

VERBS: LIE AND LAY

The verbs **lie** and **lay**; **sit** and **set**; and **rise** and **raise** sometimes cause trouble. First, learn principal parts, along with the present participle form. Next, remember the **lie**, **sit**, and **rise** function as intransitive verbs—they take no objects. The verbs **lay**, **set**, and **raise** are transitive in function taking objects.

1. **Intransitives**—takes no object

INFINITIVE	PRESENT PARTICIPLE	PRESENT TENSE	PAST TENSE	PAST PARTICIPLE
to lie	lying	I lie	I lay	lain
to sit	sitting	I sit	I sat	sat
to rise	rising	I rise	I rose	risen

I found the dog *lying* on the floor.

Lie down here and rest.

He *lay* there yesterday for a long time

Note: These intransitive verbs are followed by adverbs or adverbial phrases. Remember that intransitive verbs do not take an object.

The dog has been *sitting* there for an hour.

We *sat* on the lawn and talked.

The boat *sits* there all winter.

The river *rises* three feet each spring.

He *rose* and walked to the platform.

Prices have *risen* this summer.

Note: Remember that words like **yesterday**, **spring**, **summer**, and **winter** that usually function as nouns also function as adverbs of time.

2. **Transitive**—takes an object

INFINITIVE	PRESENT PARTICIPLE	PRESENT TENSE	PAST TENSE	PAST PARTICIPLE
to lay	laying	I lay	I laid	laid
to set	setting	I set	I set	sat
to raise	raising	I raise	I raised	raised

The italicized words in the sentences below are objects.

He was laying *plans* for the festival.

Karen laid the *books* on the table.

Otto has laid the *money* on that bureau before.

Will you set the *table* for me?

Please set the *parcels* on the desk.

You setting the *presents* under the tree?

Can you raise your *arm* a few inches?

They are raising the *flag* now.

We have raised the *steps* three inches.