

Action Time Sort

Tell whether an action is ongoing or finished.

4.L.GC.1.43 "Grammar: Form and use the progressive, perfect, and perfect progressive verb aspects. (Introduce)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

ACTION IN PROGRESS

An ongoing action is happening over time. It often uses a form of be and a verb ending in -ing.

Lena will be hiking.

ACTION FINISHED

A finished action happened before a certain time. It often uses had, has, or have with a past participle.

Piper has spotted Mars.

1 SORT

8 items

For Part 1, circle the category for each sentence, then for Part 2, choose two sentences, one from each category, and explain which helping verb and verb ending helped you decide.

1. Tomas is juggling.

ONGOING

FINISHED

2. Cranes were gliding.

ONGOING

FINISHED

3. I had closed the gate before noon.

ONGOING

FINISHED

4. We are exploring caves.

ONGOING

FINISHED

5. They had chosen seats before the show.

ONGOING

FINISHED

6. Dolphins are leaping.

ONGOING

FINISHED

7. Workers were digging.

ONGOING

FINISHED

8. My uncle had fixed the radio by Friday.

ONGOING

FINISHED

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 an ongoing action and one new sentence with a finished action.

ONGOING _____

FINISHED _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses have been or has been and an -ing verb to show an action that began earlier and is continuing now.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Tomas is juggling.	ONGOING	Is juggling uses be plus an -ing verb.
2	Cranes were gliding.	ONGOING	Were gliding uses be plus an -ing verb.
3	I had closed the gate before noon.	FINISHED	Had closed shows the action was finished before noon.
4	We are exploring caves.	ONGOING	Are exploring uses be plus an -ing verb.
5	They had chosen seats before the show.	FINISHED	Had chosen shows the action was finished before the show.
6	Dolphins are leaping.	ONGOING	Are leaping uses be plus an -ing verb.
7	Workers were digging.	ONGOING	Were digging uses be plus an -ing verb.
8	My uncle had fixed the radio by Friday.	FINISHED	Had fixed shows the action was finished by Friday.

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)

- **ONGOING:** Ravi will be drawing a mural.
- **FINISHED:** Ms. Chen has packed lunches.

Challenge: The gardeners have been watering the seedlings since sunrise.

Accept Part 2 explanations that identify be plus an -ing verb for ongoing actions and had plus a past participle for finished actions. The challenge sentence uses the perfect progressive aspect.