

Name: _____

INAPPROPRIATE SHIFTS IN VERB TENSE

- A **verb tense** must match the **time** the verb's **action takes place**.
- A **shift in verb tense** is when the **tenses** in a text **change**.
- When the actions take place at the same time, a shift in tense is **inappropriate**.

CORRECT: My mom **made** pasta with turkey meatballs and we **ate** that for dinner.

CORRECT: My mom **will make** pasta with turkey meatballs and we **will eat** that for dinner.

INCORRECT: My mom **made** pasta with turkey meatballs and we **eat** that for dinner.



Directions: Read and check the following sentences for confusing shifts in tense. If the verb tense of each underlined verb conveys the time relationship precisely, write **correct**. If a shift in tense is not appropriate, write **incorrect** and rewrite the sentences to make any necessary changes.

1) If the bank is closing early, I would have to come back tomorrow to submit my check.

2) Many people came to see the jewelry exhibit that was arranged in very professional manner.

3) The spectators cheered with jubilation when the ball will land straight into the goal.

4) By the time the final speech began, many people have left the auditorium.

5) As Richard wears his shoes on, the telephone rang.

6) Last week, we learned about endothermic and exothermic reactions. Tomorrow, we will experiment that in the lab.

7) The doctor suggested antibiotics for the patient, who suffers from a throat infection.
