40 CELPIP Speaking topics

Five original prompts for each of the eight Speaking tasks, with visual prompts and planning suggestions.

How to use this workbook

Choose a prompt and use the free Speaking timer at prepex.ai/celpip/speaking-timer. Plan in keywords, then speak without reading a full script.

For Task 5, choose an option first. The other person's option and persuasion instructions appear in the reveal section at the end of this workbook. Do not read that section until the choice stage is finished.

Use the planning suggestions after an initial attempt if you want an unfamiliar-task rehearsal. They are possible approaches, not an answer key.

Review whether you addressed the listener, supported your main point and spoke clearly. Repeat one useful improvement on a fresh prompt.

Original PrepEx practice material. These are not recalled or predicted exam questions. Examples and study tools do not establish an official CELPIP score.

prepex.ai/celpip/speaking-topics

Official format sources

CELPIP format and scoring. Task guidance checked against the official 2026 Writing Pro and revised May 2026 Speaking Pro study packs. Full source links are on the companion web page.

Task 1: Giving Advice

speaking-1-1 / A first community presentation

Your friend is giving a short presentation at a neighbourhood meeting for the first time. They know their topic but worry that they will forget what to say. Give your friend advice on preparing and speaking.

Planning notes: Choose three manageable actions: organise key points, rehearse aloud, and plan how to recover. Explain why each action helps this friend, rather than simply listing tips.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-1-2 / Keeping a shared kitchen usable

Your roommate enjoys cooking but finds the shared kitchen crowded in the evenings. Give your roommate advice on preparing meals without getting in everyone else's way.

Planning notes: Consider preparation, timing and communication. Support suggestions with examples that respect other users of the kitchen.

Related task models and commentary

Task 1: Giving Advice

speaking-1-3 / Returning to a hobby

Your cousin wants to take up drawing again after a long break. They have only a little free time and feel discouraged by their first attempts. Give them advice.

Planning notes: Suggest a small routine, a way to choose practice activities, and a way to notice progress. Keep the tone encouraging without promising quick improvement.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-1-4 / Organising a neighbourhood walk

Your neighbour is arranging a casual group walk for residents who have not met before. Give advice on making the event welcoming and easy to join.

Planning notes: Consider a clear meeting point, an accessible route and introductions. Explain how each suggestion reduces a practical barrier.

Related task models and commentary

Task 1: Giving Advice

speaking-1-5 / A new volunteer at a busy desk

Your friend has volunteered to help at a community centre reception desk. They are worried about handling several visitors at once. Give them advice before their first shift.

Planning notes: Develop advice about learning the routine, prioritising visitors and asking for help. Use a realistic example of two requests arriving together.

Related task models and commentary

Task 2: Talking about a Personal Experience

speaking-2-1 / An instruction that finally made sense

Talk about a time when an explanation helped you understand how to do something. What had confused you, what changed, and how did you feel afterwards?

Planning notes: Select one short event rather than your whole learning history. Make the turning point clear and finish with its effect on you.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-2-2 / A plan changed by the weather

Talk about a time when the weather changed a plan you had made. Describe the original plan, the change you made and the result.

Planning notes: Keep the original plan brief so there is time for the adjustment. Use past-tense sequencing and one concrete detail.

Related task models and commentary

Task 2: Talking about a Personal Experience

speaking-2-3 / Finding a useful second purpose

Talk about a time when you reused an object in a helpful way instead of throwing it away. Explain what you did and why the experience stayed with you.

Planning notes: Identify the object and the problem it helped solve. Explain the result without turning the answer into a general recycling opinion.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-2-4 / A small act of encouragement

Talk about a time when someone encouraged you to keep trying. Describe the situation, what the person did and how you responded.

Planning notes: Choose an everyday situation you can explain comfortably. Show the difference between how you felt before and after.

Related task models and commentary

Task 2: Talking about a Personal Experience

speaking-2-5 / Noticing a mistake in time

Talk about a time when you noticed a small mistake before it caused a larger problem. Explain what happened and what you learned.

Planning notes: Give the listener enough context to understand the mistake. Include your action and its result; avoid a long list of background details.

Related task models and commentary

Task 3: Describing a Scene

speaking-3-1 / A neighbourhood market



Describe what is happening in this picture to someone who cannot see it.

Planning notes: Start with the market setting, then move from the fruit stall to the fallen apples and the flower shoppers. Distinguish the vendor weighing fruit from the adult and child picking it up; avoid guessing how the crate fell.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-3-2 / Boarding a harbour ferry



Describe what is happening in this picture to someone who cannot see it.

Planning notes: Use the boarding ramp to organise the scene: ticket checking beside it, people walking up it, and waiting passengers to the left. Describe the adult adjusting the child's backpack without inventing their relationship or destination.

Related task models and commentary

Task 3: Describing a Scene

speaking-3-3 / Harvest time in the garden



Describe what is happening in this picture to someone who cannot see it.

Planning notes: Separate planting, watering and harvesting so that your description does more than list garden objects. Locate the wheelbarrow and shed behind the raised beds; use the pathways to connect the groups.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-3-4 / An afternoon pottery class



Describe what is happening in this picture to someone who cannot see it.

Planning notes: Move from the pottery wheel in the foreground to the demonstration, mug painting and bowls being carried behind. Use plain action verbs if you do not know a specialist term; the pictured activity matters more than pottery vocabulary.

Related task models and commentary

Task 3: Describing a Scene

speaking-3-5 / At the outdoor skating rink



Describe what is happening in this picture to someone who cannot see it.

Planning notes: Connect the seated skater tying laces, the child using a blue aid and the worker clearing ice by position. Describe visible support and movement; do not assume the child is about to fall.

Related task models and commentary

Task 4: Making Predictions

speaking-4-1 / What happens next? A neighbourhood market



Look at this picture. Explain what you think will probably happen next, using details in the picture to support your predictions.

Planning notes: The fruit on the ground makes further collecting or replacing the crate plausible; explain that clue. The customer beside the scales may finish buying fruit. Keep uncertain actions as possibilities.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-4-2 / What happens next? Boarding a harbour ferry



Look at this picture. Explain what you think will probably happen next, using details in the picture to support your predictions.

Planning notes: Use the ticket check and people on the ramp to support a prediction about boarding. The adult adjusting the backpack may finish helping the child; do not invent a missed departure.

Related task models and commentary

Task 4: Making Predictions

speaking-4-3 / What happens next? Harvest time in the garden



Look at this picture. Explain what you think will probably happen next, using details in the picture to support your predictions.

Planning notes: Consider what the person with the watering can or the pair with carrots may do next. Support a prediction with the tool or action you can see, rather than a distant future harvest.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-4-4 / What happens next? An afternoon pottery class



Look at this picture. Explain what you think will probably happen next, using details in the picture to support your predictions.

Planning notes: The learner watching the demonstration may try the technique; explain why the watching matters. The person carrying bowls may place them on the nearby shelving. Avoid inventing a breakage.

Related task models and commentary

Task 4: Making Predictions

speaking-4-5 / What happens next? At the outdoor skating rink



Look at this picture. Explain what you think will probably happen next, using details in the picture to support your predictions.

Planning notes: The seated person may step onto the ice after tying her skate; that visible preparation supports the prediction. The child may continue practising with the blue aid while the worker clears another section. Keep the forecast safe and plausible.

Related task models and commentary

Task 5: Comparing and Persuading

speaking-5-1 / A place for a reading group

You and a friend are choosing a place for an eight-person reading group. Choose one of these two options silently.

Library room: Free; quiet; eight seats around one table; available Saturday morning.

Cafe alcove: Each person buys a drink; ten seats; lively atmosphere; available Saturday afternoon.

Stop after choosing. Find this prompt ID in the Task 5 reveal section when you are ready for the preparation stage.

Related task models and commentary

Task 5: Comparing and Persuading

speaking-5-2 / An activity for visiting friends

You and your roommate are planning an afternoon for four visiting friends. Choose one of these two activities silently.

Self-guided waterfront walk: Free; outdoors; about two hours; flexible start time.

Small local museum: Entry costs $12 per person; indoors; about ninety minutes; closes at five.

Stop after choosing. Find this prompt ID in the Task 5 reveal section when you are ready for the preparation stage.

Related task models and commentary

Task 5: Comparing and Persuading

speaking-5-3 / A gift for a club volunteer

Your club is choosing a thank-you gift for a volunteer who enjoys practical activities. Choose one of these two options silently.

Art-supply voucher: Costs $40; recipient chooses the materials; usable online or in one local store.

Beginner gardening kit: Costs $35; seeds, gloves and three pots included; delivered to the recipient.

Stop after choosing. Find this prompt ID in the Task 5 reveal section when you are ready for the preparation stage.

Related task models and commentary

Task 5: Comparing and Persuading

speaking-5-4 / A way to share club updates

You and another organiser need a way to share updates with a twenty-person hobby club. Choose one of these two options silently.

Weekly email: Free; one organised summary; members can read at any time; replies go to the organiser.

Group message chat: Free; immediate updates; members can reply to everyone; frequent notifications possible.

Stop after choosing. Find this prompt ID in the Task 5 reveal section when you are ready for the preparation stage.

Related task models and commentary

Task 5: Comparing and Persuading

speaking-5-5 / A storage solution for shared supplies

You and a neighbour need somewhere to keep shared gardening supplies. Choose one of these two options silently.

Lockable outdoor box: Costs $120; holds tools and gloves; stays beside the garden; no indoor space needed.

Indoor shelving unit: Costs $75; holds tools, gloves and seed trays; kept in a shared room; accessible during building hours.

Stop after choosing. Find this prompt ID in the Task 5 reveal section when you are ready for the preparation stage.

Related task models and commentary

Task 6: Dealing with a Difficult Situation

speaking-6-1 / A borrowed table needed twice

You promised to lend your folding table to a friend on Saturday. Your building now needs the same table for a resident event that day. Choose either to keep your promise to your friend or to ask the friend to make another arrangement. Speak directly to the person affected and explain your decision.

Planning notes: Name the decision early and acknowledge its effect on the listener. Give specific reasons and offer a practical next step without pretending the conflict disappears.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-6-2 / A group photo someone wants removed

A club member asks you to remove a group photo you posted because they do not want to appear online. Another member wants to keep it as a record of the event. Decide whether to remove the photo or replace it with a version that leaves the first person out. Speak to the member who wants to keep the original and explain your decision.

Planning notes: Treat the concern respectfully. Explain the chosen action and a reasonable way to preserve the event record.

Related task models and commentary

Task 6: Dealing with a Difficult Situation

speaking-6-3 / A rehearsal and a quiet neighbour

Your small music group planned to rehearse in your living room on Friday evening. Your neighbour has asked for quiet that evening because they are preparing for an early start. Choose either to move the rehearsal or to ask your group to rehearse quietly for a shorter time. Speak to your group leader and explain the decision.

Planning notes: State the chosen arrangement and why it is workable. Recognise the group's preparation needs as well as the neighbour's request.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-6-4 / Changing a shared project partner

You agreed to work with a classmate on a short presentation. Another classmate now asks you to join their group because they have lost a partner. Decide whether to keep your original arrangement or to ask your current partner about joining the other group together. Speak to the classmate who has asked for help and explain your decision.

Planning notes: Be clear about what you can actually commit to. Avoid blaming either classmate; explain the existing responsibility.

Related task models and commentary

Task 6: Dealing with a Difficult Situation

speaking-6-5 / An item saved for a late collection

You are giving away a bookshelf. One neighbour promised to collect it today but has just asked you to wait a week. A second neighbour can collect it tomorrow, and you need the space. Decide whether to hold it or offer it to the second neighbour. Speak to the first neighbour and explain your decision.

Planning notes: Connect your decision to the practical timing issue. Stay courteous and make the next step unambiguous.

Related task models and commentary

Task 7: Expressing Opinions

speaking-7-1 / One shared space without phones

Should community centres offer a room where visitors are asked to put their phones away? Explain your opinion.

Planning notes: Take a clear position and develop two distinct reasons. Consider who benefits and address a practical exception or limitation.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-7-2 / Learning basic repairs

Should secondary schools offer a short course in repairing everyday household items? Explain your opinion.

Planning notes: Explain a concrete use for the skill and a separate educational benefit or drawback. Avoid assuming students already have tools or specialist knowledge.

Related task models and commentary

Task 7: Expressing Opinions

speaking-7-3 / Booking park picnic tables

Should people have to reserve popular public picnic tables in advance? Explain your opinion.

Planning notes: Think about fair access and how spontaneous visits would work. Use one specific situation to support your position.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-7-4 / A meeting-free afternoon

Should workplaces set aside one afternoon each week with no internal meetings? Explain your opinion.

Planning notes: Connect the policy to actual work rather than simply saying meetings are bad. Consider a situation where an exception would be sensible.

Related task models and commentary

Task 7: Expressing Opinions

speaking-7-5 / Borrowing things locally

Should neighbourhood organisations create a library for lending items such as games, tools and sports equipment? Explain your opinion.

Planning notes: Develop benefits or concerns about access, maintenance and responsibility. Use an example that does not depend on specialist equipment knowledge.

Related task models and commentary

Task 8: Describing an Unusual Situation

speaking-8-1 / A moving library



You are in a public square and see this unusual bicycle. Call a friend who likes books, describe what you see, and explain what makes it unusual.

Planning notes: Describe how the green bicycle combines a tall bookcase over the rear wheel with a small reading support near the handlebars. Use the ordinary bench and the person beside it to give a sense of size; do not claim it can be ridden safely.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-8-2 / A surprising shop display



You are outside a shop and see this unusual display. Call your friend, describe it in detail, and explain why it caught your attention.

Planning notes: Compare the yellow boot with the person and normal watering can beside it to convey its unusual scale. Describe the plants and purple flowers at its top, separating its boot shape from its use as a planter.

Related task models and commentary

Task 8: Describing an Unusual Situation

speaking-8-3 / Somewhere unusual to sit



You are waiting in a covered plaza and see this unusual seat. Call a friend who is on their way, describe it, and explain how they will recognise it.

Planning notes: Explain the blue bowl shape, its metal base and the person sitting inside it. Contrast the seat with the ordinary closed umbrella beside it so your friend can picture the resemblance.

Related task models and commentary

speaking-8-4 / Giant paper boats indoors



You are in a transit building and see this unexpected activity. Call a friend, describe what people are doing, and explain what makes the scene unusual.

Planning notes: Compare the giant blue and orange folded boats with the kneeling people to explain the scale. Describe the cart of large paper sheets and the indoor setting without inventing the event's purpose.

Related task models and commentary

Task 8: Describing an Unusual Situation

speaking-8-5 / A planter idea for your club



Your gardening club is collecting ideas for an unusual display. You see this planter outside a shop. Call another club member, describe its appearance and size, and explain the feature you want them to imagine.

Planning notes: Begin with the yellow boot shape and the opening filled with flowers; use the nearby person to make its size clear. Explain which visual feature could inspire a club display without claiming you know how the planter was built.

Related task models and commentary

Task 5 / Reveal after choosing

speaking-5-1 / A place for a reading group

Community lounge: Room fee of $24 for the group; twelve seats; comfortable sofas; available Saturday evening.

Your friend prefers the community lounge. Persuade your friend that your earlier choice is better for the reading group.

Planning notes: After the reveal, compare your chosen option with the new alternative using their actual features. Acknowledge one advantage of the other choice, then explain why your priority matters more.

My main advantage: _____

The other option's strength and limitation: _____

My practical next step: _____

speaking-5-2 / An activity for visiting friends

Cooking workshop: Costs $35 per person; indoors; two hours; starts at three.

Your roommate prefers the cooking workshop. Persuade your roommate that your earlier choice is better for this visit.

Planning notes: After the reveal, compare your chosen option with the new alternative using their actual features. Acknowledge one advantage of the other choice, then explain why your priority matters more.

My main advantage: _____

The other option's strength and limitation: _____

My practical next step: _____

Task 5 / Reveal after choosing

speaking-5-3 / A gift for a club volunteer

Pottery session: Costs $45; one instructor-led session; materials included; must be used on a weekday.

Another club member prefers the pottery session. Persuade that member that your earlier choice is better for the volunteer.

Planning notes: After the reveal, compare your chosen option with the new alternative using their actual features. Acknowledge one advantage of the other choice, then explain why your priority matters more.

My main advantage: _____

The other option's strength and limitation: _____

My practical next step: _____

speaking-5-4 / A way to share club updates

Printed monthly sheet: Printing costs $10 each month; handed out at meetings; easy to keep; late changes need a separate notice.

The other organiser prefers the printed sheet. Persuade that organiser that your earlier choice is better for the club.

Planning notes: After the reveal, compare your chosen option with the new alternative using their actual features. Acknowledge one advantage of the other choice, then explain why your priority matters more.

My main advantage: _____

The other option's strength and limitation: _____

My practical next step: _____

Task 5 / Reveal after choosing

speaking-5-5 / A storage solution for shared supplies

Small outdoor shed: Costs $250; holds tools and a wheelbarrow; accessible at any time; needs assembly.

Your neighbour prefers the shed. Persuade your neighbour that your earlier choice is better for the shared supplies.

Planning notes: After the reveal, compare your chosen option with the new alternative using their actual features. Acknowledge one advantage of the other choice, then explain why your priority matters more.

My main advantage: _____

The other option's strength and limitation: _____

My practical next step: _____