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.

ANSWER KEY

Action Time Sort

GRADE 4 · 4.L.GC.1.43

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