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.

ANSWER KEY

Time Match Detectives

GRADE 3 · 3.L.GC.2.b

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.