

Sample lesson plan for *Grammar for IELTS* Unit 2

Student preparation for this class: Have learners study the first part, the grammar, before the class, check the Grammar reference on page 115 and make notes on anything they need clarifying in class. (20–30 mins)

Teacher preparation: none

Practice exercises (45 mins)

FOCUS

These exercises train learners to use the continuous tenses: present, past and present perfect, in an appropriate way in spoken and written English.

Exercise 1

This exercise not only gives learners practice in choosing the appropriate tense, but also focuses attention on what it is called (present continuous, past continuous or present perfect continuous) and the specific reason for using it (see Unit 1). It would be helpful to have learners discuss their answers in small groups before checking the answer key; identifying the rule number will ensure that they can justify their answers.

Typical mistakes: Students easily forget information unless it is recycled. Units 1 and 2 cover six different forms and 19 different reasons for making the appropriate choice; this might therefore be a good moment to recycle the simple forms and reasons for using them by discussing in groups. This would also provide an opportunity for learners to compare simple and continuous uses.

Exercise 2

Direct attention to the Grammar tip on page 11. Check learners understand the difference between active and stative verbs before they complete Exercise 2 which focuses on this point.

Exercise 3

This exercise encourages learners to notice how the continuous aspect is used in the context of an IELTS-type Reading text. The exercise also ensures that they are able to get the right answer, as the forms they need to use in the summary are embedded in the text.

Typical mistakes: Many students make mistakes because they don't notice the structure of written or spoken language when they are exposed to it. When there are exercises that encourage noticing, help students develop this into a habit so that they make better use of their reading and listening.

Exercise 4

This exercise shows how continuous tenses can be used to interpret data in the IELTS Writing exam Task 1. Seeing language used in specific contexts is another important way of helping students use it accurately.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY (25 MINS)

For additional practice in using the tenses from this unit and recycling the ones from Unit 1, have students work in small groups to construct six personalized sentences, one for each form of the simple and continuous forms of the three verb tenses. Point out that in each case it should be clear that only one choice is possible. They should also be clear about the specific reason for their choice. When they have finished, they rewrite the sentences with gaps for the tense choice and swap with another group.

Exam practice (30 mins)

This can be assigned for homework. Remind learners to look again at the Tip box, as well as the Writing exam tip box on page 13, before completing the Exam practice section.

If you have time in the next class, you could have learners assess each other's work and then compare with the model answer. The more you encourage your learners to evaluate each other's work, the more they will think about their own writing.