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.

ANSWER KEY

Time Travel Verbs

GRADE 5 · L.5.1c

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.