Voice Shift Detectives

Spot sentences that keep one verb voice or switch voices.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.1d "Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb voice and mood.*"

NAME _____ DATE _____

CONSISTENT VOICE

All the verbs use active voice or all use passive voice. The sentence keeps the same voice.

A thunderstorm flooded the trail and uprooted several trees.

INAPPROPRIATE VOICE SHIFT

The sentence switches between active and passive voice without a clear reason. Revise it so the voice stays the same.

The director announced the schedule, and the schedule was posted by the director.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the tag that fits each sentence, then choose two item numbers and explain what makes each sentence consistent or a shift.

1.	Mina measured the fabric and cut the pattern.	CONSISTENT	SHIFT
2.	The missing map was found beside the fountain, and it was returned to the office.	CONSISTENT	SHIFT
3.	The stage crew moved the lights, and the curtain was raised by them.	CONSISTENT	SHIFT
4.	Our class collected canned food and delivered the boxes to the shelter.	CONSISTENT	SHIFT
5.	The new policy was announced by the principal, and the principal explained its purpose.	CONSISTENT	SHIFT
6.	Leo designed the poster, and the poster was printed by Leo.	CONSISTENT	SHIFT
7.	The fossils were labeled, photographed, and stored in sealed cases.	CONSISTENT	SHIFT
8.	The referee stopped the game, and a warning was given by the referee to the fans.	CONSISTENT	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 one new sentence with consistent voice and one new sentence with an inappropriate voice shift.

CONSISTENT _____

SHIFT _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence so it uses one consistent voice: The committee approved the plan, and a notice was sent to families by the secretary.

ANSWER KEY

Voice Shift Detectives

GRADE 8 · L.8.1d

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mina measured the fabric and cut the pattern.	**CONSISTENT**	Both verbs are active.
2	The missing map was found beside the fountain, and it was returned to the office.	**CONSISTENT**	Both verbs are passive.
3	The stage crew moved the lights, and the curtain was raised by them.	**SHIFT**	The sentence changes from active voice to passive voice with the same actors.
4	Our class collected canned food and delivered the boxes to the shelter.	**CONSISTENT**	Both verbs are active.
5	The new policy was announced by the principal, and the principal explained its purpose.	**SHIFT**	The sentence changes from passive voice to active voice while repeating the same actor.
6	Leo designed the poster, and the poster was printed by Leo.	**SHIFT**	The sentence changes from active voice to passive voice with the same actor.
7	The fossils were labeled, photographed, and stored in sealed cases.	**CONSISTENT**	All three verbs are passive.
8	The referee stopped the game, and a warning was given by the referee to the fans.	**SHIFT**	The sentence changes from active voice to passive voice with the same actor.

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)

- **CONSISTENT**: The gardener watered the seedlings and trimmed the hedges.
- **SHIFT**: The journalist wrote the article, and the photographs were selected by the editor.

Challenge: The committee approved the plan, and the secretary sent a notice to families.

Sort key: 1 CONSISTENT, 2 CONSISTENT, 3 SHIFT, 4 CONSISTENT, 5 SHIFT, 6 SHIFT, 7 CONSISTENT, 8 SHIFT. For Part 2, students should identify the active or passive verbs and explain whether the sentence stays in one voice or switches voices.