

THE SPEAKING PACK

Speak in *connected* ideas.

Advice and a spoken template for each of the eight CELPIP Speaking tasks, with a bank of natural connectors.

02 Task 1 · Giving Advice

03 Task 2 · Talking about a Personal Experience

04 Task 3 · Describing a Scene

05 Task 4 · Making Predictions

06 Task 5 · Comparing and Persuading

07 Task 6 · Dealing with a Difficult Situation

08 Task 7 · Expressing Opinions

09 Task 8 · Describing an Unusual Situation

10 Connector bank

TASK 1

Giving Advice

A friend or family member has a problem or a decision. Give them advice. · Prep 30 s · Speak 90 s

Hi [name], I heard that [their situation], **so** I'd like to give you a few suggestions.

First of all, I'd recommend that you [advice 1], **because** [reason]. **That way**, [benefit].

On top of that, it might be worth [advice 2], **seeing as** [reason]. **Just to give you an idea**, [quick example].

Last but not least, **if I were you**, I'd [advice 3], **since** [reason].

All in all, **as long as** you [short summary], I'm sure [positive outcome]. Good luck!

Key **connector** keep these · [gap] your own ideas

Advice Give three pieces of advice, each with a reason and a quick example. That fills 90 seconds comfortably.
Vary how you advise: "I'd recommend...", "you might want to...", "if I were you, I'd...".
Say what will happen if they follow your advice. That is the part most candidates skip.

TASK 2

Talking about a Personal Experience

Describe a time something happened to you, and how you felt. · Prep 30 s · Speak 60 s

I remember a time when [the situation], **which** happened [when / where].

At first, [what happened]. **Then**, [what happened next], **and as a result**, [consequence].

To be honest, I felt [emotion], **because** [reason].

Looking back, **what I learned was that** [lesson], **so if** that happened again, I'd [what you would do].

Key **connector** keep these · [gap] your own ideas

Advice Choose a story in the first five seconds of preparation. A simple true story beats a clever one you are still inventing.

Keep to the past tense, and move the story along with time markers: at first, then, after that, in the end.

End with how you felt and what you learned. That turns a list of events into an answer.

TASK 3

Describing a Scene

Describe a picture to someone who cannot see it. · Prep 30 s · Speak 60 s

In this picture, I can see [the place], **and** it seems to be [time of day / season].

In the foreground, there's [a person], **who** is [action]. **Right next to** them, [another detail].

In the middle of the picture, [detail], **while** [another person is doing something].

In the background, [detail], **and it looks like** [your guess].

Overall, the atmosphere seems [adjective], **since** [reason].

Key **connector** keep these · [gap] your own ideas

Advice Start with one sentence on the whole scene, then move through it in order: foreground, middle, background.

Use the present continuous for actions: "a man is checking his watch".

Add one guess about the mood or the reason for what is happening ("it looks like..."). Five or six detailed observations beat a list of twenty objects.

TASK 4

Making Predictions

Using the same picture, say what will probably happen next. · Prep 30 s · Speak 60 s

I think that in the next few minutes, [person] **is going to** [prediction], **because** [clue in the picture].

It's quite likely that [prediction 2], **since** [clue].

Meanwhile, [another person] **will probably** [prediction 3].

Chances are [prediction 4], **which means** [result].

In the end, I'd expect [final outcome].

Key **connector** keep these · [gap] your own ideas

Advice Do not describe the scene again. Every sentence should look forward.

Mix future forms: will, going to, is likely to, might, chances are.

Tie each prediction to something visible: “because she keeps looking at the clock”.

TASK 5

Comparing and Persuading

Choose between two options. Someone now prefers a third option: persuade them yours is better. · Prep 60 s choose · 60 s prep · Speak 60 s

I understand why you like [Option C], **but** I really think [your option] is the better choice.

To begin with, [advantage 1], **whereas** [Option C's weakness].

Not only that, but [advantage 2], **which means** [benefit to them].

I know [Option C] [its strength]; **having said that**, [your answer].

So, all things considered, [your option] gives us [summary]. **What do you say?**

Key **connector** keep these · [gap] your own ideas

Advice In Part 1, pick the option with the clearest advantages, not the one you personally like.

Compare directly with Option C using comparatives: cheaper, closer, more reliable, far more convenient.

Persuade this person: mention what matters to them. Acknowledge one strength of Option C, then answer it.

TASK 6

Dealing with a Difficult Situation

Choose one of two ways to handle an awkward situation, then speak to the person involved. · Prep 60 s ·
Speak 60 s

Hi [name], **I'm calling about** [the situation]. **I know this is a little awkward, but** [the problem].

The thing is, [reason].

I was wondering if [your request / choice].

I completely understand that [their point of view], **so how about** [compromise]? **That way**,
[benefit for both].

I really hope you understand, **and thanks so much for** [listening / your help].

Key **connector** keep these · [gap] your own ideas

Advice Choose quickly, then spend the preparation time on what you will say to that person.

Match the tone to the listener: polite and calm with a manager, warm with a friend.

Explain the problem, show you understand their side, and offer a solution or compromise.

TASK 7

Expressing Opinions

Give and support your opinion on a question. · Prep 30 s · Speak 90 s

In my opinion, [your position], **for two main reasons**.

First of all, [reason 1]. **For instance**, [example], **which shows that** [link back].

Secondly, [reason 2]. **What I mean is**, [explain], **so** [effect].

Granted, some people believe [the other side]; **even so**, [your answer].

That's why I firmly believe that [position, reworded].

Key **connector** keep these · [gap] your own ideas

Advice Pick a side immediately, even if you could argue both. A balanced “it depends” answer sounds unsure.
Two reasons, each with an example, fill 90 seconds better than four thin ones.
Answer the other side once, then restate your position in different words at the end.

TASK 8

Describing an Unusual Situation

Describe an unusual object or situation to someone on the phone who cannot see it. · Prep 30 s · Speak 60 s

Hi [name], I'm at [place], **and** I've found [the object] **that** I think you'd like.

It's about the size of [comparison], **and** it's [shape], **made of** [material].

On the top, there's [detail], **while at the bottom**, [detail].

It looks a bit like [familiar object], **but** [difference]. **What makes it special is that** [feature].

So, [why you're calling]. **Let me know if** you'd like me to [action].

Key **connector** keep these · [gap] your own ideas

Advice Cover size, shape, colour, material and the main parts, in that order.

Compare it with things the listener knows: "about the size of a shoebox", "it looks a bit like...".

Remember why you are calling. Finish with what you want them to decide or do.

Connector bank

Spoken upgrades for the basic words. Natural out loud, not read from a page.

JOB	INSTEAD OF	SAY / WRITE	EXAMPLE
Add a point	and, also	On top of that · Not only that, but · What's more · Plus,	The gym is close to home. On top of that , it's open twenty-four hours.
Give a reason	because	The reason is that · Seeing as · Given that · That's because	I'd take the train, seeing as parking downtown is so expensive.
Show a result	so	That's why · As a result, · which means · That way,	Book early. That way , you'll get the cheaper seats.
Contrast	but	Having said that, · Even so, · That said, · On the other hand,	It's a bit pricey. Having said that , it lasts for years.
Concede	I know	Granted, · I get that · I completely understand that · Admittedly,	I completely understand that you're busy, but this won't take long.
Give an example	for example	Just to give you an idea, · Take ... for instance · A good example is	Just to give you an idea , last month I saved almost a hundred dollars.
Advise	you should	If I were you, I'd · I'd strongly recommend · You might want to · It might be worth	If I were you, I'd talk to your manager before you decide.
Predict	maybe	Chances are · It's quite likely that · I'd expect · There's a good chance	Chances are the bus will arrive any minute now.
Place things	there is	In the foreground, · Right next to · In the top corner, · Just behind	In the foreground , a woman is checking her watch.
Buy thinking time	um, uh	Let me think, · What I mean is, · The thing is, · How can I put it,	The thing is , the second option takes much longer.
Wrap up	in conclusion	All in all, · At the end of the day, · So, overall, · That's why	At the end of the day , it's your decision, but I'd go for it.