# Tense Time Check

Sort sentences by whether their verb tenses stay on one time track.

**8.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 _____

### CONSISTENT TENSE

The verbs show actions in the same time frame. A sentence can use past tense throughout or present tense throughout.

The violinist tuned her instrument before the concert began.

### SHIFTED TENSE

The verbs switch time frames without a reason. One verb may be past tense while another verb in the same situation is present tense.

The astronaut entered the capsule as she checks the controls.

## 1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle its category, then choose two items and explain how the verbs show a consistent or shifted time frame.

**1.** The hikers crossed the bridge and followed the trail. CONSISTENT SHIFTED

**2.** The chef mixed the batter, then she bakes the cake. CONSISTENT SHIFTED

**3.** When the gate opens, the crowd cheered. CONSISTENT SHIFTED

**4.** The debate team researched the issue, and its members prepared opening statements. CONSISTENT SHIFTED

**5.** While the rain fell, the campers stayed inside, and they played cards. CONSISTENT SHIFTED

**6.** Because the power failed, the museum closed early. CONSISTENT SHIFTED

**7.** The speaker explained the plan, but the audience asks no questions. CONSISTENT SHIFTED

**8.** The robot scans the room, then it detected a blocked path. CONSISTENT SHIFTED

## 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 CONSISTENT sentence and one new SHIFTED sentence.

**CONSISTENT** _____

**SHIFTED** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Write one compound-complex sentence with at least three verbs that all use the same tense.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Tense Time Check

**GRADE 8 · 8.L.GC.2.b**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | The hikers crossed the bridge and followed the trail. | **CONSISTENT** | Both verbs, crossed and followed, are past tense. |
| 2 | The chef mixed the batter, then she bakes the cake. | **SHIFTED** | Mixed is past tense, but bakes is present tense. |
| 3 | When the gate opens, the crowd cheered. | **SHIFTED** | Opens is present tense, but cheered is past tense. |
| 4 | The debate team researched the issue, and its members prepared opening statements. | **CONSISTENT** | Researched and prepared are both past tense. |
| 5 | While the rain fell, the campers stayed inside, and they played cards. | **CONSISTENT** | Fell, stayed, and played are all past tense. |
| 6 | Because the power failed, the museum closed early. | **CONSISTENT** | Failed and closed are both past tense. |
| 7 | The speaker explained the plan, but the audience asks no questions. | **SHIFTED** | Explained is past tense, but asks is present tense. |
| 8 | The robot scans the room, then it detected a blocked path. | **SHIFTED** | Scans 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 gardener pulled weeds and watered the beans.
- **SHIFTED**: The pilot checked the map, then she chooses a route.

**Challenge:** After the fog lifted, the sailors checked the compass, and they steered the boat toward shore.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should name the relevant verbs and explain whether the verbs remain in one time frame or shift. In the challenge, accept varied verb tenses as long as all verbs consistently match and the sentence is compound-complex.