

PRACTICE CELC Listening Comprehension Script (August 2009)

[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. Making an Appointment

Female: Professor Reed, I have some questions about the final project for our class. I was wondering if I can meet with you some time this week.

Male: Sure. Let's see... Today is Tuesday... and I'm fully booked on Wednesday. I am available at 3:30 on Thursday afternoon. Oh, wait a minute. I'll be at a meeting then and it won't finish until at least 4:00. I guess the earliest time I can meet with you is 4:10. Would that work for you??

Woman: Yes, sounds good. Thank you, Professor Reed. I'll see you then.

2. Turning in Homework

Female: Mr. Miller, I'm sorry that I didn't come to class yesterday. I had a really bad cold. But I've done my homework and was wondering if you would still be willing to grade it.

Male: Chelsea, I'm sorry that you were sick, but I can't accept your work. As far as I remember, you've had a cold at least three times within the last month. As stated in the syllabus, in order to be excused, you need to show medical proof.

Female: Oh, Ok... I understand. I'll try not to miss classes for the rest of the semester. Thank you.

3. Computer Problems

Male: Hey Mary! Were you able to fix your computer problem?

Female: Not really; my colleague tried to save my data, but there wasn't much he could do. The virus practically destroyed my hard drive.

Male: Oh, that's too bad! Did you lose everything?

Female: I only lost some stuff from last year. Luckily I had transferred most of my recent work to an external hard drive.

Male: That's smart. I'd better do that myself right now.

4. Your Signature Is Needed

Female: Hi Dan. I'm glad I found you; I need a signature from you.

Male: Oh, sure. What for?

Female: To confirm that you have received reimbursement for your recent trip.

Male: But I am not sure I've got it yet. Let me check with my bank.

Female: Of course. You'd better be sure it's in your account.

5. Getting a Ride

- Male: Hey Christy, are you driving your car to the football game on Friday? I'm looking for a ride.
- Female: Oh, hey Don. I don't know—I wouldn't mind taking you, but parking is so expensive.
- Male: How about using the park and ride service? That way we'll get a parking spot far from the crowds, and the bus will drop us near the stadium.
- Female: Good idea. I guess I'll pick you up then. Does 6:00 p.m. sound ok?

6. Frustrated TV viewer

- Male: Why does my TV always lose its signal in the middle of a baseball game?
- Female: Jack, don't you remember that the last time this happened it was just a loose cable?
- Male: Oh, that's right. Great! I'll have the game back on again in a minute—I hope!

7. Finding a parking place

- Female: Excuse me, but do you know how long I can park here? I don't see a sign!
- Male: Oh... you have to have a permit to park on this street. If you don't have one, you cannot park here.
- Female: Oh! Well, thank you! I think you just saved me from a ticket!

8. Vocabulary assignment

- Male: Please remember that for the rest of this school year, I expect you to learn twenty new words a week.
- Female: Would it be okay to learn thirty words one week and then just ten words the next week?
- Male: I think learning thirty words a week is a great idea Monica! Set your goals high! But you must learn at least 20 words a week for the rest of this year.

9. The new perfume

- Female 1: Has anyone seen my new bottle of perfume?
- Female 2: Sorry, mom. I borrowed, but I'm afraid it slipped out of my hand and broke. I hope I cleaned it up okay.
- Female 1: Well, it looks like you will be doing some extra chores around the house to make up for that!

Part Two – Longer Conversations

[Examinees are given 15 seconds to preview questions 10-12.]

Signing up for sports

- Male: Mary, are your sons on a hockey team this year? I'd like to get my son involved this season.
- Female: Both of my boys are on teams at the Phoenix Sports Complex. I should warn you that it costs \$120 per child for the season.
- Male: \$120? Oh, that's not too bad! I paid more than that for basketball last year.
- Female: Sure. But remember that you'll have to pay another \$150 for equipment!
- Male: Equipment! Of course! I'd forgotten that hockey is not quite as simple as basketball. Thanks, Mary. Now I'll have a better idea of how expensive it is going to be.
- Female: Glad to help. Oh! Hold on! I might be able to help you even more! What size does your son need? My youngest boy can't use his old size 12 gear any more.
- Male: Really? Size 12 is exactly what we need!
- Female: Okay, I'll tell you what. If you can come by my house after dinner tonight, your son can try on the equipment.
- Male: Thank you, Mary! That would be great! We'll see you tonight.

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

At the gym

[Examinees are given 15 seconds to preview questions 13-15.]

- Client: Oh, you're closing already? I thought you were open until 9?
- Staff: I'm sorry sir, but our hours have changed. Didn't you get our new schedule in the mail?
- Client: I guess I did, but I thought it was just advertisement so I didn't pay attention. So, what are the new hours?
- Staff: We'll be closing earlier on Sundays, like today. We close at 7:00 p.m. instead of 9:00.
- Client: Oh. Well, what time do you open on Sundays?
- Staff: We'll still open at 6:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, and at 8:00 a.m. on weekends. We stay open a little later on weekdays, now; we hope that's convenient for you.
- Client: Sure! What time do you close during the week?
- Staff: We now close at 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, instead of at 9:00 p.m., and on Fridays and Saturdays we are open till midnight. Make sure you pick up a new schedule at the desk on your way out, sir.
- Client: Will do. Thanks a lot!

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

At the Library

[Examinees are given 15 seconds to preview questions 16-20.]

Female: Hi, how can I help you?

Male: Hi, I'm a new student, and I have a few questions about how to use the library.

Female: Sure, go ahead.

Male: How many books can I check out and how long can I keep them?

Female: You can check out as many as you would like and keep them for one semester. However, if someone else recalls an item, you must return it within 10 days of the recall notice. If you fail to return it by the due date, you'll have to pay a fine of one dollar per day.

Male: Ok, I'll keep that in mind. What are the library hours?

Female: We are open 24 hours from Monday through Friday. On Saturday, we are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Sunday, we are open from 1 p.m. to midnight.

Male: That's good to know. I was also wondering what I can do if I need a book or something else that is not available in our library?

Female: If you need something you can't find at our library, you can request it from another school or library through the Interlibrary Loan service.

Male: That's great! I have one more question. I am a business major and I heard we are going to have a lot of group projects. Are there any study rooms that students can reserve?

Female: Yes, we do have many study rooms which are usually available on a first-come-first-served basis. If you want to reserve one, you'll have to do it beforehand.

Male: All right. Thank you very much for the information.

Female: You're welcome.

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

Part Three – Extended Discourse

Questions 21-29: The Principal's Announcement

[Examinees are given 45 seconds to preview questions 21-29]

[This passage is played twice]

A high school principal is making an announcement to the school over the loud speakers.

Good morning everyone. This is Principal Smith and I would like to have your attention for a few moments. Teachers, if you could make sure that your students are in their seats and attentive, please.

Now, it has come to my attention that, because it is the last week of school, some students plan on skipping their non-required classes. I would like to remind you that all

absences this week will count toward your total yearly mark. Remember, if you exceed an 8% absence rate for the year, you will be placed on academic probation. If you are a graduating senior, and you are placed on academic probation, you will have to attend another semester in order for your status to return to normal before you are allowed to graduate. If anyone exceeds a 15% absence rate, in addition to being placed on academic probation, they will be required to attend summer school to make up for the missed classes. I truly hope that nobody will have to attend summer school this year. I know how popular that is! (lightheartedly)

On another note, I need to talk to everyone about keeping our hallways clean. The janitor has informed me that he is picking up all kinds of trash in our hallways after school. This will not do! Please take advantage of the many large trash cans throughout our hallways. There is no need to throw something on the floor when you can walk 5 steps and put it in its proper place. I do not want to resort to punishment, but if this problem continues, I will be forced to institute a policy where anyone seen leaving their trash in the hallway would be subject to disciplinary measures. No one here wants to spend any time with me after school, right?

But I don't want to speak to you only about negative issues, so here are a couple of things that I am extremely proud to tell you about. One, our school debate team has taken top prize among the other schools our size! We have always had a great tradition of success in our debates, and this year is no exception. Congratulations to everyone who participated this year! We are very proud of you. Another item for praise is that Mr. Jacobs, 11th grade history and science teacher, has been nominated for the Excellence in Teaching award. I know that all of Mr. Jacob's students will agree with me when I say that he is most deserving of this nomination. We are behind you all the way Mr. Jacobs, best of luck! And, finally, I would like to say "thank you" to all of our student body. You have made this a year to remember, and I know that our seniors will have wonderful memories to take with them as they graduate and move on to the next stage of their lives. We, the administration and teaching staff, wish to say "good luck" to the seniors as they go on their way. This was a memorable class, and I know that all of us feel privileged to have had the experience of teaching, mentoring and advising you.

[Examinees are given an additional 90 seconds to answer questions 21-29 after the second listening.]

Questions 30-40: Making Vacation Plans

[Examinees are given 55 seconds to preview questions 30-40]

[This passage is played twice]

Two university students who grew up as neighbors are discussing their families' next vacations.

Brad: Hi, Elena! So, did you talk to your parents? Were you able to convince them that we can come up with a better vacation trip than they do – or that they should at least let us try?

Elena: Better than that, Brad! My father never has time to plan our trips well, and my mother is so busy right now that she thanked me about four times

for offering to do it! I think the fact that I was able to plan my sister's wedding last fall impressed her.

Brad! Right! I remember how crazy you were last fall, getting everything organized! Well, my parents didn't thank me, but they liked the idea. My dad gave me a budget to fit our plans into, as well. He asked me to keep it under \$4,000. I was thinking he would say less, like under \$2,000!

Elena: Interesting. My mother said we could spend between \$3,000 and \$4,000 on our family, too. I think the message is "Put us on a plane!" and "Don't take us anywhere boring!"

Brad: That's amazing! It used to be that my father would go nuts if we spent more than \$1,000 on a two-week vacation! We used to do a lot of camping. I know you remember that; how many years have our families been vacationing together? Since we were 7 or 8?

Elena: Something like that. Ever since we met. Okay, let's get started. With the budgets we've been given, we can do a lot of traveling cheaply, or we can go farther and stay for less time. Do you know where I think we can go that we all would enjoy – and where we can even do some camping? New Zealand!

Brad: Wow! That's a fantastic idea! But doesn't it cost a fortune just to fly that far?

Elena: Well, just before we got together today, I did some quick research online. Look, right here on my phone. \$680 per person – that's less than \$3,000 for the four people in your family, and only about \$2,000 for my parents and me. You know our parents – they have no problem with combining our budgets. That leaves about \$3,000 for the rest of the plan.

Brad: Okay! I like this idea. So, let me get my laptop online and I'll start looking at hotels.

Elena: Great. Then we can look at some tour possibilities! Are you as excited as I am?

Brad: I sure am. This will be a blast!

[Examinees are given an additional 110 seconds to answer questions 30-40 after the second listening.]