

Tense Time Check

Track the verb time in each short paragraph.

7.LU.1.E "Maintain consistent verb tense across paragraphs in writing."

NAME _____

DATE _____

SAME TENSE

The verbs stay in one main time, such as past, present, or future, throughout the paragraph.

Each autumn, foxes cross the meadow. They search beneath fallen leaves.

TENSE SHIFT

The verbs change from one tense to another, so the paragraph does not keep a consistent time.

A sailor lowered the anchor. Later, the sailor watches the horizon.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each paragraph, then choose two item numbers, one from each category, and explain which verbs prove your choices.

- | | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Nia packed her lunch before school. At noon, she shared an apple with Rosa. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 2. | The creek curves behind the library. Ducks float near its banks. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 3. | Omar folded the map. Then he walks toward the museum. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 4. | Tomorrow, our class will visit the planetarium. We will sketch the moon. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 5. | Lena entered the auditorium. She practices her solo for the concert. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 6. | The hikers crossed the bridge. A guide points to the trail. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 7. | Marcus opens the recipe book. He measures the flour carefully. | ☐ CONSISTENT | ☐ SHIFTING |
| 8. | The storm ended before sunrise. Sunlight warmed the wet sidewalks. | ☐ 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 a two-sentence paragraph for SAME TENSE and a two-sentence paragraph for TENSE SHIFT.

CONSISTENT _____

SHIFTING _____

CHALLENGE

Revise this paragraph so all verbs are in past tense: The baker mixed the dough. Next, she places it in a warm oven. Soon, the bread smelled sweet.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Nia packed her lunch before school. At noon, she shared an apple with Rosa.	CONSISTENT	Both verbs, packed and shared, are past tense.
2	The creek curves behind the library. Ducks float near its banks.	CONSISTENT	Both verbs, curves and float, are present tense.
3	Omar folded the map. Then he walks toward the museum.	SHIFTING	Folded is past tense, but walks is present tense.
4	Tomorrow, our class will visit the planetarium. We will sketch the moon.	CONSISTENT	Both verb phrases use future tense with will.
5	Lena entered the auditorium. She practices her solo for the concert.	SHIFTING	Entered is past tense, but practices is present tense.
6	The hikers crossed the bridge. A guide points to the trail.	SHIFTING	Crossed is past tense, but points is present tense.
7	Marcus opens the recipe book. He measures the flour carefully.	CONSISTENT	Both verbs, opens and measures, are present tense.
8	The storm ended before sunrise. Sunlight warmed the wet sidewalks.	CONSISTENT	Both verbs, ended and warmed, are 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)

- **CONSISTENT:** Tariq carried the lantern down the path. He checked each tent.
- **SHIFTING:** Maya watered the seedlings. Then she checks the soil.

Challenge: The baker mixed the dough. Next, she placed it in a warm oven. Soon, the bread smelled sweet.

Items 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are CONSISTENT. Items 3, 5, and 6 are SHIFTING because the verbs move between past and present tense.