Verbs in Motion

Sort sentences by how they show an action.

L.4.1.b "Use the progressive verb tenses."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PROGRESSIVE VERB

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

Mia was sketching portraits.

SIMPLE VERB

A simple verb does not use the be + -ing pattern. It can tell what happens, happened, or will happen.

Owls hoot nightly.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ONGOING or SIMPLE for each sentence, then choose two items, one from each group, and explain which verb clues helped you sort them.

1.	1. The hikers were crossing the bridge.	ONGOING SIMPLE
2.	2. My aunt is baking bread.	ONGOING SIMPLE
3.	3. A squirrel hid an acorn.	ONGOING SIMPLE
4.	4. The team will be practicing tomorrow.	ONGOING SIMPLE
5.	5. Jamal kicked the ball.	ONGOING SIMPLE
6.	6. The train arrives at noon.	ONGOING SIMPLE
7.	7. We are planting seeds.	ONGOING SIMPLE
8.	8. The baby will nap later.	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 sentence with a progressive verb and one new sentence with a simple verb.

ONGOING _____

SIMPLE _____

CHALLENGE

Write two sentences about the same action, one with a simple past verb and one with a past progressive verb; underline the verbs.

ANSWER KEY

Verbs in Motion

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The hikers were crossing the bridge.	**ONGOING**	Were crossing uses be + -ing.
2	2. My aunt is baking bread.	**ONGOING**	Is baking uses be + -ing.
3	3. A squirrel hid an acorn.	**SIMPLE**	Hid is simple past, with no be + -ing pattern.
4	4. The team will be practicing tomorrow.	**ONGOING**	Will be practicing uses be + -ing.
5	5. Jamal kicked the ball.	**SIMPLE**	Kicked is simple past, with no be + -ing pattern.
6	6. The train arrives at noon.	**SIMPLE**	Arrives is simple present, with no be + -ing pattern.
7	7. We are planting seeds.	**ONGOING**	Are planting uses be + -ing.
8	8. The baby will nap later.	**SIMPLE**	Will nap is simple future, with no be + -ing pattern.

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**: The chef was stirring soup.
- **SIMPLE**: Lena rides her bike.

Challenge: Nora painted a fence. Nora was painting a fence.

Items 1, 2, 4, and 7 are ONGOING; items 3, 5, 6, and 8 are SIMPLE. For the proof, a student might note that item 1 has were crossing, while item 3 has hid without be + -ing.