CELPIP vocabulary

200 words and phrases

Ten everyday topic groups, with a meaning, an original example and a useful phrase pattern for every entry.

Choose five to ten entries. Recall the meaning, make a new sentence and say it aloud. Return to the entries after a gap. Accurate use matters more than including unusual words.

This is an original PrepEx study collection, not an official CELPIP word list or a prediction of test content.

prepex.ai/celpip/vocabulary-pdf

Examples and exercises on the web page help you check meaning and use. Practice estimates from preparation tools are not official CELPIP results.

Work and schedules / 1

shift - a scheduled period of work.
Example: My evening shift ends at ten.
Pattern: work an evening shift

deadline - the latest time something must be finished.
Example: We need the final design before Friday's deadline.
Pattern: meet a deadline

workload - the amount of work someone has.
Example: Sharing the calls would reduce your workload.
Pattern: manage a heavy workload

handover - the transfer of work or responsibility.
Example: Please leave a short handover note for the next team.
Pattern: a smooth handover

colleague - someone you work with.
Example: A colleague offered to cover my shift.
Pattern: ask a colleague

supervisor - a person who oversees work.
Example: My supervisor approved the schedule change.
Pattern: check with a supervisor

annual leave - paid time away from work each year.
Example: I have booked annual leave for the first week of June.
Pattern: request annual leave

flexible hours - working times that can be adjusted.
Example: Flexible hours would help staff who collect children after school.
Pattern: offer flexible hours

commute - the regular journey between home and work.
Example: The new route would shorten my commute.
Pattern: a shorter commute

available - free or ready to be used.
Example: I am available for a meeting on Thursday afternoon.
Pattern: available for a meeting

Work and schedules / 2

prioritize - decide what needs attention first.
Example: We should prioritize urgent repairs this week.
Pattern: prioritize urgent tasks

delegate - give someone responsibility for a task.
Example: You could delegate the routine calls to another team member.
Pattern: delegate a task

cover for - do someone's work while they are away.
Example: Could you cover for me on Monday morning?
Pattern: cover for a colleague

reschedule - arrange a different time.
Example: I need to reschedule our appointment because my shift has changed.
Pattern: reschedule an appointment

work overtime - work beyond normal hours.
Example: Several employees worked overtime to finish the order.
Pattern: agree to work overtime

fall behind - make less progress than planned.
Example: We fell behind when the delivery arrived late.
Pattern: fall behind schedule

catch up - reach the expected level of progress.
Example: An extra practice session helped me catch up.
Pattern: catch up on work

on short notice - with little advance warning.
Example: Thank you for meeting me on short notice.
Pattern: arrange something on short notice

in advance - before something happens.
Example: Please tell the team in advance if you need to leave early.
Pattern: book in advance

follow up - take further action on an earlier matter.
Example: I will follow up with the supplier tomorrow.
Pattern: follow up on a request

Housing and neighbors / 1

tenant - a person who rents a property.
Example: The tenant reported a leak in the kitchen.
Pattern: a new tenant

landlord - a person or organization that rents out property.
Example: I emailed the landlord about the broken heater.
Pattern: contact the landlord

lease - an agreement to rent property for a period.
Example: Our lease ends in September.
Pattern: renew a lease

deposit - money paid in advance as security or part payment.
Example: Please explain when the deposit will be returned.
Pattern: pay a deposit

maintenance - work that keeps something in good condition.
Example: The elevator needs regular maintenance.
Pattern: routine maintenance

repair - fix damage or a fault.
Example: Could someone repair the lock this week?
Pattern: arrange a repair

leak - an unwanted escape of liquid or gas.
Example: There is a leak beneath the bathroom sink.
Pattern: report a leak

insulation - material that reduces heat loss or noise.
Example: Better insulation would keep the apartment warmer.
Pattern: improve insulation

shared space - an area used by several people.
Example: Please remove personal boxes from the shared space.
Pattern: keep shared spaces clear

quiet hours - times when noise should be kept low.
Example: The building's quiet hours begin at ten.
Pattern: respect quiet hours

Housing and neighbors / 2

renovation - work that improves or updates a building.
Example: The renovation will temporarily close the laundry room.
Pattern: a kitchen renovation

furnished - supplied with furniture.
Example: A furnished room would save me the cost of buying a bed.
Pattern: a furnished apartment

utilities - services such as electricity and water.
Example: The advertised rent does not include utilities.
Pattern: pay utility bills

storage - space or arrangements for keeping things.
Example: We need secure storage for bicycles.
Pattern: extra storage space

move in - begin living in a place.
Example: We plan to move in at the end of the month.
Pattern: move into an apartment

move out - stop living in a place.
Example: Please inspect the room before I move out.
Pattern: move out of a room

wear and tear - gradual damage from normal use.
Example: The marks appear to be ordinary wear and tear.
Pattern: normal wear and tear

notice period - time required between notification and an action.
Example: Check the notice period before ending the agreement.
Pattern: give the required notice

nearby - not far away.
Example: There is a small grocery store nearby.
Pattern: nearby facilities

accessible - easy to reach or use.
Example: The entrance should be accessible to wheelchair users.
Pattern: an accessible entrance

Shopping and services / 1

receipt - a document confirming payment.
Example: I have attached the receipt for the damaged lamp.
Pattern: keep a receipt

refund - money returned after a payment.
Example: I would prefer a refund because the replacement is unavailable.
Pattern: request a refund

replacement - something supplied instead of another item.
Example: The store sent a replacement charger.
Pattern: receive a replacement

warranty - a promise to repair or replace certain faulty goods.
Example: Could you check whether the repair is covered by the warranty?
Pattern: under warranty

faulty - not working correctly.
Example: The faulty switch makes the kettle difficult to use.
Pattern: a faulty appliance

damaged - physically harmed or broken.
Example: The parcel arrived with a damaged corner.
Pattern: damaged packaging

exchange - replace an item with another.
Example: May I exchange this jacket for a smaller size?
Pattern: exchange an item

out of stock - not currently available to buy.
Example: The blue model is out of stock until next month.
Pattern: temporarily out of stock

delivery window - the period when a delivery is expected.
Example: Could you offer a narrower delivery window?
Pattern: confirm a delivery window

tracking number - a code used to follow a delivery.
Example: The tracking number shows that the parcel is still in transit.
Pattern: use a tracking number

Shopping and services / 2

invoice - a document requesting payment for goods or services.
Example: The invoice includes a charge I do not recognize.
Pattern: check an invoice

quote - an estimated price offered for work.
Example: Please send a written quote before beginning the repair.
Pattern: request a quote

appointment - an arranged time to meet or receive a service.
Example: I booked an appointment to have the bicycle repaired.
Pattern: book an appointment

subscription - an arrangement for regular access or deliveries.
Example: I would like to pause my monthly subscription.
Pattern: cancel a subscription

renew - extend an agreement or service.
Example: Please remind me before the membership renews.
Pattern: renew a membership

cancellation - the act of ending an arrangement.
Example: Please confirm the cancellation by email.
Pattern: a cancellation confirmation

inconvenience - trouble or difficulty caused by a situation.
Example: The delayed delivery caused considerable inconvenience.
Pattern: cause inconvenience

resolve - find a satisfactory answer to a problem.
Example: I hope we can resolve this without another visit.
Pattern: resolve an issue

compensation - something provided to make up for loss or trouble.
Example: I am asking what compensation is available for the missed service.
Pattern: request compensation

proof of purchase - evidence that an item was bought.
Example: The shop asked for proof of purchase.
Pattern: provide proof of purchase

Transport and travel / 1

delay - a period of waiting beyond the expected time.
Example: A signal problem caused a twenty-minute delay.
Pattern: a significant delay

detour - a different route taken to avoid an obstruction.
Example: The roadworks forced us to take a detour.
Pattern: take a detour

congestion - traffic so heavy that movement is slow.
Example: More frequent buses could reduce congestion near the station.
Pattern: traffic congestion

pedestrian - a person traveling on foot.
Example: The crossing needs better lighting for pedestrians.
Pattern: pedestrian safety

intersection - a place where roads meet.
Example: Drivers often block the intersection during rush hour.
Pattern: a busy intersection

fare - the price of a journey.
Example: The monthly pass costs less than paying a fare each day.
Pattern: a bus fare

transfer - a change from one service to another.
Example: This journey requires a transfer at Central Station.
Pattern: make a transfer

platform - the area where passengers board a train.
Example: The departure platform changed shortly before the train arrived.
Pattern: wait on the platform

route - the path taken from one place to another.
Example: The new route passes the hospital.
Pattern: a direct route

frequency - how often something happens.
Example: Increasing bus frequency would help evening workers.
Pattern: service frequency

Transport and travel / 2

reliable - able to be trusted to work consistently.
Example: A reliable bus service would make driving less necessary.
Pattern: reliable transport

rush hour - the busiest travel period of the day.
Example: The train is crowded during rush hour.
Pattern: morning rush hour

round trip - a journey to a place and back.
Example: The round trip takes about ninety minutes.
Pattern: a round-trip ticket

carpool - share a car journey with other people.
Example: We could carpool to the workshop.
Pattern: arrange a carpool

parking permit - official permission to park in a place.
Example: Visitors need a parking permit for the courtyard.
Pattern: apply for a parking permit

bicycle lane - a marked part of a road for bicycles.
Example: A protected bicycle lane would make the route safer.
Pattern: a protected bicycle lane

within walking distance - close enough to walk to easily.
Example: The clinic is within walking distance of my apartment.
Pattern: within walking distance of the station

miss a connection - arrive too late for the next part of a journey.
Example: The delay caused me to miss a connection.
Pattern: miss a train connection

set off - begin a journey.
Example: We should set off early in case the roads are busy.
Pattern: set off early

get around - travel from place to place.
Example: Visitors can get around the town without a car.
Pattern: get around by bus

Community and public services / 1

resident - a person who lives in a place.
Example: Residents would like a safer crossing near the park.
Pattern: local residents

volunteer - a person who works without being paid.
Example: A volunteer showed us how to register.
Pattern: recruit volunteers

facility - a place or piece of equipment provided for a purpose.
Example: The sports facility needs a better ventilation system.
Pattern: a public facility

funding - money provided for an activity.
Example: The program needs funding for weekend sessions.
Pattern: secure funding

proposal - a suggested plan.
Example: The proposal includes space for a small community garden.
Pattern: consider a proposal

outreach - efforts to connect a service with people who may need it.
Example: The team uses community events for outreach to new residents.
Pattern: community outreach

participation - the act of taking part.
Example: Evening sessions may increase participation among working adults.
Pattern: encourage participation

inclusive - welcoming people with different needs and backgrounds.
Example: An inclusive event should offer activities for different ages.
Pattern: an inclusive program

affordable - reasonably priced for the person paying.
Example: The center should offer affordable classes for families.
Pattern: affordable access

amenity - a useful or pleasant feature of a place.
Example: The new benches would be a welcome amenity.
Pattern: local amenities

Community and public services / 2

neighborhood - the area around where someone lives.
Example: Our neighborhood has few indoor places to meet.
Pattern: a residential neighborhood

litter - rubbish left in a public place.
Example: More bins could reduce litter near the playground.
Pattern: pick up litter

recycling - processing used materials so they can be used again.
Example: Clear labels would make recycling easier.
Pattern: a recycling bin

sustainability - the ability to continue without exhausting resources.
Example: Repairing equipment supports the program's sustainability.
Pattern: environmental sustainability

preserve - keep something safe or in its existing condition.
Example: The design should preserve the mature trees.
Pattern: preserve green space

access - the ability or opportunity to enter or use something.
Example: The evening opening provides access for shift workers.
Pattern: improve access

priority - something considered more important than other things.
Example: Repairing the unsafe steps should be a priority.
Pattern: a top priority

public consultation - a formal opportunity for the public to comment.
Example: The library announced a public consultation on its plans.
Pattern: hold a public consultation

raise awareness - help more people understand an issue.
Example: The campaign could raise awareness of food waste.
Pattern: raise awareness of a problem

make a difference - have a useful or noticeable effect.
Example: A later bus would make a difference to hospital staff.
Pattern: make a positive difference

Learning and development / 1

enroll - officially join a course or program.
Example: I would like to enroll in the evening photography course.
Pattern: enroll in a course

assignment - a piece of work given to a learner or worker.
Example: The assignment asks us to compare two advertisements.
Pattern: submit an assignment

feedback - information about how well something was done.
Example: The feedback helped me make my explanation clearer.
Pattern: act on feedback

revise - change work to improve or correct it.
Example: I revised the final paragraph to make the request clearer.
Pattern: revise a draft

draft - an early version of a piece of writing.
Example: My first draft did not explain the main problem.
Pattern: a first draft

progress - movement toward a goal.
Example: Record your progress after each week of practice.
Pattern: make steady progress

concentrate - give close attention to something.
Example: I find it easier to concentrate in a quiet room.
Pattern: concentrate on a task

retain - keep something in memory or possession.
Example: Using new phrases helps me retain them.
Pattern: retain information

recall - bring something back to mind.
Example: Try to recall the meaning before checking the answer.
Pattern: recall a detail

clarify - make something easier to understand.
Example: Could you clarify the final instruction?
Pattern: clarify a point

Learning and development / 2

summarize - state the main points briefly.
Example: Summarize the speaker's reasons in two sentences.
Pattern: summarize an argument

interpret - understand or explain the meaning of something.
Example: I interpreted the comment as a suggestion, not a promise.
Pattern: interpret a comment

consistent - remaining similar in quality or behavior.
Example: A consistent routine is easier to maintain.
Pattern: consistent practice

manageable - possible to deal with without excessive difficulty.
Example: Break the work into manageable sessions.
Pattern: a manageable workload

challenging - requiring considerable effort or skill.
Example: The final exercise was challenging but useful.
Pattern: a challenging task

practical - useful in real situations.
Example: The course gave me practical ways to review my writing.
Pattern: practical advice

hands-on - involving direct experience or activity.
Example: The workshop includes hands-on repair practice.
Pattern: hands-on experience

keep track of - record or monitor something over time.
Example: Keep track of errors that appear in several drafts.
Pattern: keep track of progress

learn from - gain understanding through an experience.
Example: I learned from the mistake and checked the address next time.
Pattern: learn from feedback

put into practice - use an idea or skill in a real activity.
Example: Try a fresh prompt to put the advice into practice.
Pattern: put a strategy into practice

Opinions and comparisons / 1

advantage - a useful or favorable feature.
Example: One advantage of the earlier class is that I can walk home.
Pattern: a clear advantage

drawback - a disadvantage or difficulty.
Example: The main drawback is the limited seating.
Pattern: a potential drawback

alternative - another available choice.
Example: An online session would be a useful alternative.
Pattern: a practical alternative

trade-off - a balance between a benefit and a cost.
Example: There is a trade-off between a central location and lower rent.
Pattern: consider the trade-off

benefit - a positive result or useful effect.
Example: Families would benefit from the longer opening hours.
Pattern: a lasting benefit

consequence - a result of an action or situation.
Example: One consequence would be a longer wait for repairs.
Pattern: an unintended consequence

outweigh - be more important than something else.
Example: The convenience would outweigh the small extra cost.
Pattern: benefits outweigh costs

prefer - like or choose one thing more than another.
Example: I prefer the indoor venue because the weather is uncertain.
Pattern: prefer one option to another

recommend - suggest that something is a good choice.
Example: I recommend keeping the current booking system.
Pattern: recommend a change

justify - give a good reason for something.
Example: The extra use may justify the cost of a second room.
Pattern: justify the expense

Opinions and comparisons / 2

reasonable - fair or sensible in the circumstances.
Example: A small deposit seems reasonable for expensive equipment.
Pattern: a reasonable request

feasible - possible to carry out successfully.
Example: A trial on one evening would be feasible with the current staff.
Pattern: a feasible plan

efficient - using little unnecessary time or effort.
Example: Grouping appointments would make the service more efficient.
Pattern: an efficient process

effective - producing the intended result.
Example: A clear reminder may be more effective than a longer notice.
Pattern: an effective solution

equitable - fair in how opportunities or resources are shared.
Example: The funding should be shared in an equitable way.
Pattern: equitable access

in contrast - used to introduce a difference.
Example: The park is free; in contrast, the indoor venue charges admission.
Pattern: in contrast to

whereas - while, when comparing different facts.
Example: The first option helps drivers, whereas the second helps pedestrians.
Pattern: one option, whereas the other

provided that - only if a stated condition is met.
Example: I support the plan provided that evening access remains available.
Pattern: agree provided that

on balance - after considering the advantages and disadvantages.
Example: On balance, the smaller venue suits our event better.
Pattern: on balance, I would choose

from my perspective - according to the speaker's view or experience.
Example: From my perspective, reliable opening hours matter more than new furniture.
Pattern: from a resident's perspective

Requests and courteous disagreement / 1

would appreciate - would be grateful for.
Example: I would appreciate an update before Friday.
Pattern: would appreciate your help

could you please - a polite way to request an action.
Example: Could you please confirm the delivery date?
Pattern: could you please confirm

would you mind - a polite way to ask someone to do something.
Example: Would you mind checking the room number?
Pattern: would you mind checking

I was wondering - a gentle way to introduce a question or request.
Example: I was wondering whether a later appointment is available.
Pattern: I was wondering whether

at your convenience - at a time that suits the other person.
Example: Please call me at your convenience to discuss the options.
Pattern: reply at your convenience

concern - a worry or matter needing attention.
Example: My main concern is the lack of evening access.
Pattern: raise a concern

acknowledge - recognize or accept that something is true.
Example: I acknowledge that the repair may take several days.
Pattern: acknowledge a difficulty

apologize - express regret for a mistake or problem.
Example: I apologize for sending the wrong attachment.
Pattern: apologize for a mistake

misunderstanding - a failure to understand something correctly.
Example: There seems to have been a misunderstanding about the collection time.
Pattern: clear up a misunderstanding

considerate - showing care for other people's needs.
Example: Moving the practice indoors would be considerate of our neighbors.
Pattern: be considerate of others

Requests and courteous disagreement / 2

compromise - an agreement in which each side accepts some limits.
Example: A shorter trial might be a workable compromise.
Pattern: reach a compromise

accommodate - make arrangements that meet a need.
Example: Could the schedule accommodate staff who work nights?
Pattern: accommodate different needs

unfortunately - used to introduce an unwelcome fact.
Example: Unfortunately, I cannot attend the new date.
Pattern: unfortunately, I am unavailable

nevertheless - despite the point just mentioned.
Example: The room is smaller; nevertheless, it has enough seats for our group.
Pattern: nevertheless, it remains useful

I understand that - recognize another person's situation or point.
Example: I understand that weekends are busy, but the booking was confirmed.
Pattern: I understand your concern

would it be possible - a polite way to ask about an option.
Example: Would it be possible to collect the order tomorrow?
Pattern: would it be possible to change

for this reason - because of the point just explained.
Example: The entrance is narrow. For this reason, deliveries should use the side gate.
Pattern: for this reason, I suggest

in the meantime - during the period before something else happens.
Example: In the meantime, could you provide a temporary heater?
Pattern: in the meantime, please use

please let me know - a polite request for information.
Example: Please let me know which option you prefer.
Pattern: please let me know whether

thank you for your patience - an expression of appreciation while someone waits.
Example: Thank you for your patience while I check the details.
Pattern: thank you for your patience with

Experiences and feelings / 1

memorable - easy to remember because it was significant.
Example: The unexpected invitation made the evening memorable.
Pattern: a memorable experience

relieved - no longer worried about something.
Example: I felt relieved when the missing bag was found.
Pattern: feel relieved

frustrated - annoyed because progress is blocked.
Example: I was frustrated when the same error appeared again.
Pattern: feel frustrated by

hesitant - uncertain about acting.
Example: I was hesitant to speak before the group.
Pattern: hesitant to try

confident - sure of your ability or judgment.
Example: Practice made me more confident about explaining my ideas.
Pattern: feel confident about

awkward - uncomfortable or difficult socially.
Example: It was awkward to explain that I had forgotten the tickets.
Pattern: an awkward situation

disappointed - unhappy because expectations were not met.
Example: We were disappointed that the workshop ended early.
Pattern: disappointed with the result

grateful - feeling thankful.
Example: I was grateful for my neighbor's help.
Pattern: grateful for support

impressed - feeling admiration.
Example: I was impressed by how calmly she handled the problem.
Pattern: impressed by someone's effort

overwhelmed - feeling unable to cope with too much.
Example: I felt overwhelmed by the number of tasks.
Pattern: feel overwhelmed by work

Experiences and feelings / 2

adapt - change to suit new circumstances.
Example: It took me a few weeks to adapt to the new schedule.
Pattern: adapt to a change

cope with - deal with a difficult situation.
Example: Sharing the work helped us cope with the sudden demand.
Pattern: cope with pressure

realize - become aware of something.
Example: I realized that I had entered the wrong address.
Pattern: realize a mistake

reflect on - think carefully about an experience.
Example: After the meeting, I reflected on what I could explain better.
Pattern: reflect on an experience

encouragement - support that gives someone confidence.
Example: Her encouragement helped me try again.
Pattern: offer encouragement

setback - a difficulty that delays progress.
Example: The canceled venue was a setback, but we found another room.
Pattern: a temporary setback

turning point - a moment when a situation begins to change.
Example: Joining the club was a turning point in my first year here.
Pattern: a major turning point

at first - at the beginning.
Example: At first, I thought the task would be simple.
Pattern: at first, I assumed

in the end - after everything has happened.
Example: In the end, we agreed to share the space.
Pattern: in the end, we decided

looking back - thinking about the past from the present.
Example: Looking back, I should have checked the instructions sooner.
Pattern: looking back on an experience

Describing scenes and possibilities / 1

in the foreground - in the part of a scene nearest the viewer.
Example: In the foreground, a child is tying a shoelace.
Pattern: a person in the foreground

in the background - in the part of a scene farther away.
Example: A cyclist is waiting in the background.
Pattern: buildings in the background

beside - next to.
Example: A folded umbrella is resting beside the chair.
Pattern: stand beside something

opposite - on the other side facing something.
Example: The bench is opposite the café entrance.
Pattern: directly opposite

beneath - under.
Example: A small dog is sleeping beneath the table.
Pattern: beneath a tree

alongside - next to or together with.
Example: A narrow path runs alongside the canal.
Pattern: walk alongside

crowded - full of people or things.
Example: The platform looks crowded near the stairs.
Pattern: a crowded platform

spacious - having plenty of room.
Example: The hall appears spacious enough for several activities.
Pattern: a spacious room

cluttered - filled with too many objects in a disorderly way.
Example: The desk is cluttered with papers and cups.
Pattern: a cluttered surface

roughly - approximately, or not exactly.
Example: The object is roughly the size of a small suitcase.
Pattern: roughly the same size

Describing scenes and possibilities / 2

rectangular - shaped like a rectangle.
Example: There is a rectangular sign above the doorway.
Pattern: a rectangular shape

curved - bent in a smooth line.
Example: The lamp has a curved metal stand.
Pattern: a curved handle

striped - marked with lines of different colors.
Example: The person in the striped shirt is holding a map.
Pattern: a striped pattern

transparent - able to be seen through.
Example: The transparent box contains several tools.
Pattern: a transparent container

appears to - seems to, based on available evidence.
Example: The driver appears to be asking for directions.
Pattern: appears to be waiting

likely to - expected or probable to.
Example: The loose papers are likely to blow off the table.
Pattern: likely to happen

might - expresses a possibility rather than certainty.
Example: The woman might offer to help carry the bags.
Pattern: might decide to

about to - going to happen very soon.
Example: The runner looks about to cross the finish line.
Pattern: about to begin

judging by - forming an opinion from observed evidence.
Example: Judging by the dark clouds, the group may move indoors.
Pattern: judging by the expression

unless - except if.
Example: The picnic may end early unless the rain stops.
Pattern: unless conditions improve