Inconsistent Verb Tense

An Inconsistent Verb Tense error is quite simple to both identify and correct. Look over the following sentences:

"As soon as I get out of bed, I did fifty pushups."
"We were seven miles from the shore. Suddenly, the sky turns dark."
"The man behind me was slurping soda and crunching candy. I am getting angrier by the minute."

Notice how, in all these sentences, the verb tense changes from one verb to the other (e.g. present tense to past tense; past tense to present tense).

The solution's easy—if you're writing about something in the past, keep your verbs in the past tense. If present, keep it present. If future, go future, etc.
In whatever verb tense you're writing, you must keep it consistent.

Therefore, NO INCONSISTENT VERB TENSE--no time-traveling by jumping from present tense to past tense and so on and so forth.

So, for instance, if you were writing the 1st sample sentence from a retrospective perspective (say that phrase 5 times fast & see if you don't get tongue-tied), then you would simply change the verb tense to reflect a time that's past:

"As soon as I got out of bed, I did fifty pushups."

The Inconsistent Verb Tense Error seems like such an obvious error that it might not be worth mentioning, but you'll be surprised--I've had a number of students in the recent past, most of whom were from Writing Skills II, who were guilty of committing this very same error. It might even show up in your own rough draft writing.