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.

ANSWER KEY

Time Word Detectives

GRADE 2 · 2.L.GC.1.10

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.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. 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.