Tense Trackers

Sort sentences by whether their verb tenses stay on track.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

ONE TIME FRAME

All the verbs show actions in the same time frame, such as past, present, or future.

Before dawn, musicians tuned their instruments and played softly.

UNPLANNED TIME SHIFT

The sentence moves from one time frame to another without a reason. The verbs need revision so they match.

The botanist examined the leaf and labels its parts.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle CONSISTENT or SHIFTED, then choose two sentence numbers in Part 2 and explain how the verbs helped you decide.

1.	Yesterday, Lina packed her lunch and caught the bus.	CONSISTENT	SHIFTED
2.	Marcus studies the diagram and wrote a summary.	CONSISTENT	SHIFTED
3.	During the match, the goalie blocked two shots and signals to her coach.	CONSISTENT	SHIFTED
4.	Each Friday, we meet at the library and choose new books.	CONSISTENT	SHIFTED
5.	Last night, Priya washed the dishes and fed the cat.	CONSISTENT	SHIFTED
6.	The hikers reached the summit before noon and rested there.	CONSISTENT	SHIFTED
7.	Our class will plant seedlings and measured their growth.	CONSISTENT	SHIFTED
8.	In 2024, the museum opened a new wing and welcomed visitors.	CONSISTENT	SHIFTED

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 SHIFTED sentence. Use at least two verbs in each sentence.

CONSISTENT _____

SHIFTED _____

CHALLENGE

Rewrite this sentence so its verbs have consistent tense: At sunrise, Eli unlocked the shop and arranges the displays.

Tense Trackers

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Yesterday, Lina packed her lunch and caught the bus.	**CONSISTENT**	Both verbs are past tense.
2	Marcus studies the diagram and wrote a summary.	**SHIFTED**	Studies is present tense, but wrote is past tense.
3	During the match, the goalie blocked two shots and signals to her coach.	**SHIFTED**	Blocked is past tense, but signals is present tense.
4	Each Friday, we meet at the library and choose new books.	**CONSISTENT**	Both verbs are present tense.
5	Last night, Priya washed the dishes and fed the cat.	**CONSISTENT**	Both verbs are past tense.
6	The hikers reached the summit before noon and rested there.	**CONSISTENT**	Both verbs are past tense.
7	Our class will plant seedlings and measured their growth.	**SHIFTED**	Will plant is future tense, but measured is past tense.
8	In 2024, the museum opened a new wing and welcomed visitors.	**CONSISTENT**	Both verbs 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**: Tomorrow, Devon will sketch the bridge and will photograph its arches.
- **SHIFTED**: Nora carried the groceries upstairs and drops a carton of milk.

Challenge: At sunrise, Eli unlocked the shop and arranged the displays.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Correct sort: 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8 are CONSISTENT; 2, 3, and 7 are SHIFTED. In Part 2, accept explanations that identify verbs as matching or mismatching in past, present, or future tense.