

## PRACTICE CELP 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. Home-grown vegetables**

Male: Are you serious, Mary? These vegetables are home grown?

Female: Absolutely. My vegetable patch is my pride and joy. Now that we are retired, my husband and I are trying to be self-sufficient and also to sell our surplus produce.

Male: That's impressive. So you have been growing your own vegetables for a while then?

Female: Well, we started a couple of years ago, but it will probably take us a while to even approach self-sufficiency. Right now we eat seasonally and freeze as much as we can. You know, this is all about personal choice. For me, it's most important to know where my food comes from and the conditions in which it's grown. The flavor of something fresh out of the ground is ten times better than something that's been flown halfway across the world. Well, I don't always get home growing right, but I've educated myself about it, and it's been hard work.

#### **2. Backpacking**

Male: Last fall we did the 13 mile route through the Grand Canyon's south section. Along the way, the route offers breathtaking views of the surrounding canyons. When we got to the bottom, we crossed a suspension bridge over the Colorado River. From there, the route leads to a small oasis on the canyon floor, which I think was the best part of the hike.

Female: Wow, you need to invite me next time you go; I've always wanted to go see the Grand Canyon.

Male: Oh yeah, it's incredibly scenic and doing a backpacking tour adds some adventure to it. But you need to remember that the summer temperatures can soar into the forties. So you always need to carry water, and start early to beat the midday heat. Also, don't forget, it is much easier to descend into the canyon than to climb back up. Expect to spend at least double the amount of time climbing back up.

Female: I guess I'd need to get into shape first; but keep me posted about your future hiking trips.

### **3. Talk between friends about a meeting with a University advisor**

Male: So, how'd the meeting go?

Female: You mean with my advisor? It was OK I guess, but not as constructive as I expected. She isn't too familiar with my background in biochemistry, and she recommended I take courses which I've already completed at my former university. I don't think I need to satisfy any more prerequisites, especially since I know of other students who got into medical school without even having completed their undergraduate degree.

Male: Hmm, I was in a similar situation last year, and I just spoke to the head of the admissions committee, who looked at my transcripts and confirmed that I had satisfied the prerequisites. You may want to get a second opinion.

Female: Fair enough; I guess I'll send out some emails this afternoon.

Male: Good luck!

### **4. Exercise at older ages**

Female: Last week I saw the doctor for a routine exam, and he recommended that I get more exercise.

Male: Well, if you're in your sixties, it's probably too late.

Female: I made a similar point, but my doctor convinced me that it's never too late to do exercise. It seems that the older we get, the less active we are. He explained that the most powerful deterrent among the over-65s is a lack of interest, and disbelief that exercise can enhance or lengthen life.

Male: Well, I guess that's what I've been thinking to myself.

Female: Me too. But now I understand that it is never too late to improve your fitness even if you're over 60. You can still train the older body, and with surprising results.

Male: How's that?

Female: Well, according to my doctor, with so much "untrained reserve" it's possible for sedentary people to make huge gains, and fast.

### **5. Thai food**

Female: So what was the best part of your holiday in Thailand?

Male: Well, I certainly liked the climate and the beautiful, clean beaches, but what impressed me the most was the food. What made the food so special wasn't really the food itself, but the way in which it was presented. You know, in the West, it's common in restaurants for each individual to order only for him or herself. In Thailand, there is no such thing as a dish that is ordered for only one person; all dishes are shared by everyone at the table.

Female: Interesting, is that part of their culture?

Male: Pretty much. Many Thais believe that eating by oneself is bad luck. Also, after the meal is finished, there is no such thing as disposing of leftovers. I was told that throwing food away angers the Thai “god of rice”, a female deity who watches over the people, ensuring that everyone has enough to eat.

### **6. The weather forecast**

Male: Lisa, what does the weather forecast predict for the coming week?

Female: You know, the information I found on the internet is not quite in accordance with the information printed in the news. According to the online information, it’s not too promising: A thirty percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after midday; mostly cloudy, with a high around twenty degrees. Here in the paper, they predict no rain, but cloudy skies throughout the day.

Male: Yes, mountain weather conditions can change dramatically from one hour to the next. A morning that dawns clear and sunny can turn into an afternoon plagued by thunderstorms and gale force winds.

Female: Oh, I see.

### **7. Potluck invitation**

Female: Hi, Bob, what are you doing this Saturday?

Male: Hi, Jen, I don’t have anything planned yet. Why?

Female: I would like to invite you and your family for a potluck get-together. We’ll start at around 5 o’clock in the afternoon. Just bring any food you would like to share with others and I’ll prepare some drinks. How does that sound?

Male: Great. I’ll see you then.

### **8. Apology for loud music**

Female: Excuse me, sir, could you please turn down your music a bit? I have a project due tomorrow and I’m trying to concentrate.

Male: Oh, I’m sorry. Some friends have come over to celebrate my birthday and I decided to put on some music. I saw you going out half an hour ago. If I’d known you were at home, I wouldn’t have had the music on so loud.

Female: I just came back 5 minutes ago.

## **Part Two – Longer Conversations**

### **Questions 9-13: After class: a classmate’s request**

*[Examinees are given 25 seconds to preview questions 9-13.]*

*Sarah's friend, George, seems to be a little upset after talking with Edward, a classmate of theirs. Listen to the following conversation between Sarah and George and answer the questions that follow.*

- Sarah: Gee, that took you a while. What did Edward want, anyway?
- George: Oh, he wanted to know if he could borrow my notes from Monday's chemistry class. He's worried about the exam we have on Friday and he's hoping I'll rescue him by letting him get a copy of my notes. I told him no, but he wouldn't let it drop.
- Sarah: Well, it's none of my business, but why are you so upset about it? I think it's normal to ask someone to borrow their notes if you have to miss a class—that's the responsible thing to do. He probably asked you because he knows you're one of the strongest students in class. Besides, aren't you and he friends?
- George: Yeah, we're friends, and I don't have any problem helping people who need to miss class—I let you borrow my notes before the last exam, didn't I? Well, yeah, and I've had to get help from other people before. But I happen to know that Edward missed class last week because he decided to wait in line to buy concert tickets, not because he was sick or anything like that. I don't spend so much time on my notes so other people can go have fun.
- Sarah: Still, he's your friend, right? It shouldn't matter whether he was sick or not, he needs help.
- George: Normally I wouldn't mind, but I happen to know he was laughing about it while he was standing in line. Someone asked him if he was worried about the exam and he said, "No, I've got my secretary George taking notes for me." Well, he should be worried now.
- Sarah: Well, I think whoever told you that story should mind their own business.  
*[50 seconds of additional time is given to examinees after the end of this conversation.]*

**Questions 14-16: A meeting between two teachers**

*[Examinees are given 15 seconds to preview questions 14-16.]*

*Sarah and Peter, two young instructors at a University, happen to meet on campus.*

- Male: Hey, Sarah, I'm glad to see you. I still have that book you gave me a while ago. Remember? I think the title is The Art of Changing the Brain or something like that. I put it on my office desk so I could give it to you the next time I saw you.
- Female: Oh, yes, I remember. So, how did you like it? Did it influence your teaching at all?
- Male: Yes, I liked it a lot; it was pleasant reading and I think it's a pretty unique resource for the professional development of educators. I liked how the author used stories from his own experience; very humorous.
- Female: Yeah, I agree. I am considering this book as a required reading text for my next education class. I think it would be helpful to future teachers to

understand both brain function and learning processes. What do you think; would it be appropriate?

Male: Oh, I definitely think so; your students would like it. It's easy to read and I am sure that most of your students would rethink and improve their teaching approaches.

Female: Good. I think I'll go ahead and order it for the coming fall semester then. Which textbooks are you using for your Anthropology class?

Male: I actually haven't decided yet. There are few good ones out there. I might not even choose a textbook, but just put together a selection of newspaper or magazine articles--a reader, so to speak.

Female: Sounds like a good idea. I've got to go to a meeting that starts in fifteen minutes. I'll see you soon, and thanks for remembering that book.

Male: Sure, no problem. I'll see you soon.

Female: Bye.

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

**Questions 17-20: During class break: Questions about a Memorial Day project**

*[Examinees are given 20 seconds to preview questions 17-20.]*

*Memorial Day is around the corner. Mohamed, an ESL student at an American university, was asked to write about this holiday as a class project. He asks a few questions of Mr. Uzum, the instructor of the class, during the class break.*

Mohamed: Hi, Mr. Uzum. I have a few questions about the Memorial Day project.

Uzum: Sure, go ahead.

Mohamed: You asked us to write about Memorial Day in our country in the second paragraph, but we don't have such a holiday. What should I do then?

Uzum: If there isn't such a holiday in your country, just write about what people do to honor those who died in war. For example, in the U.S. we visit cemeteries and memorials, and volunteers put American flags at national grave sites. What do you do to show respect for fallen soldiers in your country?

Mohamed: We pray for them and put flowers on their graves. I guess I'll include those rituals in the second paragraph. You said in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, we need to provide some reflections on this holiday. What exactly do we have to write?

Uzum: Well, the reflections are very personal. Just write about whatever this holiday makes you think of. For example, you can write why you think it's important to observe such a holiday. Don't worry too much. I didn't ask you to write a formal essay, so you don't have to consider the requirements for essay writing such as a thesis statement, topic sentences, and so on.

Mohamed: Ok, now I know what to do. By the way, I am very busy at this point of the semester, so can I turn it in, say Tuesday, instead of Monday?

Uzum: Umm, it's possible, but you'll receive half credit, as stated in the syllabus.

Mohamed: I see. Then I'll try to finish it by the due date. Thank you.

Uzum: You're very welcome. Let me know if you have more questions.  
*[40 seconds of additional time is given to examinees after the end of this conversation.]*

### **Part Three: Extended Discourse**

#### **Questions 21-30: A visit to the museum**

*[Examinees are given 50 seconds to preview questions 21-30.]*

*You and your classmates are visiting the Dali Art Museum. Before you tour the museum, you have a chance to listen to a short presentation about Salvador Dali, the artist this museum was founded to honor. You know that your teacher might give you a quiz later on, so listen carefully to the presentation and answer the questions that follow.*

Hello, everyone, welcome to the Dali Art Museum. I am Tracy Hamilton and I am pleased to have the opportunity to tell you a few things about Salvador Dali before you enjoy his artistic works.

Salvador Dali was born on May 11, 1904 in Figueras, Spain. He showed his talent in art at an early age and by the time he went to the San Fernando Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid in 1922, he had mastered nearly all artistic styles: classicism, expressionism, cubism, and so on. Young Dali had a rebellious personality: he always questioned traditions and authorities. For example, in 1926, he was expelled from school because he refused to take an oral final exam about Raphael, an Italian painter — he thought he knew more about the painter than the examiners themselves.

Dali became a surrealist in 1929 after he met Andre Breton, the founder of the Paris Surrealist Group. That marked the beginning of the second period of his career. Put simply, a surrealist is an artist who expresses his/her feelings or understanding about the world by putting strange things together. It was also in 1929 that Dali met his wife, Gala Eluard, who provided him with unlimited inspiration and help during his career. Dali was very active and productive during this period, and his work contributed greatly to the development of surrealism. But in 1934, he was expelled from the Surrealist Group because of his refusal to connect his work to politics. His ideas differed sharply from the views of the other members of the group, who were strongly committed to political statements.

When World War II broke out, Dali and his wife escaped to the United States. There he switched from surrealism to classical themes such as history and religion. In 1941, he did his first retrospective exhibit in New York, followed by the publication of his autobiography in which he told many amazing stories about his life and career. In the 1980s, he created a concept called Nuclear Mysticism, integrating images that appeared completely different: science and religion. Dali spent most of the second half of his life in America, where he died in 1989.

Throughout his life, Dali was unhappy about the world around him and he constantly fought against frustrations. This and the rebellious aspect of his character, which I mentioned earlier, contributed to his artistic achievements: they made his works so different and unique. Furthermore, what makes Dali so outstanding is the fact that he was a master of all styles (classicism, cubism, expressionism, etc.) and all media (oil painting, watercolor, sculpture, graphics, etc.). When you examine the works in this

museum, see if you can associate them with what I have said about him. Now, do you have any questions?

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

### **Questions 31-40: Future plans**

*[Examinees are given 50 seconds to preview questions 31-40.]*

*Two college students are talking about future plans. Listen to the conversation and answer the questions that follow.*

Female: Hey, Alex!

Male: Oh, hi!

Female: How have you been?

Male: I have been fine but terribly busy lately. It's the end of the semester, and I have to turn in this international relations project that I have been working on over the past five weeks. But, hey, how have you been?

Female: Oh, it's the same here; well, I don't have a project to turn in, but a lot of errands to run. I can't wait for the summer break. Do you have any plans?

Male: Yes, actually I'll be going to Europe for two months. I'll be doing an internship for one month and then traveling for another month.

Female: Wow, that's pretty awesome. Where are you doing your internship?

Male: In Germany. I'm not quite sure yet which city; but most likely it's gonna be Stuttgart, a big city in the South.

Female: What an adventure! How did you find out about it?

Male: Actually, I found it through the University's webpage. But the internship was arranged through the study abroad office.

Female: Now I'm getting curious. Can you tell me more about the program?

Male: Sure. So, there are a variety of different programs that reflect different career interests of students. The program I am participating in is organized by CDS International, together with a partner organization in Germany.

Female: What does CDS stand for?

Male: I think it stands for Culture, Diversity and Success. CDS International is sort of a non-profit organization that promotes US-German student exchanges. So they organize internships based on a resume, statement of interest and an interview.

Female: Wow, sounds like a pretty competitive application process.

Male: Actually, I think that the competitiveness is moderate because there are not that many applicants. I think they follow through this application procedure because they want to know whether it's a good fit and they also want to make sure that your foreign language knowledge is satisfactory. So, my interview was partly in German because they wanted to assess whether I'm at an advanced level. The interviewers told me that I wasn't quite there yet, but they waived the language program participation for me regardless.

Female: What do you mean by that: They waived the language program participation?

Man: Well, if you are not as fluent as they expect you to be, they actually offer one month of intensive German instruction at the Carl Duisberg Centren, another organization that is located in Cologne.

Female: I have taken German for only two semesters now, so I don't think I would qualify for that. But I will keep that in mind for next summer.

Male: You definitely should. The great thing about the program is that it tries to integrate the internship experience with German language training. They offer language courses before and after the internship. I won't be participating in them because I'd rather travel through Europe. I think that my German will improve automatically just by my interacting with all the native speakers.

Female: Right, right. Ehm, what was the city called again? Where you might be doing your internship?

Male: Oh, you mean Stuttgart. I actually hope it will be Stuttgart because that would increase my chances of getting the internship at Daimler Chrysler. Also, Stuttgart is supposed to be a very nice city. I have read that it is spread across several hills, valleys and parks, which is quite unusual for German cities. My friend in Germany also told me that visitors are often surprised because they primarily associate the city with its industrial reputation. It's often referred to as the 'cradle of the automobile'. But it has so many more things to offer. It has many theatres and opera houses and it also has huge sports arenas which are not only for their soccer team but also for rock and pop concerts. Did you know that Stuttgart is also famous for its wine and beer? There are many wineries and breweries on the outskirts of the city.

Female: No, I didn't know that, but it seems like you are hoping for a right place. So where are you planning to go after your internship?

Male: To be perfectly honest with you, I don't have any specific plans yet. I think I will narrow them down during my internship. I will definitely get the European rail pass that will allow me to take any train within Europe. There are so many places I want to see – Berlin, Munich, Paris, the south of France, maybe Spain.

Female: And where will you stay?

Male: Mostly in hostels, I think. You know, my traveling budget is sort of limited. But hostels are affordable and I like the fact that it's so easy to meet new people there. Many young people in Europe stay in hostels when they travel. I have heard that they are much nicer than the ones we have here in the US.

Female: Man, Alex, I'm excited for you. You'll have to send me a few postcards!

Male: Of course, I will. But hey, what are your summer plans?

Female: My summer plans are not too fancy. I will keep working at the library but I'll have two weeks off and my husband and I are going on a camping trip up north. Last summer, while we were on a weeklong biking trip, we found this really nice spot at a lake. It's very quiet there but that's what we like. It gives us some balance to our busy everyday lives.

Male: Sounds nice.

Female: (laughs) You would probably be bored.

Male: (laughs) I have to admit, yes. I'm still looking for adventures and lively entertainment. But I totally understand just how you feel.

Female: Yeah, my life is pretty loud and hectic, so I like to get away from everything. I actually have to run now to pick up my daughter. You have a wonderful trip and promise me to take good care of yourself.

Male: I promise.

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