

WORDS OFTEN CONFUSED: SET AND SIT

SET:

The verb set generally means “to place or to put.”

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

The principal parts of the verb set are listed below:

<u>Present Tense</u>	<u>Present Participle</u>	<u>Past Tense</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
set	is setting	set	have set

Example sentences are listed below:

Jerry sets the groceries down when he is not angry.

She is setting the books down now.

He set those dishes on the table yesterday.

They have set the Goodwill boxes on the basement floor every winter.

*Notice that the subjects (they) have placed (have set) the direct object (boxes).

NOTE: Set is intransitive when it means “to disappear below the horizon.”

The sun set.

SIT:

The verb sit generally means “to rest, to assume an upright position, or to be in an upright position.”

Sit is principally intransitive (does not take a direct object) in its usual meanings.

The principal parts of the verb sit are listed below:

<u>Present Tense</u>	<u>Present Participle</u>	<u>Past Tense</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>
sit	is sitting	sat	have set

Example sentences are listed below:

He sits down while he lectures.

I am sitting down now.

I sat down this morning.

He has sat there often.

*Notice that the subject (he) has rested (has sat).

EXERCISE

Directions: Circle the correct verb to be used.

1. You should not (set, sit) in the snow.
2. The teacher couldn't get the first graders to (set, sit) in their seats.
3. Are you (setting, sitting) the books down?
4. Please (set, sit) the couch down on the north side of the room.
5. Did you (set, sit) on that park bench when you were in college?
6. Nancy just (set, sat) still and said nothing.
7. The men will be (setting, sitting) the tiles on the roof.
8. Last night I watched the sun (set, sit).
9. We spent the afternoon just (setting, sitting) and talking.
10. Bobby has (set, sat) in the pew often.
11. Have you (set, sat) the toy soldiers on the mantle yet?
12. The sun always (sets, sits) in the West.
13. Did you (set, sit) the hammer on the shelf?
14. Have you ever (set, sat) on an elephant?
15. He (sets, sits) on the front porch every evening.
16. The sun will be (setting, sitting) soon.
17. She noisily (sets, sits) her books down when she is angry.
18. He accidentally (set, sat) in wet cement.
19. Please (set, sit) the child on the diving board.
20. In what row were you (setting, sitting)?