

Time Travel Check

Sort sentences by whether their verb tenses stay steady.

7.L.GC.2.b "Use a variety of simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to condense and combine ideas, maintaining consistent verb tense throughout the text. (C)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

SAME VERB TENSE

The verbs keep the same time. Actions happening in one time period should use matching verb tenses.

The dancers rehearsed carefully, and they bowed together.

VERB TENSE SHIFT

The verbs switch time even though the actions belong in one time period. This can confuse the reader.

The puppy chases its toy and slept on the rug.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle CONSISTENT or SHIFTING for each sentence, then choose two items and explain which verbs show your choice.

- | | | | |
|----|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | When the bell rang, Maya packed her notebook and walked to lunch. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 2. | Leo measures the board and labels each edge. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 3. | The hikers crossed the bridge, but they stop to take photos. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 4. | Because the library was quiet, Nia studied, and she completed her outline. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 5. | Although rain soaked the field, the team practices until sunset. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 6. | I will carry the banner while my cousin waved to the crowd. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 7. | The chef chopped onions, and she started the soup. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 8. | The robot rolls forward when its sensor detected a wall. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |

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 consistent verb tense and one new sentence with a tense shift.

CONSISTENT _____

SHIFTING _____

CHALLENGE

Combine these ideas into one compound or complex sentence. Use past tense for every verb: The thunder began. We closed the windows.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	When the bell rang, Maya packed her notebook and walked to lunch.	CONSISTENT	Rang, packed, and walked are all past tense.
2	Leo measures the board and labels each edge.	CONSISTENT	Measures and labels are both present tense.
3	The hikers crossed the bridge, but they stop to take photos.	SHIFTING	Crossed is past tense, but stop is present tense.
4	Because the library was quiet, Nia studied, and she completed her outline.	CONSISTENT	Was, studied, and completed are all past tense.
5	Although rain soaked the field, the team practices until sunset.	SHIFTING	Soaked is past tense, but practices is present tense.
6	I will carry the banner while my cousin waved to the crowd.	SHIFTING	Will carry is future tense, but waved is past tense.
7	The chef chopped onions, and she started the soup.	CONSISTENT	Chopped and started are both past tense.
8	The robot rolls forward when its sensor detected a wall.	SHIFTING	Rolls is present tense, but detected 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)

- **CONSISTENT:** The campers gathered wood and built a fire.
- **SHIFTING:** The campers gather wood and built a fire.

Challenge: When the thunder began, we closed the windows.

For Part 2, students should name the verbs and explain whether the tenses match. In Part 3, accept varied sentence types when the consistent example uses matching time and the shifting example changes tense without a clear reason.