Keep Time Clear

Distinguish meaningful time changes from accidental tense shifts.

8.LL.20.f "Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense."

NAME _____ DATE _____

TIMELINE IS CLEAR

Tenses match the stated times. A justified shift shows a real change in time.

We had rehearsed before the debate began. Today we are reviewing the recording.

SHIFT NEEDS REPAIR

A verb shifts tense without a time change or clear reason. Correct it without changing the intended timeline.

In yesterday's debate, we presented our claim and defend it. Change defend to defended.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle CLEAR or REVISE for each account; follow its stated times, and correct every accidental shift in the margins.

1.	Yesterday, after the committee reviewed the proposal, its members approve the budget.	CLEAR REVISE
2.	Last Friday we submitted the article that we had revised the previous evening.	CLEAR REVISE
3.	During yesterday's experiment, I recorded the temperature while my partner watches the timer.	CLEAR REVISE
4.	In the interview we conducted last week, the witness described the scene and explains what she saw.	CLEAR REVISE
5.	We analyzed the survey last month. Now we are presenting the results to the council.	CLEAR REVISE
6.	By the time the concert began yesterday, volunteers had arranged every chair.	CLEAR REVISE
7.	Yesterday the editor compared two reports and notices a contradiction in their dates.	CLEAR REVISE
8.	Our team finishes its research today and will present its findings tomorrow.	CLEAR REVISE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one CLEAR item and one REVISE item. Explain the time clues in each, and rewrite the REVISE item correctly.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one clear two-sentence account that changes from an earlier event to a later time. Then write a separate account with one accidental tense shift and supply its correction. Continue on separate paper if needed.

CLEAR

REVISE

CHALLENGE

Revise only the accidental shifts, preserving the timeline: Last week our class investigated a rumor. We had collected several accounts before we compare them. During that comparison, we discover a mistaken date. Today we are checking a new source. Explain why the paragraph should not use just one tense. Continue on separate paper if needed.

ANSWER KEY

Keep Time Clear

GRADE 8 · 8.LL.20.f

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Yesterday, after the committee reviewed the proposal, its members approve the budget.	**REVISE**	Change approve to approved: both committee actions happened yesterday.
2	Last Friday we submitted the article that we had revised the previous evening.	**CLEAR**	Submitted marks Friday; had revised marks the earlier evening. The shift clarifies sequence.
3	During yesterday's experiment, I recorded the temperature while my partner watches the timer.	**REVISE**	Change watches to watched or was watching. Both actions occurred during yesterday's experiment.
4	In the interview we conducted last week, the witness described the scene and explains what she saw.	**REVISE**	Change explains to explained: both reporting actions belong to last week's interview.
5	We analyzed the survey last month. Now we are presenting the results to the council.	**CLEAR**	Last month and now establish different times, justifying analyzed and are presenting.
6	By the time the concert began yesterday, volunteers had arranged every chair.	**CLEAR**	Had arranged identifies the earlier completed action; began marks the later past event.
7	Yesterday the editor compared two reports and notices a contradiction in their dates.	**REVISE**	Change notices to noticed; both editorial actions happened yesterday.
8	Our team finishes its research today and will present its findings tomorrow.	**CLEAR**	Today and tomorrow justify the shift from finishes to will present.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one CLEAR item and one REVISE item. Explain the time clues in each, and rewrite the REVISE item correctly. Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **CLEAR**: We had checked every quotation before we submitted the report yesterday. Today we are sharing it with the class.
- **REVISE**: Yesterday I examined the sources and find an error. Correction: Yesterday I examined the sources and found an error.

Challenge: Last week our class investigated a rumor. We had collected several accounts before we compared them. During that comparison, we discovered a mistaken date. Today we are checking a new source. Had collected marks an action before the comparison; are checking marks the present activity. Keep both justified shifts.

Require corrections as well as category choices. Accept grammatical alternatives that preserve the explicit timeline, including watched or was watching in item 3; do not impose a single tense on all events.