: illustrate, exemplify.

■ *"These statistics exemplify the growing demand for affordable housing."*

FACILITATE / CONTRIBUTE TO (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'help' — CLB 7: assist, support | CLB 9+: facilitate, contribute to.

■ *"Mentorship programs facilitate career development for recent graduates."*

SUBSTANTIAL / IMMENSE (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'big' — CLB 7: considerable | CLB 9+: substantial, immense.

■ *"The project required an immense amount of coordination across departments."*

NEGLIGIBLE / MARGINAL (adj) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Instead of 'small' — CLB 7: minor | CLB 9+: negligible, marginal.

■ *"The cost difference between the two options was negligible in the long run."*

OBTAIN / ATTAIN (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'get' — CLB 7: obtain, acquire | CLB 9+: procure, attain.

■ *"She worked hard to attain fluency in both English and French."*

GENERATE / ESTABLISH (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'make' — CLB 7: create, produce | CLB 9+: generate, establish.

■ *"The initiative helped establish stronger ties between local businesses."*

LEVERAGE / HARNESS (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Instead of 'use' — CLB 7: utilize, employ | CLB 9+: leverage, harness.

■ *"Communities should harness local talent to drive economic development."*

TRANSFORM / REVOLUTIONIZE (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'change' — CLB 7: modify, alter | CLB 9+: transform, revolutionize.

■ *"Remote work has the potential to revolutionize how companies operate globally."*

FURNISH / ALLOCATE (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Instead of 'give' — CLB 7: provide, offer | CLB 9+: furnish, allocate.

■ *"The organization allocates resources to support underserved communities."*

PRESERVE / SUSTAIN (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'keep' — CLB 7: maintain, retain | CLB 9+: preserve, sustain.

■ *"It is essential to preserve natural habitats for future generations."*

NECESSITATE / WARRANT (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Instead of 'need' — CLB 7: require | CLB 9+: necessitate, warrant.

■ *"The severity of the situation warrants immediate government intervention."*

CULMINATE / CEASE (verb) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Instead of 'end' — CLB 7: conclude, terminate | CLB 9+: culminate, cease.

■ *"The week-long festival will culminate in a grand fireworks display."*

COMMENCE / EMBARK ON (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'start' — CLB 7: begin, initiate | CLB 9+: commence, embark on.

■ *"The city will embark on a five-year infrastructure improvement plan."*

DISCONTINUE / SUSPEND (verb) ★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Instead of 'stop' — CLB 7: cease, halt | CLB 9+: discontinue, suspend.

■ *"The company decided to discontinue the product line due to low demand."*

AMPLE / SATISFACTORY (adj) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'enough' — CLB 7: sufficient, adequate | CLB 9+: ample, satisfactory.

■ *"There is ample evidence to support the need for improved cycling lanes."*

PREDICAMENT / DILEMMA (noun) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'problem' — CLB 7: issue, concern | CLB 9+: predicament, dilemma.

■ *"The housing shortage has created a real dilemma for young professionals."*

RESOLUTION / CLARIFICATION (noun) ★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'answer' — CLB 7: response, reply | CLB 9+: resolution, clarification.

■ *"The committee is working toward a resolution that satisfies all parties."*

OWING TO / ATTRIBUTED TO (phrase) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Reading

Instead of 'because' — CLB 7: due to, as a result of | CLB 9+: owing to, attributed to.

■ *"The delay was attributed to supply chain disruptions caused by the storm."*

NEVERTHELESS / NOTWITHSTANDING (adv/prep) ★★★ | Writing ♦ Speaking

Instead of 'but' — CLB 7: however, although | CLB 9+: nevertheless, notwithstanding.

■ *"The evidence was inconclusive; nevertheless, the policy was adopted."*

Quick Reference — Top 20 Power Words

These 20 words are the most versatile for CELPIP. Master these first.

#	Word	Quick Definition
1	substantial	Large in amount or importance
2	comprehensive	Including all necessary elements
3	facilitate	To make a process easier
4	implement	To put a plan into action
5	consequently	As a result of something
6	nevertheless	Despite what was just said
7	furthermore	In addition to what was said
8	advocate	To publicly support a cause
9	emphasize	To stress the importance of
10	acknowledge	To accept or recognize something
11	significantly	To a great or notable extent
12	predominantly	Mainly; for the most part
13	overwhelmed	Feeling too much emotion or work
14	mitigate	To make something less severe
15	alleviate	To make pain or problems less
16	compelling	Convincing or captivating
17	beneficial	Producing good results
18	demonstrate	To show or prove clearly
19	enhance	To improve or increase quality
20	viable	Capable of working successfully

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