



FREE CELPIP SPEAKING PLANNER

The 90 Second **Advice** Planner

CELPIP Speaking Task 1: Giving Advice

30 seconds to prepare, 90 seconds to speak

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CELPiP Speaking Task 1: Giving Advice

Task 1 gives you the longest speaking window in the test and the shortest preparation time. Many candidates run out of things to say at around 40 seconds, and the reason is almost never the number of ideas. It's that none of them were 'built'.

30 sec

to prepare

90 sec

to speak

1 of 8

scored Speaking tasks

4

scoring dimensions

How to use this planner

Work through it on its own, or keep it open while you watch the Speaking Task 1 lesson on the E2 CELPiP YouTube channel. Everything here is written to be used with a timer and your phone's voice recorder, so have both ready.



youtube.com/@E2CELPiP

On test day, recording starts automatically when the preparation clock ends and there is no second take, so make every practice run one take as well.

What CELPiP actually asks for

CELPiP's official strategies for Task 1 ask you to speak directly to the person, give at least 3 suggestions, and attach a practical example or a reason to each one. Read that last part again, because that's where the work is.

Four bare instructions with no reasons behind them will take you about 7 seconds, and they fail the guidance they look like they're following. So aim for 3 suggestions and build every one of them. If your third idea can't be built, two built ideas beat three bare ones, because a suggestion with no reason behind it fails the second half of the guidance anyway.

*** How every Task 1 answer is scored**

Raters score each response separately on 4 dimensions. These are CELPiP's own headings and factors, so this is the list to check your recordings against.

*** Content/Coherence**

The number, quality and organisation of your ideas, and the examples and details that support them.

*** Vocabulary**

Word choice, range, and how precisely and naturally you use words and phrases.

*** Listenability**

Rhythm, pronunciation and intonation; pauses and self-correction; grammar and variety of sentence structure.

*** Task Fulfillment**

Relevance, completeness, tone and length. Did you follow the instructions, and did you use the time?

* Your time budget

Stage	What you do	Three built ideas	Two built ideas
OPEN	Name the person and say what you think overall. Don't repeat the prompt back.	about 10 sec	about 10 sec
ADVICE A	One piece of advice, built.	about 25 sec	about 30 sec
ADVICE B	A second, different piece of advice, built.	about 25 sec	about 30 sec
ADVICE C	A third, only if it is also built.	about 15 sec	skip
CLOSE	Reassure, and give the very next step.	about 10 sec	about 10 sec
TOTAL		about 85 sec	about 80 sec

Three built ideas comes to about 85 seconds and leaves you a few spare seconds. Two built ideas, stretched to 30 seconds each, comes to about 80 seconds and leaves you around 10. Either way you are still speaking at the 80 second mark, and that is the point.

* Leave yourself a few spare seconds

Not because being cut off is automatically penalised. CELPIP's own sample analysis includes a Level 12 answer that was cut off at the end and still met every task requirement. But CELPIP's official tips tell you to finish your last sentence before the time is up, and your close is where you name the very next step. That's content you want the rater to hear. Running short is the far more expensive mistake. Length sits inside Task Fulfillment, and CELPIP's advice is to speak as much as you can in the time allotted. A 60 second answer to a 90 second task sounds undeveloped however clean your English is.

* What "built" means

Every piece of advice you give is 3 moves, in this order. The third move is the one people skip, and it's where the marks are. Notice that the official guidance stops at move 2, which is exactly why move 3 separates you.

Move	What it does	Example
1. Advice	What they should actually do.	<i>Go and spend a weekend there before you sign anything.</i>
2. Reason	Why. Tie it to their situation, not to advice in general.	<i>A place feels completely different when you're looking at apartments in it.</i>
3. What happens	The result if they take it. This is the scoring move.	<i>You'll know within a few days if you could live there.</i>

* Signal each new suggestion

CELPIP's own strategy list for Task 1 asks you to mark each new suggestion with a transition, and gives these examples. Use one per idea so the rater can count three without trying.

If I were you, ...

Another thing you could do is ...

One final thing is ...

* Your 30 seconds: pairs of words

Don't write sentences. You won't finish them, and reading them aloud sounds exactly like reading aloud. Write one word for each piece of advice, and one word for its consequence, which just means what happens next if they do it.

If you can't name a consequence, that idea isn't strong enough. Swap it now. The same test decides how many you're giving today: 3 pairs on the page, build 3. Two pairs, build 2.

Worked example (a friend is deciding whether to move to a new city):

VISIT → certainty **FAMILY** → routine **MONEY** → deadline

* Practise: three situations, then your own

Set a timer. 30 seconds to fill in the grid, then 90 seconds speaking out loud, recorded on your phone. Play it back before you move to the next one.

1

Your cousin has been accepted onto a course that starts in 2 months, but it means giving up a job he's had for 6 years. He's asked you what he should do.

	Advice (one word)	Consequence (one word)
A		
B		
C (if built)		

2

A colleague has been asked to give a presentation to the whole company and she's dreading it. She's never spoken in front of more than 5 people. She's asked you for advice.

	Advice (one word)	Consequence (one word)
A		
B		
C (if built)		

3

Your neighbour wants to get a dog, but he works long hours and lives in a small apartment. He's asked you what you think he should do.

	Advice (one word)	Consequence (one word)
A		
B		
C (if built)		

4

Your own prompt. Take a Task 1 question from one of CELPIP's free practice tests or an E2 CELPIP video, and run it exactly the same way: 30 seconds on the grid, 90 seconds recorded, one take.

	Advice (one word)	Consequence (one word)
A		
B		
C (if built)		

* Listen back and check

- ☐ Every piece of advice I gave was built, not listed.
- ☐ Each one had a reason attached to it.
- ☐ Each one had a result attached to it.
- ☐ If I gave a third, it had all 3 moves and took about 15 seconds.
- ☐ I spoke to the person using 'you', not about them using 'he' or 'she'.
- ☐ I was still speaking at the 80 second mark.
- ☐ My close arrived before the time ended, rather than being swallowed by it.
- ☐ I didn't repeat the same idea in different words to fill time.
- ☐ Nothing was memorised.

THE PRACTICE TASK · 60 SECONDS TO SPEAK · NOT SCORED

One free thing before Task 1

There's an optional Practice Task before Task 1. It isn't scored and nobody listens to the response. Speaking is the last part of the test, so on CELPIP-General you've been sitting in that chair for well over 2 hours without using your voice once. Take those 60 seconds to warm up and check your volume. On CELPIP-General LS only Listening comes first, so it's closer to 50 minutes, but the warm-up is worth it just the same.

The one thing this can't do for you

This planner will teach you the shape, and recording yourself will show you how your 90 seconds is actually spent. Neither will tell you why you're stuck at the same level. CELPIP Speaking is assessed on 4 separate dimensions at once, and picking out your own weakest one is very difficult. You need an experienced teacher to listen once and tell you.

* Where to go next



E2 CELPIP on YouTube

Free lessons on Speaking Task 1 and every other part of CELPIP, plus live class → youtube.com/@E2CELP recordings.



CELPIP Speaking eBook: coming soon

All 8 Speaking tasks, broken down fully. Watch the E2Language ebook store for → e2language.com/pages/ebooks the release.



E2Language.com

Practice tasks for the whole test, plus speaking assessments marked by an experienced teacher, with feedback that → e2language.com shows you which of the 4 dimensions is holding you back.



After receiving a 9 on my CELPIP, I was able to get my Permanent Resident card and get a job in my field as a Marine Biologist. I now work as a Fish Health Technician on Vancouver Island.

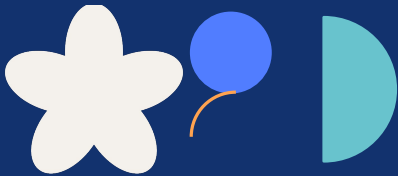
Lorena, E2 CELPIP General student



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