

3 I've planted some new flowers. Don't they look beautiful?

The focus here is on the result of the planting.

Why are you covered in mud? – **I've been planting** some new flowers.

The focus here is on the activity that has made the person dirty. We do not know nor are we interested in whether the planting is finished or not.

4 The present perfect continuous is also used to emphasise how long something has been going on.

He tried to tell me I didn't understand the rules of the game. **I've been playing** badminton for twenty years. He's only **been playing** for three months!

Note that state verbs – e.g. *know, believe, see, want* – do not generally have a continuous form so you cannot use them in the present perfect continuous even if the meaning seems to demand it.

10 **1** Complete the sentences with either the present perfect simple or continuous of the verbs in brackets, and where necessary *for* or *since*.

1 I _____ (play) the clarinet _____ I was a child.

2 I _____ only _____ (go) scuba-diving twice.

3 I _____ (know) her _____ three and a half years.

4 I _____ (read) your book. You can have it back now.

5 I _____ (watch) TV all morning. I'm so lazy!

2 Listen to check your answers. Then, for each question, give a reason why that tense is correct.

3 Listen to Track 02 again and repeat the sentences, focusing on your pronunciation. Pay attention to any difficult sounds, weak forms, and word and sentence stress.

11 Answer the questions you hear using either the present perfect simple or continuous.

IELTS Speaking Exam: Part 3

12 You are going to hear questions that are typical of Part 3 of the exam. Listen to each question and give your answers. Practise what you have learnt in this unit. Record your answers.

Now listen to the sample answers.

