Name: Date: Score: / 8

Shifts in Verb Tense: Learn and Practice

Keep verb tenses steady and clear

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

💡 Shifts in Verb Tense

- Verb tense tells when an action happens: past, present or future.
- Keep the same tense unless the time really changes.
- An unneeded shift makes the timeline confusing.
- Ari opened the door and saw a moose.

1 Choose the verb: Every morning, Kai feeds the cat and ___ the plants.

A. watering B. waters C. will water D. watered

2 Which verb keeps the tense the same: Yesterday we hiked and ___ a waterfall.

A. found B. finds C. find D. will find

3 Which revision fixes: In the story, Lia finds a key and opened the chest.

A. Lia will find a key and opened it.
B. Lia finds a key and opens the chest.
C. Lia finds a key and opening the chest.
D. Lia found a key and opens the chest.

4 Which sentence keeps one tense?

A. He ran home and eats lunch.
B. He will run home and ate.
C. He ran home and ate lunch.
D. He runs home and ate lunch.

5 Which sentence has an unneeded tense shift?

A. We will camp before it rains.
B. We camped, and then it starts to rain.
C. We camped before it rained.
D. We camped, and then it started to rain.

6 What tense is: She will travel to Halifax.

A. past B. present C. past perfect D. future

7 Which verb is in the past tense?

A. carries B. carried C. carry D. will carry

8 Find the shift: The storm hit the coast, and the waves crash over the wall.

A. wall should be walls B. waves should be wave
C. hit should be hits D. crash should be crashed

✏️ Explain it! In your own words, write the rule for shifts in verb tense and one example.

ANSWER KEY

Shifts in Verb Tense: Learn and Practice (answers)

Keep verb tenses steady and clear

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

1 Choose the verb: Every morning, Kai feeds the cat and ___ the plants.

A. watering **B. waters** C. will water D. watered

Feeds is present tense, so waters matches it.

2 Which verb keeps the tense the same: Yesterday we hiked and ___ a waterfall.

A. found B. finds C. find D. will find

Hiked is past tense, so found keeps the sentence in the past.

3 Which revision fixes: In the story, Lia finds a key and opened the chest.

A. Lia will find a key and opened it.

B. Lia finds a key and opens the chest.

C. Lia finds a key and opening the chest.

D. Lia found a key and opens the chest.

Both verbs are now present. Writers often use present tense to discuss stories.

4 Which sentence keeps one tense?

A. He ran home and eats lunch.

B. He will run home and ate.

C. He ran home and ate lunch.

D. He runs home and ate lunch.

Ran and ate are both past tense, so the sentence is consistent.

5 Which sentence has an unneeded tense shift?

A. We will camp before it rains.

B. We camped, and then it starts to rain.

C. We camped before it rained.

D. We camped, and then it started to rain.

Camped is past, but starts is present. Use started instead.

6 What tense is: She will travel to Halifax.

A. past B. present C. past perfect **D. future**

Will travel describes something that has not happened yet.

7 Which verb is in the past tense?

A. carries **B. carried** C. carry D. will carry

Carried ends in ed and tells about something already done.

8 Find the shift: The storm hit the coast, and the waves crash over the wall.

A. wall should be walls B. waves should be wave

C. hit should be hits **D. crash should be crashed**

Hit is past here, so crashed keeps both actions in the past.