# Tense Trackers

Sort, explain two choices, and write your own.

**10.LU.1.E** "Maintain consistent verb tense when speaking and writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

### VERBS STAY IN ONE TIME FRAME

The verbs stay in the same time frame when the time has not changed. This makes the meaning clear.

Next month, the robotics club will test its design and present the results.

### VERBS SHIFT WITHOUT A REASON

The verbs jump from one time frame to another without a reason. This can confuse a reader.

At dawn, the hikers climbed the ridge and watch the sunrise.

## 1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence and circle CONSISTENT or SHIFTING, then choose two items and explain how the verbs helped you decide.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Last Friday, I packed my bag and caught the bus. | CONSISTENT SHIFTING |
| **2.** | The bees buzzed around the garden and landed on clover. | CONSISTENT SHIFTING |
| **3.** | During rehearsal, Maya practices her lines and forgot a cue. | CONSISTENT SHIFTING |
| **4.** | Each winter, the lake freezes and the trail becomes quiet. | CONSISTENT SHIFTING |
| **5.** | Yesterday, the team warms up before it played. | CONSISTENT SHIFTING |
| **6.** | In the novel, the hero crossed the bridge and discovers a map. | CONSISTENT SHIFTING |
| **7.** | After lunch, we study in the library and finish our notes. | CONSISTENT SHIFTING |
| **8.** | When the alarm rang, Diego jumps out of bed. | CONSISTENT SHIFTING |

## 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 CONSISTENT sentence and one new SHIFTING sentence.

**CONSISTENT** _____

**SHIFTING** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Write a two-sentence mini-story about a past event. Keep every main verb in past tense.

# Tense Trackers



## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Last Friday, I packed my bag and caught the bus. | **CONSISTENT** | Both verbs, packed and caught, are past tense. |
| 2 | The bees buzzed around the garden and landed on clover. | **CONSISTENT** | Both verbs, buzzed and landed, are past tense. |
| 3 | During rehearsal, Maya practices her lines and forgot a cue. | **SHIFTING** | Practices is present tense, while forgot is past tense. |
| 4 | Each winter, the lake freezes and the trail becomes quiet. | **CONSISTENT** | Both verbs, freezes and becomes, are present tense. |
| 5 | Yesterday, the team warms up before it played. | **SHIFTING** | Warms is present tense, while played is past tense. |
| 6 | In the novel, the hero crossed the bridge and discovers a map. | **SHIFTING** | Crossed is past tense, while discovers is present tense. |
| 7 | After lunch, we study in the library and finish our notes. | **CONSISTENT** | Both verbs, study and finish, are present tense. |
| 8 | When the alarm rang, Diego jumps out of bed. | **SHIFTING** | Rang is past tense, while jumps 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)

- **CONSISTENT**: On Saturdays, Lena paints murals and sells postcards.
- **SHIFTING**: Last night, the thunder shook the windows and wakes the baby.

**Challenge:** The power went out during dinner. We found candles and ate by their light.

For Part 2, students should name the verb tenses in each selected item and explain whether they stay the same or shift. Accept original Part 3 responses that correctly match the category.