When Did It Happen?

Sort sentences by verb tense.

L.3.1.e "Use verb tenses."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PRESENT TENSE

A present-tense verb tells about something happening now or something that happens often.

Otters splash.

PAST TENSE

A past-tense verb tells about something that already happened. Some past-tense verbs end in -ed, but others change in a different way.

Otters splashed.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle PRESENT or PAST for each sentence; then choose two numbered sentences and explain how each verb shows when the action happens.

1. Maya paints a kite. PRESENT PAST

2. The twins carry bags. PRESENT PAST

3. Leo baked muffins. PRESENT PAST

4. The puppy slept on a rug. PRESENT PAST

5. Dad fixes a chair. PRESENT PAST

6. We found a shell. PRESENT PAST

7. The ducks swim in the pond. PRESENT PAST

8. Nina reads a comic. PRESENT PAST

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 present-tense sentence and one new past-tense sentence.

PRESENT _____

PAST _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence about what you do each morning, then change it to tell what you did yesterday morning. Underline the verb in each sentence.

ANSWER KEY

When Did It Happen?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Maya paints a kite.	**PRESENT**	Paints tells what Maya does in the present.
2	The twins carry bags.	**PRESENT**	Carry is a present-tense verb.
3	Leo baked muffins.	**PAST**	Baked tells about an action that already happened.
4	The puppy slept on a rug.	**PAST**	Slept is the past tense of sleep.
5	Dad fixes a chair.	**PRESENT**	Fixes is a present-tense verb.
6	We found a shell.	**PAST**	Found is the past tense of find.
7	The ducks swim in the pond.	**PRESENT**	Swim is a present-tense verb.
8	Nina reads a comic.	**PRESENT**	Reads is a present-tense 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)

- **PRESENT**: The chef stirs soup.
- **PAST**: Our class visited the museum.

Challenge: Each morning, I pack my lunch. Yesterday morning, I packed my lunch.

Items 1, 2, 5, 7, and 8 are present tense; items 3, 4, and 6 are past tense. For Part 2, accept explanations that name the verb and connect its form to when the action happens.