

Lesson
9

Troublesome Verb Pairs

Teaching

Do not confuse these pairs of verbs. Read how they differ, and study the chart.

lie/lay *Lie* means “to rest or recline.” It does not take an object.
Lay means “to put or place something.” It does take an object.

set/sit *Sit* means “to be in a seat” or “to rest.” It does not take an object.
Set means “to put or place something.” It does take an object.

rise/raise *Rise* means “to move upward” or “to get up.” It does not take an object.
Raise means “to lift (something) up.” It usually takes an object.

leave/let *Leave* means “to depart” or “to allow something to remain where it is.”
Let means “to allow” or “permit.” Both *leave* and *let* may take objects.

	Present	Past	Past Participle
Lie / Lay	lie My sister lies in a crib.	lay I lay down for a nap.	lain Others have lain there.
	lay Al lays a book here.	laid He laid a book there.	laid He has laid two books down.
Sit / Set	sit Jeff sits there.	sat Jeff sat there before.	sat Jeff has sat there often.
	set Ann sets her hair.	set Ann set it last night.	set She has set it nightly.
Rise / Raise	rise We rise at 8 A.M.	rose We rose early.	risen You have risen early.
	raise Fay raises the flag.	raised I raised it before.	raised Fay has raised it.
Leave / Let	leave Leave the bike here.	left You left your dog here.	left You have left a cat too.
	let Let me ride your bike.	let I let the dog come in.	let I have let the cat go out.

Using Troublesome Verbs Correctly

Underline the correct verb in parentheses.

- That school (lets, leaves) both boys and girls try out for the baseball team.
- Don't (let, leave) your camera in a hot place for too long.
- You had better (let, leave) the traffic clear before you try to cross this highway.
- No one may (sit, set) in the bleachers during band practice.
- We usually (sit, set) on the porch steps and talk about the news of the day.
- The cat (lay, laid) in front of the fire all afternoon.
- I think you have (laid, lain) in the sun too long.
- I (rose, raised) at 5:00 this morning because I couldn't sleep.
- The ship's owners hope to be able to (rise, raise) the sunken ship.
- (Let, Leave) the lasagna bake in the oven for forty-five minutes.
- To avoid accidents, (sit, set) that vase in the center of the table.
- Who (lay, laid) this rake on the ground with its tines up?

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More Practice

A. Using Troublesome Verbs Correctly

Underline the correct verb in parentheses.

1. Meg (sat, set) her science project on the teacher’s desk.
2. Someone (let, left) the car windows open.
3. The dog is (setting, sitting) under the tree enjoying the shade.
4. The patient must (lie, lay) perfectly still during the X-ray.
5. The family won’t (let, leave) the occasion pass without a celebration.
6. The divers had (raised, risen) to the surface.
7. The platypus at the zoo (lay, laid) an egg yesterday.
8. The curtain (rose, raised) on the last act of the class play.
9. We (let, left) our car at the airport when we flew to visit our grandparents.
10. Sam (set, sit) the mysterious brown package on the table.

B. Correcting Troublesome Verbs

Examine the boldfaced verb in each of the following sentences. If the verb is not correct, write the proper verb on the line. If the verb is correct, write **Correct**.

1. We **laid** our towels on the beach before running into the water. _____
2. Will the police **leave** us go through the barricade? _____
3. If you do not **raise** an objection, the motion may pass. _____
4. Help me **lie** these ceramic tiles in place. _____
5. Sometimes it’s hard for babies to **set** long enough to have their picture taken. _____
6. Tomorrow, I shall **lay** in the sun and relax. _____
7. The bread should **raise** if the yeast is good. _____
8. **Set** aside any doubts you may have. _____
9. Steve has **left** his car run out of gas. _____
10. The tools were **lying** in that metal box. _____
11. Did your sister **sit** the cover over the cake after she took some? _____
12. Larry fell asleep two minutes after he had **laid** down. _____

