Verb Pattern Hunt

Sort sentences by the way their verbs are built.

4.W.6.b.I "Writing sentences that use progressive verb tenses."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PROGRESSIVE

A progressive verb shows an action in progress. It uses a form of be, such as is, were, or will be, with a verb ending in -ing.

The otter is floating beside the dock.

SIMPLE

A simple verb tells about an action without the be plus -ing pattern. It can show a past, present, or future action.

A fox leaped across the creek.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category for each sentence, then choose two item numbers and explain how their verbs helped you sort them in Part 2.

1.	Maya is painting a mural.	ONGOING SIMPLE
2.	The puppies were chasing a ball.	ONGOING SIMPLE
3.	Leo carried a heavy box.	ONGOING SIMPLE
4.	We are planting tiny seeds.	ONGOING SIMPLE
5.	The bell rings at noon.	ONGOING SIMPLE
6.	I will fold the paper.	ONGOING SIMPLE
7.	Dad was stirring the soup.	ONGOING SIMPLE
8.	They will be building a bridge.	ONGOING SIMPLE

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 progressive sentence and one new simple sentence.

ONGOING _____

SIMPLE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your simple sentence from Part 3 as a progressive sentence that keeps the same time, past, present, or future.

ANSWER KEY

Verb Pattern Hunt

GRADE 4 · 4.W.6.b.I

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Maya is painting a mural.	**ONGOING**	Is painting uses a form of be plus an -ing verb.
2	The puppies were chasing a ball.	**ONGOING**	Were chasing uses a form of be plus an -ing verb.
3	Leo carried a heavy box.	**SIMPLE**	Carried is a simple past verb.
4	We are planting tiny seeds.	**ONGOING**	Are planting uses a form of be plus an -ing verb.
5	The bell rings at noon.	**SIMPLE**	Rings is a simple present verb.
6	I will fold the paper.	**SIMPLE**	Will fold is a simple future verb.
7	Dad was stirring the soup.	**ONGOING**	Was stirring uses a form of be plus an -ing verb.
8	They will be building a bridge.	**ONGOING**	Will be building uses will be plus an -ing verb.

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**: My sister is drawing a map.
- **SIMPLE**: The rabbit hopped over a log.

Challenge: The rabbit was hopping over a log.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the verb pattern. For example, item 2 has were plus chasing, while item 3 has the simple past verb carried.