

Grade 5 Playlist: Shifts in Verb Tense

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY. L.5.1.D:

- Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.

Welcome

It can be confusing to read sentences with shifts in verb tense. The reader does not know whether something happened in the past, present, or future. Understanding the different verb tenses will help both readers and writers understand when text contains inappropriate shifts in verb tense.

Objectives

In this playlist, the student will learn and practice how to:

- recognize inappropriate shifts in verb tense.
- correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.

Review

Key Terms

- A **verb** is an action word in a sentence.
- **Tense** is the time when the action was done. The three simple tenses are past, present, and future.

Exploring the Standard

When reading or writing, it is important to recognizing inappropriate shifts in verb tense. Being able to recognize these shifts will allow a writer to then correct the inappropriate shifts in verb tense. The tense of the verbs should make sense, based on what the text is describing. Remember always to read the text carefully!

A Closer Look: Recognize Inappropriate Shifts in Verb Tense

In order to recognize inappropriate shifts in verb tense, first identify the verbs. Then ask: “Are these verbs in the same tense?” If the answer is yes, then there is likely not an inappropriate shift in verb tense. If the answer is no, there might be an inappropriate shift in verb tense. Keep in mind that the context of the paragraph in which the sentence is located determines which tenses are appropriate for the sentence. So sometimes it makes sense for the verbs in a sentence to be in different tenses, and sometimes it makes sense for the verbs to be in the same tense.



Example 1

We brought our towels when we go to the swimming pool.

In this sentence, the verbs are in different tenses, and the shift in verb tense is incorrect. The first verb, “brought,” is in past tense. The second verb, “go,” is in present tense. The sentence is confusing because it describes **one** event but uses **two** different verb tenses. In order to be less confusing, both verbs should be in the same tense.

Example 2

However, sometimes a sentence may use different verb tenses and still be correct.

Next week, we will have a quiz on the math concept we learned last week.

In this sentence, the first verb, “will have,” is in the future tense. The second verb, “learned,” is in the past tense. Based on the context of the sentence, it is clear that the action that will happen in the future is based on information the student learned in the past.

Read!

For more information about recognizing inappropriate shifts in verb tenses, read the following information, provided here:

- <http://srjcwrittingcenter.com/clearsentcs/shifts/shifts.html>
- <http://hawaii.hawaii.edu/tlc/wwwriting/Recognizing%20Verb%20Tense%20Shift%20Errors.html>

Read!

Read the following information for examples of different kinds of inappropriate shifts in verb tenses.

- <http://www.write.com/writing-guides/general-writing/grammar/sentence-fragments/>

A Closer Look: Correct Inappropriate Shifts in Verb Tense

Once an inappropriate shift in verb tense has been identified, it is important to correct it. One way to fix the problem is to put both verbs in the same tense. Think about which tense makes the most sense for the context of the sentence. Then, rewrite the sentence, putting both verbs in that tense.



Teaching Notes: Shifts in Verb Tense

The goal of L.5.1.D is for students not only to identify inappropriate shifts in verb tense, but to correct them as well. Provide students with opportunities to practice these skills by showing students many examples of sentences that contain inappropriate shifts in verb tense. Model how to correct the inappropriate shift to produce a correct sentence.

Activities

1. Write a mix of sentences on the board, including sentences with inappropriate shifts in verb tense and sentences with correct shifts in verb tense. Ask students to identify the incorrect sentences.
2. Ask each student to write a sentence to share with the class. Students may choose to write a sentence that either contains an inappropriate verb tense shift or not. As each student reads his or her sentence out loud, direct the other students to use thumbs up or down to state whether or not the sentence is correct.
3. Pair students. Have students write paragraphs that contain at least one inappropriate verb tense shift. Ask students to switch papers and correct the mistake in their partner's paragraph.

Teaching Verb Tenses for ESL Students

Verb tenses can be particularly challenging for ESL students since verbs are conjugated differently in different languages, and English has many irregular verbs.

This resource is a slideshow with tips for teaching verb tenses to ESL students in particular:

- <http://www.elihinkel.org/tips/tenses.htm>

This resource can be used by ESL students in your classroom to practice using verbs correctly in sentences:

- <http://www.eslgamesplus.com/verb-tenses-interactive-grammar-game-for-esl-jeopardy-quiz-game/>

Additional Teaching Resources for Verb Tense Shifts

- <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/3813>
- <http://educators.brainpop.com/bp-jr-topic/tenses/>

