

Time Match Detectives

Check whether verbs stay in the same time.

3.L.GC.2.b "Use a variety of simple, compound, and complex sentences to strengthen clarity and coherence, establishing consistent verb tense within and between sentences. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

STAYS IN TIME

The verb or verbs tell about one time, such as past, present, or future. This can happen in a simple, compound, or complex sentence.

The class will visit the museum, and we will sketch the fossils.

CHANGES TIME

The verbs jump from one time to another without a reason that explains the change. This can make the sentence unclear.

Although Jamal practiced daily, he misses the last shot.

1 SORT 8 items

Read each sentence, then circle STAYS or CHANGES to show what the verbs do.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The parrot squawked loudly. | ☐ STAYS | ☐ CHANGES |
| 2. After the storm passed, the children played outside. | ☐ STAYS | ☐ CHANGES |
| 3. Nia waters the plants, and Ben pulled weeds. | ☐ STAYS | ☐ CHANGES |
| 4. I will read before bed. | ☐ STAYS | ☐ CHANGES |
| 5. When the lights go out, the baby cried. | ☐ STAYS | ☐ CHANGES |
| 6. We cleaned the room, and Mom folds the towels. | ☐ STAYS | ☐ CHANGES |
| 7. The robots will race tomorrow. | ☐ STAYS | ☐ CHANGES |
| 8. If the rain stops, we played soccer. | ☐ STAYS | ☐ CHANGES |

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 that STAYS in time. Then write one sentence that CHANGES time.

STAYS _____

CHANGES _____

CHALLENGE

Write three connected sentences about a project: one simple sentence, one compound sentence, and one complex sentence. Keep every verb in the same tense.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The parrot squawked loudly.	STAYS	The verb squawked is past tense.
2	After the storm passed, the children played outside.	STAYS	Passed and played are both past tense.
3	Nia waters the plants, and Ben pulled weeds.	CHANGES	Waters is present tense, but pulled is past tense.
4	I will read before bed.	STAYS	Will read tells about the future.
5	When the lights go out, the baby cried.	CHANGES	Go out is present tense, but cried is past tense.
6	We cleaned the room, and Mom folds the towels.	CHANGES	Cleaned is past tense, but folds is present tense.
7	The robots will race tomorrow.	STAYS	Will race tells about the future.
8	If the rain stops, we played soccer.	CHANGES	Stops is present tense, but played is 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)

- **STAYS:** The puppies slept on the rug.
- **CHANGES:** The chef chops onions and stirred the soup.

Challenge: Lena painted a sign. She mixed blue paint, and her cousin cut stars. When the paint dried, they hung the sign.

Items 1, 2, 4, and 7 are STAYS. Items 3, 5, 6, and 8 are CHANGES. The items include simple, compound, and complex sentences so students focus on verb tense across sentence forms.