Suffix Time Sort

Use -ing and -ed to tell when an action happens.

3.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

Words ending in -ing can show an action happening now. Find the root word, then add the meaning of -ing.

The puppy is wagging its tail.

ALREADY HAPPENED

Words ending in -ed can show an action that already happened. Find the root word, then add the meaning of -ed.

The puppy wagged its tail.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle NOW or PAST for each sentence, then choose two sentences and write how the suffix tells when the action happened.

1. Mia is folding a map. NOW PAST

2. A bird is pecking at seeds. NOW PAST

3. Omar packed his lunch. NOW PAST

4. The dog barked at a truck. NOW PAST

5. We cleaned the table. NOW PAST

6. The kids are skating at the rink. NOW PAST

7. The wind knocked over a cone. NOW PAST

8. A frog is splashing in the pond. 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 sentence for NOW and one new sentence for PAST.

NOW _____

PAST _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with an -ed word and an -ing word, and circle each suffix.

ANSWER KEY

Suffix Time Sort

GRADE 3 · 3.RV.1.C

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Mia is folding a map.	**NOW**	Folding ends in -ing and tells an action happening now.
2	A bird is pecking at seeds.	**NOW**	Pecking ends in -ing and tells an action happening now.
3	Omar packed his lunch.	**PAST**	Packed ends in -ed and tells an action already happened.
4	The dog barked at a truck.	**PAST**	Barked ends in -ed and tells an action already happened.
5	We cleaned the table.	**PAST**	Cleaned ends in -ed and tells an action already happened.
6	The kids are skating at the rink.	**NOW**	Skating ends in -ing and tells an action happening now.
7	The wind knocked over a cone.	**PAST**	Knocked ends in -ed and tells an action already happened.
8	A frog is splashing in the pond.	**NOW**	Splashing ends in -ing and tells an action happening now.

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**: The turtle is crawling.
- **PAST**: The turtle crawled.

Challenge: I watch(ed) my brother play(ing) soccer.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Sort answers are NOW, NOW, PAST, PAST, PAST, NOW, PAST, NOW. In Part 2, students should name the suffix and explain that -ing shows now or -ed shows past.