Time Clue Detectives

Check whether the verb fits the time clue.

3.11.D.ii "past, present, and future verb tense;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

TIME MATCH

The verb matches the time clue. It tells about an action in the past, present, or future at the right time.

At noon, Maya reads quietly.

MIXED UP

The verb does not match the time clue. One of them needs to change.

Tomorrow, the robot danced.

1 SORT

8 items

Read these as statements made today. Circle MATCHES or MIXED UP for each sentence. Then choose two items and explain how its time clue and verb helped you decide.

1.	Yesterday, Leo painted a sign.	MATCHES MIXED UP
2.	Next month, we will visit the aquarium.	MATCHES MIXED UP
3.	Right now, the baby slept.	MATCHES MIXED UP
4.	Every morning, I pack my lunch.	MATCHES MIXED UP
5.	Last Friday, the band will perform.	MATCHES MIXED UP
6.	Tomorrow, the storm rumbled.	MATCHES MIXED UP
7.	Next week, the seedling grew tall.	MATCHES MIXED UP
8.	Last year, our class planted tomatoes.	MATCHES MIXED UP

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 that MATCHES and one new sentence that is MIXED UP.

MATCHES _____

MIXED UP _____

CHALLENGE

Choose one MIXED UP item and rewrite it so its verb matches the time clue.

ANSWER KEY # Time Clue Detectives

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Yesterday, Leo painted a sign.	**MATCHES**	"Yesterday" shows the past, and "painted" is past tense.
2	Next month, we will visit the aquarium.	**MATCHES**	"Next month" shows the future, and "will visit" is future tense.
3	Right now, the baby slept.	**MIXED UP**	"Right now" shows the present, but "slept" is past tense.
4	Every morning, I pack my lunch.	**MATCHES**	"Every morning" shows a present habit, and "pack" is present tense.
5	Last Friday, the band will perform.	**MIXED UP**	"Last Friday" shows the past, but "will perform" is future tense.
6	Tomorrow, the storm rumbled.	**MIXED UP**	"Tomorrow" shows the future, but "rumbled" is past tense.
7	Next week, the seedling grew tall.	**MIXED UP**	"Next week" shows the future relative to today, but "grew" is past tense.
8	Last year, our class planted tomatoes.	**MATCHES**	"Last year" shows the past, and "planted" is past tense.

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)

- **MATCHES**: Tonight, I will water the plants.
- **MIXED UP**: Last summer, the campers will hike.

Challenge: Right now, the baby sleeps.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Accept different explanations that correctly name the time clue and tell whether the verb shows past, present, or future. For the challenge, accept any correct rewrite of one MIXED UP sentence. Soon alone can describe a short delay in past or future events; it is not an automatic future-tense marker. The revised item supplies an explicit future time clue.