

Tense Time Track

Follow the verb tense through each sentence.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.1d "Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.*"

NAME _____

DATE _____

TENSE STAYS THE SAME

The verbs show actions in the same time. They may all be past, present, or future tense.

During winter break, Nia sketched a castle and mailed the picture to her cousin.

TENSE SHIFTS

A verb changes tense without a time clue that explains the change. Change a verb so the tenses match.

During winter break, Nia sketched a castle and mails the picture to her cousin.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which verb tense helped you decide.

- | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Yesterday, Maya washed the dishes and dried them. | STEADY | SHIFTS |
| 2. Every morning, the bus arrives at 7:30 and stopped at our corner. | STEADY | SHIFTS |
| 3. Last night, the stars glittered and the moon shone. | STEADY | SHIFTS |
| 4. On Saturdays, we visit Grandma and played cards. | STEADY | SHIFTS |
| 5. The class listened to the guest speaker and asked questions. | STEADY | SHIFTS |
| 6. In the spring, birds build nests and laid eggs. | STEADY | SHIFTS |
| 7. At recess, Devon traded stickers and shared a snack. | STEADY | SHIFTS |
| 8. Last week, our team practiced hard and won the game. | STEADY | SHIFTS |

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 labeled STEADY and one new sentence labeled SHIFTS.

STEADY _____

SHIFTS _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence so all verbs stay in the past tense: On Monday, Luis opened the gate and feeds the goats.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Yesterday, Maya washed the dishes and dried them.	STEADY	Both verbs, washed and dried, are past tense.
2	Every morning, the bus arrives at 7:30 and stopped at our corner.	SHIFTS	Arrives is present tense, but stopped is past tense.
3	Last night, the stars glittered and the moon shone.	STEADY	Both verbs, glittered and shone, are past tense.
4	On Saturdays, we visit Grandma and played cards.	SHIFTS	Visit is present tense, but played is past tense.
5	The class listened to the guest speaker and asked questions.	STEADY	Both verbs, listened and asked, are past tense.
6	In the spring, birds build nests and laid eggs.	SHIFTS	Build is present tense, but laid is past tense.
7	At recess, Devon traded stickers and shared a snack.	STEADY	Both verbs, traded and shared, are past tense.
8	Last week, our team practiced hard and won the game.	STEADY	Both verbs, practiced and won, are past tense.

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:** Tomorrow, I will plant seeds and water them.
- **SHIFTS:** Tomorrow, I will plant seeds and watered them.

Challenge: On Monday, Luis opened the gate and fed the goats.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, accept explanations that name the verbs and tell whether their tenses match or shift. For Part 3, accept original sentences with consistent tense for STEADY and an unexplained tense change for SHIFTS.