Ending Time Detectives

Use roots, endings, helpers, and context to explain action words.

5.RV.1.C "Determine the meaning of complex words using frequently occurring root words and inflectional affixes (e.g., -s, -ing,-ed)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

HAPPENING NOW

The root names the action. An -ing ending alone does not tell its time: is gliding now is present, was gliding yesterday is past, and will be gliding tomorrow is future. Use helpers and context.

The leaf is floating now. Floating comes from float + -ing; is and now show present time.

HAPPENED BEFORE

In these sentences, regular verbs ending in -ed describe completed past actions. The root names the action; the verb form and time words help establish when it happens.

Mia smiled yesterday. Smiled comes from smile + -ed (drop the final e before adding -ed). Yesterday confirms past time.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence and circle NOW or PAST. For two examples, identify the action root and ending, then explain how the verb form, helper, or time words establish the time.

1. We climbed yesterday. NOW PAST

2. She shouted yesterday. NOW PAST

3. He brushed his coat yesterday. NOW PAST

4. The bird is gliding now. NOW PAST

5. We planted seeds yesterday. NOW PAST

6. She skipped yesterday. NOW PAST

7. The bee is buzzing now. NOW PAST

8. The child is sliding now. NOW PAST

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 NOW sentence using is or are plus an -ing word, and one PAST sentence using an -ed verb. Add a time word to each.

NOW _____

PAST _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with a past action and an action happening now. Explain the roots and endings, and the helpers or context that establish each time.

ANSWER KEY

Ending Time Detectives

GRADE 5 · 5.RV.1.C

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	We climbed yesterday.	**PAST**	Climb + -ed; the past verb and yesterday place this action in the past.
2	She shouted yesterday.	**PAST**	Shout + -ed; the past verb and yesterday place this action in the past.
3	He brushed his coat yesterday.	**PAST**	Brush + -ed; the past verb and yesterday place this action in the past.
4	The bird is gliding now.	**NOW**	Glide + -ing drops final e. The helper is and now establish present time, not -ing alone.
5	We planted seeds yesterday.	**PAST**	Plant + -ed; the past verb and yesterday place this action in the past.
6	She skipped yesterday.	**PAST**	Skip + -ed doubles p. The past verb and yesterday place this action in the past.
7	The bee is buzzing now.	**NOW**	Buzz + -ing names the action in progress; is and now establish present time.
8	The child is sliding now.	**NOW**	Slide + -ing drops final e. The helper is and now establish present time.

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)

- **NOW**: She is reading now.
- **PAST**: He jumped yesterday.

Challenge: I baked bread yesterday, and now my brother is drawing a card. Baked comes from bake + -ed (drop final e); yesterday supports past time. Drawing comes from draw + -ing; is and now establish present time. The -ing ending alone does not mean now.

Keep all eight original category answers: PAST, PAST, PAST, NOW, PAST, PAST, NOW, NOW. Check both root/ending analysis and the sentence context; do not accept -ing alone as proof of present time. Accept equivalent accurate contextual sentences and explanations.