

## Practice Thinking Faster For The Speaking Section Of The CELPIP Exam

**Before anything else, Your mindset matters!** When it comes to thinking about things to say on the exam, your goal isn't coming up with THE BEST idea. It's to come up with as many *ideas* as you can so you have things to work with.

In order to come up with many ideas, stop judging or grading them when they come. Just write them down.

As you start writing your ideas, more will come. (Like priming a pump.)

**Make Practice Fun! Story tag.** How it works: You're only allowed to say one word, and then the person you're playing it with, says another word. You take turns adding just one word to the story you both are building together.

What makes this game a perfect practice tool is this: it encourages you to think fast to come up with what happens next. You can make the difficulty easy or hard by changing the rules:

- Make sure you're playing in English!
- Instead of just the next word, try coming up with a complete sentence.
- Instead of saying silly things, make a rule that you actually need to move the story along as well.

**Watch and predict.** This game is great practice for speaking task 4, making predictions: You just need to watch a tv show or movie in English that you haven't seen before.

Randomly pause the show or movie in the middle of a scene, and then predict what you think will happen next!

- Make sure you add lots of details.
- Explain why you think the character(s) will do what you think they will do.
- Listen to what your friend or family member suggests, and then either disagree and stick up for your idea, Then, press play and see how close you were to what actually happens in the story.

With little extra work, this fun activity can also help you practice other speaking tasks!

**Turn it into speaking task 1 practice:** giving advice: If the scene is appropriate, try putting yourself into one of the character's shoes and offer them advice about what they should do next.

- Make sure you pretend to actually talk to them - use their name!
- Make sure you give a few suggestions with a few reasons for each.

**Turn it into speaking task 2: Past experience:** When you pause the scene, talk about a time when something similar happened to you. Make sure you include as many details and feelings from what you experienced as you can.

**Speaking task 3: You could also try describing what you're looking at.** Make it a game with the person you're with to pause a random scene, and then begin describing what you're looking at. As you describe a certain spot, have your friend or family member go up to the screen and point to the area you are talking about. If you've done your describing job well, they should be able to find it!

You can make these activities even more challenging by adding a timer to it.

	Prep Time	Speaking Time
Speaking Task 1: Give Advice	30 Seconds	90 Seconds
Speaking Task 2: A Past Experience	30 Seconds	60 Seconds
Speaking Task 3: Describe a Scene	30 Seconds	60 Seconds
Speaking Task 4: Make Predictions	30 Seconds	60 Seconds