



How To Get Started With Your CELPIP Speaking Practice

Here are 4 simple steps that will help get unstuck with your Speaking practice.

1. Pick one. Let's pick the very first speaking task of the CELPIP to begin. The one where you give advice.

I bet you've done this before! Stop and think about this for a minute! I bet you've given someone, somewhere advice, right?

2. Write the problem down. Think about that time when you gave advice. What was the problem or situation? What advice did you give? Write it down - feel free to do it in your first language to start, but I challenge you to try and do this in English as much as you can.

3. Notice your answer. What did you do to make your advice helpful for the person you were talking to? How was your tone of voice? Did you offer them examples or stories of things you've experienced to help? Did you offer reasons why you were giving them the ideas you gave?

Use English. If you haven't already, try and write that same story in English - the story you just were telling in your first language. (If you've already come this far and have done it in English, congratulations - jump ahead to the next and final step!) We're just free practicing right here. Don't worry about time. Just get your story out in English. When you're done, move to the last step.

4. Record. Grab your cell phone, open your voice memo app, hit record - and then read your answer off.

That's it.

You've recorded an answer for speaking task one.

It will likely suck. That's ok. You recorded an answer!

Your answer likely took way longer than 30 seconds to prepare, and that's ok! You recorded an answer!

And your final answer likely took much longer than 90 seconds to record, that's ok - you know what's coming, don't you! You recorded an answer!

You're moving.

Here's the secret: if you've been feeling stuck - the best thing you can do is start moving forward, and if you followed along with me here, believe it or not, you are now moving.

Not perfectly moving.

But you're moving.

And I'll tell you another secret: it's way easier to improve on your answer when you actually have one to work with!

Bonus Practice Questions:

1. Your best friend is thinking about selling their home and moving to another part of the country because they are struggling to live here. What do you think they should do?
2. Your coworker wants to apply for a better paying job, but they aren't sure how to talk to their boss about it. Your coworker has just asked you for some advice about how to talk to their boss. What should they do?
3. You and your friends are planning a vacation over the summer. They ask you for advice about if they should take a car, fly or go on a cruise. What is the best way to travel and why?