Tone Check

Sort passages by whether their tone stays consistent.

9.LL.19 "Apply conventions of language to communicate effectively with a target audience, including punctuation; capitalization; spelling; verb, pronoun, and modifier usage; and effective sentence structure. a..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

STEADY TONE

Both sentences use a formal tone suited to a school report. The second sentence avoids slang and chatty language.

The orchestra rehearsed before noon. Musicians refined the final movement.

TONE SHIFT

The first sentence uses a formal tone, but the second switches to slang or chatty language.

The council reviewed the budget. That price tag was bonkers.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle STEADY or SHIFT for each passage; for Part 2, choose two numbered passages and explain which words helped you decide.

1.	The greenhouse monitors humidity daily. Staff members adjust the vents as needed.	STEADY SHIFT
2.	The committee examined the proposal. Members submitted written feedback afterward.	STEADY SHIFT
3.	The archaeologists cataloged the artifacts. Their findings were super cool.	STEADY SHIFT
4.	The library extended its weekend hours. Patrons can now borrow materials on Sundays.	STEADY SHIFT
5.	The biologist measured the pond's depth. Then the numbers got kinda crazy.	STEADY SHIFT
6.	The principal outlined the safety plan. The whole thing was a total snoozefest.	STEADY SHIFT
7.	The storm damaged several bridges. Engineers inspected each structure before reopening it.	STEADY SHIFT
8.	The bakery reduced its food waste. Unsold bread goes to a local shelter.	STEADY SHIFT

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two original two-sentence passages, one STEADY and one SHIFT; begin both in a formal tone.

STEADY _____

SHIFT _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one SHIFT item, name its number, and rewrite only its second sentence to match the first sentence's formal tone.

ANSWER KEY

Tone Check

GRADE 9 · 9.LL.19

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The greenhouse monitors humidity daily. Staff members adjust the vents as needed.	**STEADY**	Both sentences maintain a formal, factual tone.
2	The committee examined the proposal. Members submitted written feedback afterward.	**STEADY**	Both sentences use formal wording.
3	The archaeologists cataloged the artifacts. Their findings were super cool.	**SHIFT**	"Super cool" changes the formal tone to a casual one.
4	The library extended its weekend hours. Patrons can now borrow materials on Sundays.	**STEADY**	Both sentences maintain a formal, informative tone.
5	The biologist measured the pond's depth. Then the numbers got kinda crazy.	**SHIFT**	"Kinda crazy" introduces casual language.
6	The principal outlined the safety plan. The whole thing was a total snoozefest.	**SHIFT**	"A total snoozefest" breaks the formal tone.
7	The storm damaged several bridges. Engineers inspected each structure before reopening it.	**STEADY**	Both sentences use formal, precise language.
8	The bakery reduced its food waste. Unsold bread goes to a local shelter.	**STEADY**	Both sentences use a straightforward, informative tone.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **STEADY**: The city planted new trees. Residents will water them during the summer.
- **SHIFT**: The train arrived twenty minutes late. That delay was a total mess.

Challenge: Item 3: Their findings provided valuable evidence.

For Part 2, accept explanations that point to formal wording in both sentences or identify the casual language that creates a shift. Items 3, 5, and 6 shift tone.