Mixing Tenses

Resource: <https://www.plainenglish.co.uk/>

The Plain English Campaign.

Mixing Tenses – can be jarring for the reader.

Example 4.41-1

Jake says that he will not go to the party, even though he knew it will probably be the last chance he had to see Cathy before she is leaving for Paris.

Jake says (PRESENT) that he will not (FUTURE) go to the party, even though he knew (PAST) it will probably be (PRESENT) the last chance he had (PAST) to see Cathy before she is leaving(PRESENT) for Paris.

Revision: 1

Jake says that he would not go to the party, even though he knew it would probably be the last chance he had to see Cathy before she left for Paris.

Revision: 2

Jake says that he won’t go to the party, even though he knows it will probably be the last chance he gets to see Cathy before she leaves for Paris.