mashaenglish.

Free printable

# CELPIP Speaking cheat sheet: all 8 tasks

**Prepare and speak times + how to start, continue and finish each answer**

## One frame for every task

**START**
One or two sentences that answer the task directly.

**CONTINUE**
Two ideas, each with a reason or a concrete detail.

**FINISH**
One sentence that closes the answer before the time runs out.

## 1 Giving Advice

**Prepare 30 s** **Speak 90 s**

**Give advice to someone you know.**

| | |
|---|---|
| START | "Hi [name], I know how [stressful] this is for you. I have a couple of ideas that might help." |
| CONTINUE | "First, I think you should... That way, you..." |
| | "Another thing you could do is... For example, you could..." |
| FINISH | "I'm sure it will work out. Let me know how it goes." |

> Talk to the person: say "you", not "people should".

## 2 Personal Experience

**Prepare 30 s** **Speak 60 s**

**Tell one clear story from your life.**

| | |
|---|---|
| START | "I'd like to talk about a time when... It happened [two years ago]." |
| CONTINUE | "At first... Then... The hardest part was..." |
| | "I felt... so I decided to..." |
| FINISH | "In the end... Since then, I..." |

> The story doesn't have to be true, but keep it simple and easy to tell.

## 3 Describing a Scene

**Prepare 30 s** **Speak 60 s**

**Describe the picture so the listener can see it.**

| | |
|---|---|
| START | "This picture shows a [park] on a [sunny] day." |
| CONTINUE | "In the front... In the middle... In the background..." |
| | "A woman is... Next to her, two kids are..." |
| FINISH | "Overall, it looks like a [busy / relaxed] place." |

> Describe what you can see. Don't invent a long story behind the picture.

## 4 Making Predictions

**Prepare 30 s** **Speak 60 s**

**Same picture as Task 3: say what will probably happen next.**

| | |
|---|---|
| START | "I think that in the next few minutes..." |
| CONTINUE | "The man is going to... because he is already..." |
| | "I also think the kids will probably... since..." |
| FINISH | "So I think this scene will end with..." |

> Base each prediction on something you can see in the picture.


Independent practice resource for the CELPIP-General test. Not affiliated with or endorsed by Paragon Testing Enterprises.
Examples are original teaching examples, not official CELPIP material.

## 5 Comparing and Persuading

Choose 60 s · Prepare 60 s · Speak 60 s

**Choose 1 of 2 options. Then a new option appears: persuade the person that your choice is better than the new one.**

**START**
- "I understand why you like [the new option], but I really think [my option] is the better choice."

**CONTINUE**
- "First, [my option]... while [the new option]..."
- "I know [my option] is a bit more..., but..."

**FINISH**
- "So I think [my option] makes more sense for us."

> Compare with the NEW option, not only with the one you didn't choose.

## 6 Difficult Situation

Prepare 60 s · Speak 60 s

**Choose one of two ways to handle the problem, then speak directly to that person.**

**START**
- "Hi [name], do you have a minute? I wanted to talk to you about..."

**CONTINUE**
- "The thing is..., and I'm worried that..."
- "I know you... and I really appreciate..."
- "Would it be possible to...? / What if we...?"

**FINISH**
- "Thanks for understanding. I really hope we can sort this out."

> Speak to the person, not about them.

## 7 Expressing Opinions

Prepare 30 s · Speak 90 s

**Give your opinion with reasons and examples.**

**START**
- "In my opinion, ... I think so for two main reasons."

**CONTINUE**
- "First of all, ... For example, ..."
- "Another reason is that... In my experience, ..."
- "Some people say that..., but I still think..."

**FINISH**
- "So overall, I believe that..."

> Answer the exact question: it is not always "agree or disagree".

## 8 Unusual Situation

Prepare 30 s · Speak 60 s

**Describe something unusual to someone who can't see it, often in a phone call.**

**START**
- "Hi [name], I'm calling because I found something really unusual, and I'm not sure if we should [buy it]."

**CONTINUE**
- "It's about as big as... It looks a bit like a..."
- "On the top, there is... At the bottom, it has..."
- "It's a kind of... that you use for..."

**FINISH**
- "So what do you think? Should I get it?"

> Remember why you are calling, and finish with that purpose.

These are starters to adapt, not scripts to memorize. Use them to organize **your own** ideas: a memorized answer that doesn't fit the question loses points.



Independent practice resource for the CELPIP-General test. Not affiliated with or endorsed by Paragon Testing Enterprises. Examples are original teaching examples, not official CELPIP material.