

Often confused Transitive and Intransitive verbs.**Lie Lay Lain, Lay Laid, Lie Lied**

Many people do use wrong grammar. I imagine that eventually the language will change. Until then, use these examples to help you on grammar and usage tests.

One way to remember the differences between lay (as in an egg) or lie (as on a bed) is to remember that you LAY something, you LIE on (or to) something. Unfortunately, "lay" is also the past tense of "lie."

I **lie** (recline) in bed late at night and think. I **lay** in bed last night thinking. I have **lain** in bed thinking every night this week. I **lie** down when I am tired. I **lay** down last night when I got tired.

The problem is with the expression "to lie down" or past tense "he lay down" It sounds like "laid down" but if a someone "laid down," there would be a lot of feathers involved. (Down is the kind of feathers used for down comforters)

I **lay** (put, set) my pocketbook beside my computer. I **laid** my pocketbook there yesterday. I have always **laid** it there.

Chickens **lay** eggs. This chicken has **laid** an egg every day this week.

To lie also means to tell an untruth. This "lie" is a regular verb, and unfortunately, for some folks, a regular occurrence.

He **lies**. He **lied**. He has often **lied** to get laid.

Here are two groups that are usually found on grammar exams:

set, lay, raise, put - all done to other things (called transitive --needs an object)

I set my coffee cup on the table, laid my book in my chair, raised the window, and put the cat out. Note verb and object.

sit, lie, rise - all done by the subject (called intransitive --can not take an object)

I sat in my chair reading until I lay down to go to sleep so that I could rise early in the morning.

FURTHERMORE

<warning: inappropriate humor alert>

If you are doing it yourself, you aren't getting laid.

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