

WORDS OFTEN CONFUSED: LAY AND LIE

LAY:

The verb lay generally means “to place.” **Remember:** lay = place. (Notice the long a sounds.)

Lay is usually transitive; in other words, it usually takes a receiver of its action (a direct object).

The principal parts of the verb lay are:

<u>Present Tense</u>	<u>Present Participle</u>	<u>Past Tense</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
lay	is laying	laid	have laid

Example sentences are:

The hen lays an egg.

She is laying one now.

She laid one yesterday.

She has laid four this week.

*Notice that the subject (hen) has placed (has laid) the direct object (eggs).

LIE:

The verb lie generally means “to recline.” **Remember:** lie = recline. (Notice the long i sound.)

Lie is always intransitive (does not take a direct object) in its usual meanings.

The principal parts of the verb lie are:

<u>Present Tense</u>	<u>Present Participle</u>	<u>Past Tense</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
lie	is lying	lay	have lain

Example sentences are:

I lie down when I can.

I am lying down now.

I lay down yesterday.

I have lain down often.

*Notice that the subject (I) has reclined (has lain).