

CANADIAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY INDEX PROGRAM

Reading

*Section 2 · Study booklet***OCTOBER 2026****INSIDE THIS BOOKLET****SECTION 2****Reading**

38 questions

≈ 55–60 minutes

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SECTION 2

Reading

38 questions **Duration** ≈ 55–60 minutes

Read each text, then choose the single best answer for each question.

PART 1

Reading Correspondence

Read the message and the reply. Answer the questions about the message, then for each numbered blank in the reply choose the word or phrase that fits best.

Reading Part 1: Reading Correspondence

Need your advice about my missing tool case

Hi Darius,

How have you been settling into your new shift at Vanton Glass? I finally started the refrigeration technician course I mentioned, and most of it has gone well, but I had a ridiculous problem on the trip to Havilock that I still have not sorted out. Since you travel for work all the time, I thought you might know what I should do next.

The trouble started on a Saturday in late June, when I took the coach from Bellmere to Havilock for the three-day course at the Marwick Trades Centre. We were told to bring steel-toe boots, notebooks, and a basic tool kit, so I packed everything in a black rolling case with a yellow strap around the handle. At the Bellmere terminal, the driver tagged my case for the undercarriage compartment, and I noticed another nearly identical case beside it, except that one had a red luggage ribbon. We reached Havilock just after 8:30 p.m. Because of a road closure near Doran Street, the coach stopped one block farther east than usual, and everyone was in a rush to unload. I grabbed the case with the yellow strap and headed to my motel, only to discover, after I had already checked in and showered, that the strap was mine but the case was not. Someone had apparently moved straps around after the bags were unloaded. Inside were kitchen knives, chef jackets, and an invoice made out to a catering company called Cedar Spoon Events. By then the terminal office was closed, so I called the emergency number on the baggage tag. The dispatcher reached the driver, who remembered a passenger asking about a missing tool case but could not identify them. The next morning, I brought the chef's case back to the terminal. A clerk named Mina opened a report and said the security camera showed another passenger lifting both cases for a moment, then putting one down again.

Luckily, the course instructor let me borrow gauges and hand tools, so I did not miss the practical sessions. Still, I had to buy gloves and a replacement notebook at a hardware store across from the motel. Mina also emailed me yesterday saying Cedar Spoon Events had been contacted through the invoice, but the company had not yet confirmed which employee travelled that night.

Could you tell me whether I should keep dealing with the coach company, or contact Cedar Spoon directly as well? I do not want to annoy the wrong people, but the case had my grandfather's old wrench set in it, and that matters more to me than the new boots. If you think a short, firm email would help, I can draft one tonight.

Take care,
Eli Mercer

Re: Need your advice about my missing tool case

Hi Eli,

What a mess. Since the course was at the Marwick Trades Centre, I can see why you needed the case right away, and it was lucky the instructor helped. I would start with the coach company, because Mina already opened a report and they have the camera footage. Cedar Spoon Events might cooperate later, but they are not the ones who accepted your bag for travel.

If you write tonight, mention the stop change near Doran Street and the mix-up with the (7) _____. That detail shows the mistake likely happened after unloading, not before. I would also ask Mina for a copy of the report, (8) _____ the dispatcher's note about the passenger who asked for a tool case. If Cedar Spoon confirms which staff member travelled, then (9) _____. Otherwise, you risk contacting a company before anyone there knows what happened. If the coach line does not update you by Tuesday afternoon, (10) _____. And please mention your grandfather's wrench set, because (11) _____.

Best,
Darius Cole

1 The writer's main point is

- ☐ A he wants advice about recovering his lost case
- ☐ B he plans to complain about borrowed equipment
- ☐ C the motel near the terminal was inconvenient
- ☐ D the training course was harder than expected

2 The writer wrote this message to

- ☐ A warn about a dangerous course
- ☐ B ask for practical guidance
- ☐ C apologize for missing a visit
- ☐ D recommend a coach company

3 The luggage mix-up most likely became possible because

- ☐ A the writer left the terminal too quickly
- ☐ B the clerk tagged both bags incorrectly
- ☐ C someone handled both similar cases during unloading
- ☐ D the driver skipped the regular stop

4

One fortunate part of the situation was that

- ☐ A the missing notebook was in the chef's bag
- ☐ B the terminal office stayed open late
- ☐ C Cedar Spoon answered immediately
- ☐ D the instructor supplied equipment for class

5

The writer seems most concerned about losing

- ☐ A a tool set with personal value
- ☐ B the money spent on replacement items
- ☐ C his place in the practical sessions
- ☐ D the new boots required for class

6

The message expresses

- ☐ A doubt about continuing in the trade
- ☐ B frustration mixed with restraint
- ☐ C anger at the course instructor
- ☐ D relief that the case was found

7

Blank 7

- ☐ A security camera
- ☐ B road closure
- ☐ C yellow strap
- ☐ D chef jackets

8

Blank 8

- ☐ A instead of
- ☐ B unless
- ☐ C despite
- ☐ D including

9

Blank 9

- ☐ A you will know whom to approach there
- ☐ B the course centre should reimburse you
- ☐ C you should return the borrowed tools
- ☐ D the driver can close the report

10

Blank 10

- ☐ A contact the instructor again
- ☐ B send a polite follow-up email
- ☐ C post publicly about the problem
- ☐ D wait until the weekend

11

Blank 11

- ☐ A it proves Cedar Spoon packed your tools
- ☐ B it shows the boots were bought recently
- ☐ C it explains why the case matters so much
- ☐ D it will help identify the yellow strap

PART 2

Reading to Apply a Diagram

Read the information in the diagram and the message, then answer the questions.

Reading Part 2: Reading to Apply a Diagram

Verdant Desk Plant Care Plans — Mossfield Business District

Verdant Desk Plant Care Plans

Plan | Best for | Visit frequency | Watering & health checks | Pruning & cleaning | Replacement policy | Monthly fee

--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---

Starter | 1–8 plants, low-maintenance species | Every 2 weeks | Included | Light trimming only | 1 small plant per quarter | \$42

Balanced | 6–20 plants, mixed varieties | Weekly | Included | Full pruning and leaf cleaning | 2 plants per quarter | \$78

Thrive | 15–35 plants, busy offices or bright lobbies | Twice weekly | Included | Full pruning, leaf cleaning, and staking | 4 plants per quarter | \$126

Rescue Reset | Neglected plants needing recovery | 2 visits in first month, then every 2 weeks | Included | Soil refresh and heavy pruning | No replacements included | \$64

Add-ons:

- Pest-monitoring strip set: \$9/month per site
- Decorative pot rotation: \$14/month for up to 10 plants; \$22/month for 11–20 plants
- Extra replacement beyond plan limit: \$18 per small plant, \$31 per medium plant

Service notes:

- Visits are available between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- New clients receive a free initial assessment.

*Monthly fees do not include tax, and add-ons can be started or cancelled only at the beginning of a month.

Contact: care@verdantdesk.ca | 555-0174

Message

To: Priya

From: Nolan

Subject: Plant-care options for the studio

Hi Priya,

I went through the Verdant Desk flyer after you mentioned that our reception area plants are slipping. Since we have 14 plants altogether, the Starter plan is clearly too limited, and Rescue Reset seems aimed at offices that have already let everything get out of hand. That leaves Balanced and Thrive. For our situation, Balanced looks like the (1) _____ choice because it covers mixed varieties and gives weekly visits without pushing us into the higher price tier.

I also noticed that Thrive includes twice-weekly visits, which sounds great, but it would be hard to justify unless we were caring for a much larger lobby. At \$126 a month, it's (2) _____ than the plan I'm leaning toward. If we choose Balanced and add decorative pot rotation for our current number of plants, the monthly cost before tax would be (3) _____. That still seems manageable, especially since the first assessment is free.

One thing to keep in mind is timing. Because add-ons only change at the start of a month, we should decide right away whether we want the pots refreshed too. I'd skip the pest-monitoring strips for now and begin with Balanced; if the team agrees, I can book the assessment for a (4) _____ visit window. Overall, this feels like a (5) _____ way to improve the space without overcommitting.

Best,

Nolan

Studio Coordinator

12 Blank 1

☐ A most temporary

☐ B least flexible

☐ C most sensible

☐ D most intensive

13 Blank 2

☐ A less restrictive

☐ B about the same price

☐ C slightly cheaper

☐ D quite a bit more expensive

14 Blank 3

☐ A \$100

☐ B \$109

☐ C \$87

☐ D \$92

15 Blank 4

☐ A 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

☐ B mid-morning

☐ C evening-only

☐ D 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

16 Blank 5

☐ A short-term but premium

☐ B specialized and urgent

☐ C practical and affordable

☐ D risky but stylish

17 Why does Nolan reject the Thrive plan?

☐ A It starts with a paid assessment

☐ B It cannot include decorative pots

☐ C It excludes mixed plant varieties

☐ D It offers more service than their office needs

18 The writer is most likely

☐ A recommending a moderate plan with one add-on

☐ B choosing a rescue plan for dead plants

☐ C delaying any service until next quarter

☐ D asking Priya to compare prices alone

19 What will Nolan probably do next if Priya agrees?

- ☐ **A** Wait to add any service mid-month
- ☐ **B** Arrange the free initial assessment
- ☐ **C** Switch to Thrive for extra visits
- ☐ **D** Order pest-monitoring strips immediately

PART 3

Reading for Information

Read the following passage. Decide which paragraph, A to D, has the information given in each statement below. Select E if the information is not given in any of the paragraphs.

Reading Part 3: Reading for Information

How Slate Hollow Farm Grows Mushrooms Below Ground

A

Slate Hollow Farm operates in tunnels left behind by a stone quarry near the fictional town of Bellwick. The site was abandoned for decades until two food entrepreneurs leased part of it in 2018, hoping the steady underground conditions would reduce energy costs. Unlike above-ground greenhouses, the chambers stay cool and humid throughout the year, so the farm needs little mechanical heating. Workers first had to clear broken equipment, improve drainage, and install washable wall panels to meet food-safety rules. By the time the first crop was planted, the owners had also built a lift system so supplies could be moved in without blocking the narrow entrance road.

B

The farm mainly produces oyster and shiitake mushrooms, though it tests smaller batches of lion's mane for local chefs. Rather than growing them in soil, staff pack sawdust, grain, and minerals into long plastic bags, then heat the mixture to kill unwanted organisms. Once it cools, mushroom spawn is added in a clean room, and the bags are stacked on racks in dark growing chambers. After several weeks, tiny clusters appear through slits cut in the plastic. Timing matters: if workers harvest too late, the caps flatten, moisture drops, and the product bruises more easily during transport to shops and restaurants.

C

Although the underground location saves energy, it creates other complications. Deliveries must be scheduled carefully because only one small truck can use the access ramp at a time, and mobile phone service disappears beyond the main gate. To avoid confusion, drivers receive printed maps and are asked to arrive within a fifteen-minute window. Water management is another issue. Since the old quarry walls naturally collect condensation, the farm channels excess moisture into storage tanks, filters it, and reuses part of it for cleaning floors. Even so, employees still inspect for mould every day, because a damp space can quickly turn from ideal to risky.

D

Slate Hollow now sells most of its harvest within ninety kilometres, a choice the owners describe as practical rather than sentimental. Fresh mushrooms spoil quickly, and shorter routes mean stores can receive them a day after picking. The business also earns extra income by selling used growing substrate to nearby gardeners, who mix it into compost. Last autumn, the farm began offering monthly tours, but these are limited to twelve visitors because some passages remain uneven. Visitors do not enter active growing rooms; instead, they watch through glass panels while guides explain how abandoned industrial sites can sometimes be adapted for food production.

E. Not given in any of the above paragraphs.

- 20** This section explains why the operators chose a below-ground site and what changes were needed before food could be grown there.

☐ A A

☐ B B

☐ C C

☐ D D

☐ E E

- 21** This paragraph describes the cultivation method, including the prepared material the crop grows in and the consequences of waiting too long to pick it.

☐ A A

☐ B B

☐ C C

☐ D D

☐ E E

- 22** The writer focuses here on logistical and maintenance problems that come with the location, even though the temperature is helpful.

☐ A A

☐ B B

☐ C C

☐ D D

☐ E E

23 This part deals with how the company makes money beyond direct sales and how public visits are managed for safety reasons.

☐ A A

☐ B B

☐ C C

☐ D D

☐ E E

24 The passage says the farm switched from plastic growing bags to reusable wooden trays in order to cut waste.

☐ A A

☐ B B

☐ C C

☐ D D

☐ E E

25 One paragraph suggests the owners favour nearby customers mainly because long-distance shipping would reduce product quality.

☐ A A

☐ B B

☐ C C

☐ D D

☐ E E

- 26** A section indicates that water collecting on the stone surfaces is partly treated and put to use instead of being completely discarded.

☐ A A

☐ B B

☐ C C

☐ D D

☐ E E

- 27** The article states that chefs asked the farm to expand lion's mane production after public tours increased demand.

☐ A A

☐ B B

☐ C C

☐ D D

☐ E E

- 28** One paragraph makes it clear that strict sanitation is built into the process before the developing fungus is introduced.

☐ A A

☐ B B

☐ C C

☐ D D

☐ E E

PART 4

Reading for Viewpoints

Read the article and the comment that follows it, then answer the questions.

Reading Part 4: Reading for Viewpoints

Should Stores Limit Teen Access to Premium Skincare?

What used to be a quiet corner of the cosmetics aisle has become a flashpoint in Bellmere. Several pharmacies and beauty chains are considering a voluntary rule: shoppers under sixteen could still buy basic cleanser and sunscreen, but stronger anti-aging serums and exfoliating acids would be kept behind the counter. Supporters call it sensible protection; critics hear paternalism and clever marketing disguised as concern.

The idea came from retailer Sonia Viret, who manages a busy branch of Lattice Health. She says staff have watched preteens arrive with lists copied from social media videos and leave with products meant for adult skin. "We're not talking about lip balm," Viret said. "Some of these formulas can irritate the skin barrier when they're layered carelessly." Her store tested advisory signs in spring, yet, disappointingly, many young shoppers treated the warnings as part of the trend's glamour. That failure pushed her toward age limits for a narrow group of products.

Not everyone is persuaded. Milo Sanz, who owns the independent boutique Glass Petal, argues that the proposal would punish informed teenagers while doing little to curb impulsive buying online. "If a fourteen-year-old can order the same serum on a phone at midnight, what exactly have we solved?" he asked. Sanz also worries that once clerks begin judging who is old enough for one item, they will inevitably make awkward guesses about age, skin concerns, and family income. In his view, better shelf labels and ingredient education would be less intrusive.

A more cautious middle position comes from Dr. Farah Imber, a dermatologist at Bellmere General Clinic. She does not back a blanket ban, but she rejects the idea that all experimentation is harmless. According to Imber, adults often recover quickly from overuse, whereas younger skin can stay inflamed for weeks. "The problem isn't curiosity," she said. "It's concentrated actives sold as if they were harmless accessories." She favours a short in-store consultation before purchase, much like asking a pharmacist for advice, because that approach might slow down trend-driven buying without turning routine shopping into a showdown.

Even youth workers are divided. Kian Osei, who runs after-school programs at Ember House, hears students talk about skincare as a kind of social currency. "Kids compare routines the way older generations compared sneakers," he said. Restricting products, he suspects, could make them more desirable. Still, he admits some students are using six or seven steps before bed and blaming themselves when their skin worsens. For him, the deeper issue is not vanity but the pressure to manage appearance as if it were a school subject.

That pressure may outlast any store policy. A quick poll by the Bellmere Ledger found that parents strongly supported limits, while teenagers largely opposed them; yet both groups agreed that online beauty advice is now shaping household arguments. Meanwhile, clerks at one chain reported a practical snag: once customers were refused a serum, they simply bought a gift card and asked an older sibling to return later.

Limits Alone Won't Fix the Pressure

I've managed a cosmetics counter for nine years, so this debate feels very familiar to me. I understand why Sonia Viret wants stronger products monitored more closely. I've seen customers barely in middle school ask for peeling solutions they clearly do not understand. On that point, (6) _____. A quick conversation at the till can prevent a rash and, just as importantly, signal that not every online recommendation deserves instant trust.

Still, I can't follow Milo Sanz all the way either, because clearer labels alone rarely slow anyone down. When a trend is roaring through a school, teenagers do not pause to compare ingredient charts. At the same time, (7) _____ because clerks are not skin specialists. That is why Dr. Imber's consultation idea seems closest to reality, especially if it stays brief and respectful. In my store, (8) _____, which is why I doubt a hard age rule would last. Last month, a mother bought a retinol serum after her daughter was refused, so (9) _____. For that reason, (10) _____ if stores want less conflict and fewer bad reactions.

29 This article is mainly about

- ☐ A whether social media companies should remove beauty videos aimed at children
- ☐ B how pharmacies can increase sales of basic cleansers and sunscreen
- ☐ C why independent beauty shops are losing customers to large chains
- ☐ D a dispute over restricting young shoppers' access to potent skincare products

30 According to Sonia Viret, the proposed limits became more appealing after

- ☐ A simple in-store warnings failed to discourage trend-driven purchases
- ☐ B parents complained that clerks were giving medical advice
- ☐ C adult customers started treating warning signs as a marketing gimmick
- ☐ D online stores began offering late-night delivery to teenagers

31 Milo Sanz would most likely support

- ☐ A requiring a pharmacist to approve every skincare sale to minors
- ☐ B adding clearer ingredient information instead of setting age-based barriers
- ☐ C asking parents to sign permission forms before teens buy cosmetics
- ☐ D removing premium serums from stores and selling them only online

32

The first paragraph mainly provides

- ☐ A a history of how anti-aging products were first marketed to adults
- ☐ B proof that beauty retailers are responsible for social pressure among teens
- ☐ C background on a local controversy and the opposing ways it is framed
- ☐ D evidence that pharmacies have already agreed on a single policy

33

The author's tone indicates the most support for

- ☐ A the view that stores should avoid involvement and leave decisions to families
- ☐ B teen resistance to adult control over trends and personal appearance
- ☐ C strict age bans because young shoppers cannot make informed choices
- ☐ D a limited, practical form of guidance rather than an outright prohibition

34

Blank 6

- ☐ A I agree that some guardrails are reasonable
- ☐ B teenagers should be barred from cosmetics entirely
- ☐ C I think the whole concern is exaggerated
- ☐ D Milo Sanz is obviously right about labels

35

Blank 7

- ☐ A clerks should diagnose skin conditions more confidently
- ☐ B I would not want staff making final decisions on their own
- ☐ C a complete ban would be easier for everyone to enforce
- ☐ D young shoppers usually know more than adults about ingredients

36

Blank 8

- ☐ A parents usually oppose these purchases more than staff do
- ☐ B teen customers almost never return after being refused
- ☐ C families often find a workaround within a day
- ☐ D we simply refuse any product that sounds too advanced

37

Blank 9

- ☐ A Dr. Imber was mistaken about younger skin staying inflamed
- ☐ B Milo Sanz proved that online shopping is no longer relevant
- ☐ C Sonia Viret's trial signs were clearly the better solution
- ☐ D Kian Osei may be right that restrictions can make products more tempting

38

Blank 10

- ☐ A stores need education and brief advice, not just denial at the cash register
- ☐ B retailers should stop selling premium skincare to adults as well
- ☐ C parents must be the only people allowed to buy facial products
- ☐ D stores should avoid mentioning social media pressures altogether

Answer keys

Check your answers against the grids below. Only the listening and reading components have an answer key; writing and speaking are assessed by a teacher.

Reading

01	A	02	B	03	C	04	D	05	A	06	B	07	C	08	D
09	A	10	B	11	C	12	C	13	D	14	A	15	B	16	C
17	D	18	A	19	B	20	A	21	B	22	C	23	D	24	E
25	D	26	C	27	E	28	B	29	D	30	A	31	B	32	C
33	D	34	A	35	B	36	C	37	D	38	A				

No.	Ans.	Part	Correct answer
1	A	Reading Correspondence	he wants advice about recovering his lost case
2	B	Reading Correspondence	ask for practical guidance
3	C	Reading Correspondence	someone handled both similar cases during unloading
4	D	Reading Correspondence	the instructor supplied equipment for class
5	A	Reading Correspondence	a tool set with personal value
6	B	Reading Correspondence	frustration mixed with restraint
7	C	Reading Correspondence	yellow strap
8	D	Reading Correspondence	including
9	A	Reading Correspondence	you will know whom to approach there
10	B	Reading Correspondence	send a polite follow-up email
11	C	Reading Correspondence	it explains why the case matters so much
12	C	Reading to Apply a Diagram	most sensible
13	D	Reading to Apply a Diagram	quite a bit more expensive
14	A	Reading to Apply a Diagram	\$100
15	B	Reading to Apply a Diagram	mid-morning
16	C	Reading to Apply a Diagram	practical and affordable

No.	Ans.	Part	Correct answer
17	D	Reading to Apply a Diagram	It offers more service than their office needs
18	A	Reading to Apply a Diagram	recommending a moderate plan with one add-on
19	B	Reading to Apply a Diagram	Arrange the free initial assessment
20	A	Reading for Information	A
21	B	Reading for Information	B
22	C	Reading for Information	C
23	D	Reading for Information	D
24	E	Reading for Information	E
25	D	Reading for Information	D
26	C	Reading for Information	C
27	E	Reading for Information	E
28	B	Reading for Information	B
29	D	Reading for Viewpoints	a dispute over restricting young shoppers' access to potent skincare products
30	A	Reading for Viewpoints	simple in-store warnings failed to discourage trend-driven purchases
31	B	Reading for Viewpoints	adding clearer ingredient information instead of setting age-based barriers
32	C	Reading for Viewpoints	background on a local controversy and the opposing ways it is framed
33	D	Reading for Viewpoints	a limited, practical form of guidance rather than an outright prohibition
34	A	Reading for Viewpoints	I agree that some guardrails are reasonable
35	B	Reading for Viewpoints	I would not want staff making final decisions on their own
36	C	Reading for Viewpoints	families often find a workaround within a day
37	D	Reading for Viewpoints	Kian Osei may be right that restrictions can make products more tempting
38	A	Reading for Viewpoints	stores need education and brief advice, not just denial at the cash register



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