When Did It Happen?

Sort actions before now and before another past action.

5.LF.39.g "Use perfect verb tenses to compose and revise writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

PRESENT PERFECT

Present perfect uses **has** or **have** plus a past participle for an action before now that connects to now. Use **has** with he, she, it, or a singular name; use **have** with I, you, we, they, or a plural name.

The puppy has chewed its toy lately.

PAST PERFECT

Past perfect uses **had** plus a past participle to show that one action happened before another past action. **Had** does not change to match the subject.

By sunrise, the sailor had folded the sails.

1 SORT

8 items

Part 1: Circle PRESENT or PAST for the bold verb phrase in each sentence; Part 2: Choose one item from each category and explain how the helping verb and time clue helped you sort it.

1. Maya **has planted** three seeds this week. PRESENT PAST

2. We **have gathered** leaves today. PRESENT PAST

3. Tariq **had locked** the gate before the storm began. PRESENT PAST

4. I **have read** two chapters so far. PRESENT PAST

5. The bus **had left** when Ana reached the stop. PRESENT PAST

6. They **had painted** the mural before the fair opened. PRESENT PAST

7. Nina **has saved** enough coins this month. PRESENT PAST

8. Our team **has practiced** twice since Monday. PRESENT PAST

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how the helping verb and time clue helped you sort it.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence using present perfect and one using past perfect; in your past perfect sentence, name the later past action too.

PRESENT _____

PAST _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite these two sentences as one sentence using past perfect to show which action happened first: The lights went out. Then Dad found a flashlight.

ANSWER KEY

When Did It Happen?

GRADE 5 · 5.LF.39.g

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Maya **has planted** three seeds this week.	**PRESENT**	Has planted is present perfect; this week connects the action to now.
2	We **have gathered** leaves today.	**PRESENT**	Have gathered is present perfect; today connects the action to now.
3	Tariq **had locked** the gate before the storm began.	**PAST**	Had locked is past perfect; locking came before the storm began.
4	I **have read** two chapters so far.	**PRESENT**	Have read is present perfect; so far connects the action to now.
5	The bus **had left** when Ana reached the stop.	**PAST**	Had left is past perfect; leaving came before Ana reached the stop.
6	They **had painted** the mural before the fair opened.	**PAST**	Had painted is past perfect; painting came before the fair opened.
7	Nina **has saved** enough coins this month.	**PRESENT**	Has saved is present perfect; this month connects the action to now.
8	Our team **has practiced** twice since Monday.	**PRESENT**	Has practiced is present perfect; since Monday connects the action to now.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how the helping verb and time clue helped you sort 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 librarian has arranged the books this week.
- **PAST**: The class had finished the puzzle when the bell rang.

Challenge: The lights had gone out before Dad found a flashlight.

For Part 2, look for an explanation that identifies has or have with a connection to now, and had with an earlier past action. In present perfect, has and have depend on the subject; in past perfect, had does not.