

GRAMMAR SPY™ CASE FILE #006



The Case of the Broken Timeline

Something is wrong... the timeline is broken. Can you fix the verbs before the story collapses?

Fixing Verb Tense Consistency — Past vs Present



AGENT BRIEFING

Agent,

We've received a corrupted story.

The timeline is unstable. Events from the past and present are mixed together.

Your mission:

- ✓ Identify incorrect verb tenses
- ✓ Repair the timeline
- ✓ Restore the story before it's too late

⚠ Be careful... one wrong verb can change everything.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Students mix present + past in the same sentence ✗

✓ SIMPLE RULE (ELD FRIENDLY)

Past → all verbs stay in past

Present → all verbs stay in present

✨ EXAMPLES

✗ Yesterday I **go** to school and **see** my friend

✓ Yesterday I **went** to school and **saw** my friend

ERROR DETECTIVE — FIND THE MISTAKES

Circle the incorrect verbs in each sentence.

1. Yesterday I go to the park and play soccer.
1. She was eating dinner when her phone rings.
1. We watch a movie last night and laugh a lot.
1. He runs fast and then fell down.



FIX THE TIMELINE

Rewrite each sentence correctly. Make sure all verbs match the timeline.

1. Yesterday I go to the park and play soccer.

1. She was eating dinner when her phone rings.

1. We watch a movie last night and laugh a lot.

1. He runs fast and then fell down.



REBUILD THE STORY

The story below is broken. Rewrite it with correct verb tenses.

Last night, I go to the kitchen and see something strange. My brother is standing there and suddenly he dropped a glass. We both look at each other and start laughing.

YOUR CORRECTED VERSION:



PARTNER MISSION – TIMELINE FIXERS

Step 1: Student A reads a broken story out loud

Step 2: Student B fixes it OUT LOUD (speaking, not writing)

Step 3: Switch roles and repeat with a new sentence

★ This builds fluency + accuracy in real time

- Yesterday I walk to school and see my teacher
- She goes to the store last week and buy milk
- We are playing soccer when it started to rain

EXIT TICKET — SHOW WHAT YOU LEARNED

Write 3 sentences about something you did yesterday. Use correct past tense verbs.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

✓ Check: Did you keep all verbs in the past?



TEACHER GUIDE

No Prep • 20–30 Minutes • Perfect for ELD

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE:

1. Mini Lesson (5 min) — Page 3: Teach the rule with examples
2. Error Detective (5 min) — Page 4: Students identify mistakes
3. Fix the Timeline (7 min) — Page 5: Students rewrite sentences
4. Rebuild the Story (8 min) — Page 6: Apply to paragraph
5. Speaking Practice (5 min) — Page 7: Partner work for fluency
6. Exit Ticket (5 min) — Page 8: Independent assessment



WHY THIS WORKS:

- Targets the #1 verb error in ELD writing
- Scaffolded from sentence → paragraph → speaking
- Engaging spy theme keeps students motivated
- Built-in formative assessment



TIP: Use this after teaching past tense, or as a review before writing assessments