

# Lie vs. Lay



*Lie* means “to repose.” It is intransitive and never takes an object.

I *lie* down to sleep.

A different *lie* that is spelled and pronounced the same means “to fabricate or mislead” someone through speech.

He *lied* to me. He told a *lie*.

*Lay* means “to put.” It is transitive and always takes an object.

I *lay* my baby down to sleep. I *lay* the book on the table.

The following chart shows how these three confusing words are conjugated:

	<u>Present Tense</u>	<u>Past Tense</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>	<u>Present Participle</u>
(telling an untruth)	lie	lied	have lied	is lying
transitive verb	lay	laid	have laid	is laying
intransitive verb	lie	lay	have lain	is lying

**Practice.** In the following sentences, write in the correct form of these three verbs. It will be one of the verbs shown in the above chart.

Example: Would you please lay the book on the desk and help me?

- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ to me; I promise not to be mad if you only will tell the truth.
- Why don't you \_\_\_\_\_ down and take a nap before we go?
- After \_\_\_\_\_ down the concrete, the workers began to dig another trench.
- The mother told her son to \_\_\_\_\_ still.
- She has \_\_\_\_\_ in bed for four months now.
- As I \_\_\_\_\_ me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
- Someone \_\_\_\_\_ the treasures there hundreds of years ago.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ out \$4,000 for their daughter's wedding reception.
- Mary \_\_\_\_\_ her fork on her plate and left the dining room.
- Please do not \_\_\_\_\_ on that sofa.
- It seems that fewer people are \_\_\_\_\_ in the sun these days.
- A small piece of shrapnel \_\_\_\_\_ right next to my foot.
- When he completes his work, Martin will \_\_\_\_\_ his tools on the counter.
- They have \_\_\_\_\_ their weapons on the ground and raised their hands in surrender.