

Tense Time Check

Keep verbs in the same time frame.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

TENSE STAYS STEADY

The verbs stay in one time frame because the actions happen during the same part of the paragraph. A paragraph about completed events usually uses past-tense verbs throughout.

At sunrise, the hikers followed the trail and reached the ridge. They rested beside a stream before lunch.

NEEDS REVISION

One verb shifts to a different time even though the actions belong to the same time frame. Find the shifted verb and revise it to match the other verbs.

After dinner, the neighbors washed the dishes and sweep the floor.

1 SORT 8 items

Circle CONSISTENT or REVISE for each item, then choose two items and explain which verbs and time clues led you to your decisions.

1. During the lab period, Jordan measured each seedling and recorded its height in a chart. **CONSISTENT** **REVISE**
2. Last Friday, the volunteers packed boxes and checked every label. **CONSISTENT** **REVISE**
3. In a past-tense journal entry about this morning, I opened the file and notice a missing page. **CONSISTENT** **REVISE**
4. Each afternoon, the librarian sorts returned books and shelves them. **CONSISTENT** **REVISE**
5. In a past-tense game recap, Priya dribbled past a defender and shoots the ball. **CONSISTENT** **REVISE**
6. In a past-tense meeting summary, Carlos handed out flyers, then answers the group's questions. **CONSISTENT** **REVISE**
7. On Saturday, the crew painted the fence and repaired the gate. **CONSISTENT** **REVISE**
8. Last night, we mixed the batter, baked the cake, and washed the dishes. **CONSISTENT** **REVISE**

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 new two-sentence paragraph about one time period with consistent verbs. Then write a different two-sentence draft with one accidental tense shift, underline the shifted verb, and write its correction.

CONSISTENT

REVISE

CHALLENGE

Revise this four-sentence paragraph so every verb describes last Monday: Last Monday, our robotics team tested the sensor. Ava records the data in a chart. We compared two designs and choose the stronger one. Then the coach praises our careful work.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	During the lab period, Jordan measured each seedling and recorded its height in a chart.	CONSISTENT	Both verbs are past tense for one completed lab period.
2	Last Friday, the volunteers packed boxes and checked every label.	CONSISTENT	Both verbs are past tense for the same past event.
3	In a past-tense journal entry about this morning, I opened the file and notice a missing page.	REVISE	Opened is past tense, but notice shifts to present tense.
4	Each afternoon, the librarian sorts returned books and shelves them.	CONSISTENT	Both verbs are present tense for a repeated daily action.
5	In a past-tense game recap, Priya dribbled past a defender and shoots the ball.	REVISE	Dribbled is past tense, but shoots shifts to present tense.
6	In a past-tense meeting summary, Carlos handed out flyers, then answers the group's questions.	REVISE	Handed is past tense, but answers shifts to present tense.
7	On Saturday, the crew painted the fence and repaired the gate.	CONSISTENT	Both verbs are past tense for one completed day.
8	Last night, we mixed the batter, baked the cake, and washed the dishes.	CONSISTENT	All three verbs are past tense for the same evening.

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:** Yesterday, I gathered ingredients for soup. I chopped vegetables and stirred the pot.
- **REVISE:** In a past-tense entry about Monday, I carried my poster to class. I show it to my partner. Correction: showed.

Challenge: Last Monday, our robotics team tested the sensor. Ava recorded the data in a chart. We compared two designs and chose the stronger one. Then the coach praised our careful work.

For Part 2, students should identify the time clue and compare the verb tenses in each chosen item. A tense change can be correct when a new time is clearly introduced, but every REVISE item names one time frame and requires a matching verb tense.