

## PRACTICE CELC Listening Comprehension Script

*[General instructions appear in the test booklet and are spoken on the test recording.]*

### **Part One – Short Conversations**

*[An example question will be given on the test recording.]*

*[15 seconds will be provided to respond to each question in Part One.]*

#### **1. Getting permission**

Daughter: Dad, is it okay if I go meet some friends downtown?

Father: Have you done your homework?

Daughter: No, but I really need a break.

Father: Well okay, but you can only stay for an hour, and then you must get back.

#### **2. Before class**

Male: Hey, Lindsey, how are you...Ready for class?

Female: Yes John, I'm ready. You know that our papers are due today, don't you? Did you finish yours?

Male: Yes, I did; but I think I'll turn it in to the teacher tomorrow. I'd like to make some more corrections so that it's really good.

Female: I don't know, John; it might not be worth the trouble. You know she said she'd lower our grade significantly for each day that we were late.

#### **3. At the bank**

Woman: Good morning. How may I help you?

Man: Good morning. Can you tell me where to find the loan officer?

Woman: I'm sorry, sir. This branch does not have a loan officer. Please try our Main Street branch.

Man: Oh--I was just there yesterday. I guess I should have asked then! But thank you anyway.

#### **4. Friend's Recommendation**

Female: Hey there! What's going on?

Male: Hi. Hey, you can help me! I'm looking for a gift for my girlfriend, but I don't know where to start. Do you have any ideas?

Female: Ok, well, to start, tell me what she likes.

Male: Well, she enjoys mystery novels, and she also enjoys the occasional romance story when she's on vacation!

#### **5. Working in the grocery store**

Male: Where should I put these bananas?

Female: Put them up front so that people walking by can see them.

Male: I thought we were going to put the apples up there.

Female: We were, but I realize now that we have a lot more bananas than apples to sell.

## 6. Borrowing the car

Son: Hey Dad, could I borrow the car tonight? I would just need it for half-an-hour or so.  
Dad: Where are you going?  
Son: Over to Bob's house. I need to pick up some information about our homework assignment.  
Dad: That shouldn't be a problem.

## 7. Missing a file

Woman: Where is that file? I was just working on it a minute ago!  
Man: If you are talking about the one that was on the table by your desk, your secretary just filed it in the cabinet.  
Woman: When will she learn to just follow my directions and not try to clean up after me?! I appreciate her work ethic, but she oversteps her responsibilities!  
Man: I know what you mean! Sounds like you'll have to speak to her about it.

## 8. At the workplace

Man: Hey Kari, what did you think of the new parking policy?  
Woman: Well, I understand it, but I sure don't like it!  
Man: I know what you mean. Paying for parking is going to be a big change.  
Woman: It sure is. At least it won't be a lot of money.

## Part Two – Longer Conversations

### Questions 9-11: Choosing a Career: A student visits his high school guidance counselor

*[Examinees are given 15 seconds to preview questions 9-11.]*

Female: Hello, what can I help you with today?  
Male: Hi. I was wondering if you could give me some advice about choosing my career.  
Female: That is quite an in-depth question! Why don't you start by telling me some of your likes and dislikes?  
Male: Well, I have always been pretty good at my science subjects, like biology and chemistry. I really like doing experiments. I don't enjoy my literature classes very much. I find it hard to stay focused in those types of classes.  
Female: Ok, thanks, that is a good start. What about work experience? Have you had any part-time jobs?  
Male: Yes, I have. I've worked at a record store over the past two summers and really enjoyed getting to know the different styles of music. I liked the fact that the work environment was so laid back as well.  
Female: Good, good. Now, did you ever have any dreams of being in a certain profession as you were growing up?  
Male: Yeah, I guess I did. I remember wanting to be a fireman. I would imagine myself running into a burning building and saving my friend. *(Laughs)* I guess I was dreaming of being a hero!

*[30 seconds of additional time is given to examinees after the end of this conversation.]*

**Questions 12-15: Buying a New Car: A customer talks to a salesman about the features of a new car.**

*[Examinees are given 20 seconds to preview questions 12-15.]*

- Salesman: Thanks for coming by Smith's Auto Center. Can I help you with something today?
- Buyer: Yeah, I hope so. Yesterday my car, which I have owned for 11 years(!), was involved in an accident and my insurance company said it is not worth fixing. So, here I am looking for a new car.
- Salesman: Well, sorry to hear about your car, but I am sure we'll be able to find a deal for you that you'll be happy with here at Smiths. What type of vehicle are you looking for?
- Buyer: Well, I'm a single guy, so I don't need a really big car, but I would like a four-door so that my dog can get in and out of the backseat easily.
- Salesman: All right, we can help you with that. Let me show you our selection of four-door vehicles. Now this particular model is a hot seller. It gets good gas mileage, but also is pretty quick.
- Buyer: Hmm, it looks pretty nice. Now, I have to tell you, I've never bought a new car before, so this is a little bit overwhelming for me. What kind of features does the car have?
- Salesman: It has all of the air bags up in front and also comes with the optional side-impact air bags that deploy in a side collision. It also has an upgraded stereo system, and, oh yes, do you happen to have an MP3 player?
- Buyer: Yeah, I do--I use it all the time.
- Salesman: Well, great news, the radio on this model allows you to plug in your MP3 player directly and control all of the functions of your player through the radio! A LOT of my customers have told me that they love this feature. It is much easier to control than having to mess around with the tiny buttons as you drive. Now, if you take a look at the inside...*[fade out voices here]*

*[40 seconds of additional time is given to examinees after the end of this conversation.]*

**Questions 16-20: Math Requirements: A father and daughter are discussing the high school math requirements the daughter must take.**

*[Examinees are given 25 seconds to preview questions 16-20.]*

- Child: Dad, why do I have to study math again in my last year of high school? I'm going to major in psychology at the university. I hate math! I want this one to be my last class!!
- Dad: Debra, I can't tell you how many uses you might find for higher math later in your life, but it's part of the college-prep curriculum at your high school. The schools you're applying to expect you to have this education.
- Debra: But it doesn't make sense to study something I don't really need, and it's so boring! I spend hours doing this homework!

Dad: That's because you always put it off! You always get high grades in math. You and I both know you can do the work without a problem! So, consider this. As a psychologist, you will have to do research. As part of your research, you will have to use mathematical analysis. You'll also have to read research that contains that kind of analysis. Does that make sense?

Debra: Yeah, I guess. Maybe I should major in music!

Dad: Deb, you have wanted to study human behavior since you were thirteen years old! Don't let a math class get in your way!

Debra: Okay, Dad. I know you're right. Maybe I can study the psychology of math majors to see why they're so strange.

Dad: Very funny! I think you had better get back to your homework!

*[50 seconds of additional time is given to examinees after the end of this conversation.]*

### Part Three – Long Conversations

#### **Questions 21-28: Around the water cooler:**

#### **Situation: Two coworkers discuss a new policy while taking a break at the water cooler**

*[Examinees are given 40 seconds to preview questions 21-28.]*

Male: So, have you heard about the new “no-smoking policy”?

Female: Yeah, I've heard this before here...many times, in fact. I'm sure that the boss will sound very serious and make it seem that this policy will be different from the others, but I just don't see this sticking.

Male: Well, I, for one, really hope that this time it is serious. I can't stand cigarette smoke. It makes me cough and when I go home at night, all my clothes smell like a smokestack!

Female: Really? Do you think it is fair for the management to ban smoking from this entire building? The nonsmoking rules have always been around, it's just that they haven't been enforced. What good is making more rules going to do?

Male: No one is saying that smoking must be banned everywhere. In fact, I think they should only ban smoking from the office area itself. If people want to smoke in the break room, that's fine with me, I could always just stay at my desk during my breaks.

Female: That sounds pretty reasonable. I just get a little bit annoyed when people start saying that there should be no smoking allowed anywhere. What about the smokers' rights? Have they forgotten about them?

Male: But remember, the fact is that smoking has been shown to affect more than just the smokers themselves. More and more research is showing that 2<sup>nd</sup> hand smoke can have fairly severe consequences on those people who are around smokers for long periods of the day. Of course, the other issue is simply the aggravation it causes. I don't know any non-smoker who *enjoys* being in a smoke-filled room!

Female: Yeah, I've heard those arguments before, but when it comes right down to it, smokers should have a right to pursue their habits, even if it *has* proven to be unhealthy. And hey, most smokers I know are willing to put out their cigarette if

they are asked respectfully. I think this is the best way to control this habit; we just need to be civil to each other.

Male: I agree, that would be the best option, but it seems as if we need to have some sort of control over this. Everyone is becoming more and more agitated around here and work is starting to split into the “smokers” and the “non-smokers”. It will be interesting to hear what the boss has to say.

Female: I agree. I’ll see you at the meeting this afternoon!

*[80 seconds of additional time is given to examinees after the end of this conversation.]*

**Questions 29-40: Reality TV: John sees his friend Sarah in the cafeteria and tries to convince her to go with him that afternoon.**

*[Examinees are given 60 seconds to preview questions 29-40.]*

John: Hey, Sarah! How’s it going?

Sarah: Pretty good. How about you?

John: I am really excited.

Sarah: Why?

John: Well, let me ask you—are you busy after school today?

Sarah: I don’t think so—why?

John: Then you’re coming to the mall with me! They’re holding open auditions there for a new reality TV show called *My Life* that will air next year. They’re taking the four best people, and we’re going to try out.

Sarah: What? Wait—hold on. What is this show about?

John: Oh, you know—it’s reality TV. I guess they have some cameras follow you around as you go about your day. They film you going to school, at work, talking to your friends and family, all that stuff. Then they put it on TV and that’s it!—you’re famous. So, do you want to go?

Sarah: I don’t know. It doesn’t sound so great to me. I don’t think I really want to have cameras recording everything I do all day. Plus, why should I be famous? I don’t play an instrument or paint pictures or run fast—I’m not sure anybody would be interested in watching my life. There’s not much going on—my normal day is about the same as anybody else’s.

John: Come on! You don’t have to be different from everybody to be a reality TV star—that’s what is so exciting about it. Everybody thinks it’s interesting to watch people who are just like them on TV. People go crazy for it. And if the producers choose us, we can make a lot of money, just for doing what we normally do. And then when the show is over, we’ll be famous and we can do other things. We can write a book, or be in movies, or maybe we can be on another TV show. This show could change our lives!

Sarah: Yeah, but I don’t *want* to change my life. I like my life. And what if the camera shows me doing something embarrassing or saying something mean about someone I care about? You say that we could be famous after the show, but what if we look like bad people? Then everybody in the country would recognize us and hate us! We couldn’t come back to school. We couldn’t get a job. We’d be like the villains in a movie.

John: You worry too much. If something embarrassing happens, we would just tell the producers not to put it on TV. If we're the stars of the TV show, they don't want to make us upset.

Sarah: I don't worry too *much*; you don't worry *enough*. I think the producers would *like* it if embarrassing things happen. You say that people want to watch other people just like them—and maybe they do. But they want to watch them get in fights and cry and argue. I think the producers would try to have more embarrassing things happen to us. They might even edit the film to make it look like we say and do things that we never actually did! You say, "you don't have to be different from everybody to be a reality TV star," but if we're just like everybody else, they can fire us and find someone else in a second. They won't care if we're upset or not. And if we sign a contract, maybe we can't even quit if we don't like it.

John: Pffff —you make reality TV sound like the worst thing ever. It's like the lottery—if you're lucky you get rich and famous, just by being yourself. So are you coming with me?

Sarah: No, I'm not.

John: Well, I'm going.

Sarah: Good luck. I hope you get what you want, and not *more* than you want . . .

*[120 seconds of additional time is given to examinees after the end of this conversation.]*