Time Clue Sort

Sort sentences by when an action is finished.

5.W.6.a.I "Writing sentences that use the correct (e.g., I have walked, I had walked, I will have walked) verb tenses."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PAST PERFECT

A past perfect verb uses **had** with a completed-action verb form. It shows an action finished before another past event.

The diver had surfaced when the storm hit.

FUTURE PERFECT

A future perfect verb uses **will have** with a completed-action verb form. It shows an action that will be finished before a future time.

At midnight tomorrow, the dancers will have practiced their routine.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PAST or FUTURE for each sentence, then choose two numbered sentences and explain which verb words and time clues helped you sort them.

1.	When the bell rang, Leo had finished his sketch.	PAST FUTURE
2.	By next Friday, Nina will have built her model.	PAST FUTURE
3.	By noon tomorrow, Amir will have washed the windows.	PAST FUTURE
4.	Before the game began, Ava had tied her shoes.	PAST FUTURE
5.	When the rain started, we had cleaned the yard.	PAST FUTURE
6.	By Monday, Jo will have written the poem.	PAST FUTURE
7.	Before the lights went out, Dad had saved his file.	PAST FUTURE
8.	When the guests arrived, Bea had set the table.	PAST FUTURE

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 sentence with a past perfect verb and one with a future perfect verb, and include a time clue in each.

PAST _____

FUTURE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same task: one with a past perfect verb and a past time clue, and one with a future perfect verb and a future time clue.

ANSWER KEY

Time Clue Sort

GRADE 5 · 5.W.6.a.I

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	When the bell rang, Leo had finished his sketch.	**PAST**	Had finished shows the sketch was done before the bell rang.
2	By next Friday, Nina will have built her model.	**FUTURE**	Will have built shows the model will be done by next Friday.
3	By noon tomorrow, Amir will have washed the windows.	**FUTURE**	Will have washed shows the windows will be done by noon tomorrow.
4	Before the game began, Ava had tied her shoes.	**PAST**	Had tied shows Ava tied her shoes before the game began.
5	When the rain started, we had cleaned the yard.	**PAST**	Had cleaned shows the yard was done before the rain started.
6	By Monday, Jo will have written the poem.	**FUTURE**	Will have written shows the poem will be done by Monday.
7	Before the lights went out, Dad had saved his file.	**PAST**	Had saved shows Dad saved the file before the lights went out.
8	When the guests arrived, Bea had set the table.	**PAST**	Had set shows Bea set the table before the guests arrived.

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)

- **PAST**: Before the movie started, Luis had found his seat.
- **FUTURE**: By Saturday morning, Kim will have mailed the letter.

Challenge: Before yesterday's race, I had filled my water bottle. By tomorrow's race, I will have filled my water bottle.

For Part 2, accept any two explanations that identify both the perfect-tense verb and a matching time clue. For example, item 2 uses “will have built” with “next Friday,” while item 4 uses “had tied” with “before the game began.”