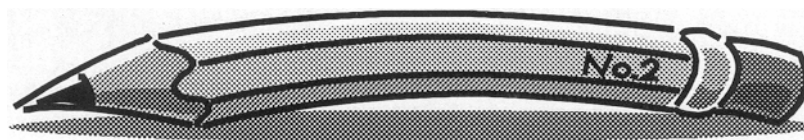


Your Name: _____



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

LIE vs. LAY

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I would not be a liar if I told you that
People *lay* their puppies down.
Puppies *lie* on people.
People *lie* on beds.
It is bad to *lie* to a friend.
It is also bad to get *laid off* (that is, set aside by your employer.)

Lie means, “to repose.” It is intransitive and never takes an object, as in,
I *lie* down to sleep.

A different **lie** that is spelled and pronounced the same means, “to fabricate or mislead” someone through speech as in,
He *lied* to me. or He told a *lie*.

Lay means, “to put.” It is transitive and always takes an object as in,
I *lay* my baby down to sleep.

Here is a chart showing 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 EXERCISE:

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

1. Would you please _____ the book on the desk and help me?
2. Don't _____ to me; I promise not to be mad if only you will tell the truth.
3. Why don't you _____ down and take a nap before we go?
4. After _____ down the concrete, the workers began to dig another trench.
5. The mother told her son to _____ still.
6. She has _____ in bed for four months now.
7. As I _____ me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
8. Someone _____ the treasures there hundreds of years ago.
9. They _____ out \$4,000 for their daughter's wedding reception.
10. Mark Harris has written a book with an ambiguous title, "_____ in Bed."

Now write one sentence of your own using the past tense of these three verbs:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Answers: 1. lay, 2. lie, 3. lie, 4. laying, 5. lie, 6. lain, 7. lay, 8. laid, 9. laid, 10. Lying

Possible sentences: 1. John lied to the teacher. 2. They laid the pavement this morning. 3. For a three-year-old, he lay so quietly I was worried.

Lesson created by Justin MacDonald