

Time Word Detectives

Sort verbs by when the action happens.

2.L.GC.1.10 "Grammar: Form and use the simple verb tenses. (Master)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

HAPPENS NOW

Use a present-tense verb for something that happens now or regularly.

A bee buzzes near a flower.

HAPPENED BEFORE

Use a past-tense verb for something that happened before now.

The baby smiled at noon.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

For Part 1, circle NOW or PAST for each sentence; for Part 2, choose two sentences and explain how each verb tells when the action happens.

1. Dad washed the car.

NOW

PAST

2. Mia packed her lunch.

NOW

PAST

3. The frogs hop across logs.

NOW

PAST

4. The wind blew hard.

NOW

PAST

5. Our class reads quietly.

NOW

PAST

6. A fox sneaks through snow.

NOW

PAST

7. We visited the museum.

NOW

PAST

8. The bell rang at noon.

NOW

PAST

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 sentence with a NOW verb and one sentence with a PAST verb.

NOW _____

PAST _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence about something that happens now, then rewrite it to show that it happened before.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Dad washed the car.	PAST	Washed tells an action that happened before now.
2	Mia packed her lunch.	PAST	Packed tells an action that happened before now.
3	The frogs hop across logs.	NOW	Hop tells an action happening now or regularly.
4	The wind blew hard.	PAST	Blew tells an action that happened before now.
5	Our class reads quietly.	NOW	Reads tells an action happening now or regularly.
6	A fox sneaks through snow.	NOW	Sneaks tells an action happening now or regularly.
7	We visited the museum.	PAST	Visited tells an action that happened before now.
8	The bell rang at noon.	PAST	Rang tells an action that happened before now.

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)

- **NOW:** My cousin paints a picture.
- **PAST:** The train stopped at the station.

Challenge: The dog chases a ball. The dog chased a ball.

For Part 2, students should name the verb in each chosen sentence and tell whether it shows an action happening now or before now. Accept other correct student-created sentences that use present and past verbs clearly.