

Tense Trackers

Sort sentences by whether their verb tenses stay steady or shift.

7.10.D.ii "consistent, appropriate use of verb tenses;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

CONSISTENT TENSE

The verbs stay in the same tense when the actions happen in the same time frame. This makes the sentence clear.

Nora sketches a dragon and colors its wings.

UNNEEDED TENSE SHIFT

The verbs switch tenses without a time clue. This can make the sentence confusing.

The sailor spotted an island and steers toward it.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle a category for each sentence, then pick two sentences and explain how their verb tenses stay steady or shift.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Yesterday, Lena washed the windows and cleaned the porch. | ☐ STEADY | ☐ SHIFT |
| 2. On Fridays, Devon practices guitar and writes new songs. | ☐ STEADY | ☐ SHIFT |
| 3. The campers gathered wood and build a fire before dinner. | ☐ STEADY | ☐ SHIFT |
| 4. Right now, the mechanic examines the engine and listens for noises. | ☐ STEADY | ☐ SHIFT |
| 5. At noon, we ate sandwiches and drink lemonade. | ☐ STEADY | ☐ SHIFT |
| 6. The storm ended, and the streets become quiet. | ☐ STEADY | ☐ SHIFT |
| 7. Tomorrow, the debate team will research evidence and prepare opening statements. | ☐ STEADY | ☐ SHIFT |
| 8. My cousins visited last month and bring a photo album. | ☐ STEADY | ☐ SHIFT |

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 STEADY sentence and one new SHIFT sentence.

STEADY _____

SHIFT _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence so its verb tenses stay consistent: Before sunrise, the runners stretched and jog around the track.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Yesterday, Lena washed the windows and cleaned the porch.	STEADY	Both verbs are past tense: washed and cleaned.
2	On Fridays, Devon practices guitar and writes new songs.	STEADY	Both verbs are present tense: practices and writes.
3	The campers gathered wood and build a fire before dinner.	SHIFT	Gathered is past tense, but build is present tense.
4	Right now, the mechanic examines the engine and listens for noises.	STEADY	Both verbs are present tense: examines and listens.
5	At noon, we ate sandwiches and drink lemonade.	SHIFT	Ate is past tense, but drink is present tense.
6	The storm ended, and the streets become quiet.	SHIFT	Ended is past tense, but become is present tense.
7	Tomorrow, the debate team will research evidence and prepare opening statements.	STEADY	Both actions are future: will research and will prepare.
8	My cousins visited last month and bring a photo album.	SHIFT	Visited is past tense, but bring is present 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)

- **STEADY:** The librarian organizes the shelves and recommends novels.
- **SHIFT:** The chef chopped vegetables and adds them to soup.

Challenge: Before sunrise, the runners stretched and jogged around the track.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should name the verbs and identify their tenses. Accept original Part 3 sentences when each sentence clearly matches its labeled category.