Garden Action Sort

Sort verbs by how they show an action.

4.LF.39 "Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage. a. Use relative pronouns who, whose, which, and that, relative adverbs where, when, and how, and irregular possessive nouns. b..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACTION IN PROGRESS

The action is in progress. The verb phrase uses a form of be with a verb ending in -ing.

The sailor **was steering** the ship.

SIMPLE ACTION

The verb tells about an action without showing it in progress. It does not use a form of be with a verb ending in -ing.

The baker **mixes** dough.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ONGOING or SIMPLE for each bold verb phrase; for PROVE IT, choose one item from each category and explain how you know.

1. Mina **is measuring** the garden bed. ONGOING SIMPLE

2. Two classmates **were carrying** bags of soil. ONGOING SIMPLE

3. Leo **planted** three seeds. ONGOING SIMPLE

4. Our class **will be painting** the fence. ONGOING SIMPLE

5. A robin **landed** near the gate. ONGOING SIMPLE

6. The students **water** the seedlings daily. ONGOING SIMPLE

7. Our teacher **will bring** more gloves. ONGOING SIMPLE

8. I **am drawing** a plan for the path. ONGOING SIMPLE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how you know.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new sentence with an ONGOING verb phrase and one with a SIMPLE verb.

ONGOING _____

SIMPLE _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite your SIMPLE sentence so its action is in progress, and underline the complete new verb phrase.

ANSWER KEY # Garden Action Sort

GRADE 4 · 4.LF.39

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mina **is measuring** the garden bed.	**ONGOING**	Is measuring shows an action in progress.
2	Two classmates **were carrying** bags of soil.	**ONGOING**	Were carrying shows an action in progress.
3	Leo **planted** three seeds.	**SIMPLE**	Planted does not show an action in progress.
4	Our class **will be painting** the fence.	**ONGOING**	Will be painting is a future progressive verb phrase.
5	A robin **landed** near the gate.	**SIMPLE**	Landed does not show an action in progress.
6	The students **water** the seedlings daily.	**SIMPLE**	Water does not show an action in progress.
7	Our teacher **will bring** more gloves.	**SIMPLE**	Will bring does not include be and an -ing verb.
8	I **am drawing** a plan for the path.	**ONGOING**	Am drawing shows an action in progress.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how you know.
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 puppy is chasing a ball.
- **SIMPLE**: The bus drove past the park.

Challenge: The bus was driving past the park.

For PROVE IT, accept explanations that name the verb phrase and explain whether it uses a form of be with an -ing verb. For example, item 4 has will be painting, while item 7 has will bring.