

Time Travel Verbs

Sort verbs by when the action happens.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.1c "Use verb tense to convey various times, sequences, states, and conditions."

NAME _____

DATE _____

PAST TENSE

Past-tense verbs tell about actions that already happened. They can show what happened before now.

Yesterday, I painted a birdhouse.

PRESENT TENSE

Present-tense verbs tell about actions happening now or actions that happen regularly. They can show what is true now.

Mia packs her lunch each morning.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle PAST or PRESENT for each sentence, then pick two items and explain how the verbs show when the action happens.

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The hikers crossed the bridge. | ☐ PAST | ☐ PRESENT |
| 2. Last night, the wind rattled the windows. | ☐ PAST | ☐ PRESENT |
| 3. Our class reads quietly after lunch. | ☐ PAST | ☐ PRESENT |
| 4. The baby cried during the storm. | ☐ PAST | ☐ PRESENT |
| 5. I feed my fish before school. | ☐ PAST | ☐ PRESENT |
| 6. We practice drums on Tuesdays. | ☐ PAST | ☐ PRESENT |
| 7. The chef chopped the carrots. | ☐ PAST | ☐ PRESENT |
| 8. My neighbors grow tomatoes each summer. | ☐ PAST | ☐ PRESENT |

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 one new sentence with a PAST-tense verb and one new sentence with a PRESENT-tense verb.

PAST _____

PRESENT _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about a skill you learned. In the first sentence, use past tense for what you did before. In the second sentence, use present tense for what you do now.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The hikers crossed the bridge.	PAST	Crossed is past tense, so the action already happened.
2	Last night, the wind rattled the windows.	PAST	Rattled is past tense, and last night is in the past.
3	Our class reads quietly after lunch.	PRESENT	Reads is present tense for a regular action.
4	The baby cried during the storm.	PAST	Cried is past tense, so the action is finished.
5	I feed my fish before school.	PRESENT	Feed is present tense for a routine.
6	We practice drums on Tuesdays.	PRESENT	Practice is present tense for a regular action.
7	The chef chopped the carrots.	PAST	Chopped is past tense, so it happened before now.
8	My neighbors grow tomatoes each summer.	PRESENT	Grow is present tense for a repeated action.

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)

- **PAST:** The owl hooted at dusk.
- **PRESENT:** I water the seedlings every Friday.

Challenge: Last year, I learned to ride a skateboard. Now, I practice turns at the park.

For Part 2, students should identify a verb and explain whether its action happened before now or happens now or regularly. Accept different correct Part 3 sentences when the verb tense clearly matches the category.