

## Six Troublesome Verbs

Base Form	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
lie (to rest)	lying	lay	lain
lay (to put)	laying	laid	laid
sit (to rest)	sitting	sat	sat
set (to put)	setting	set	set
rise (to go up)	rising	rose	risen
raise (to lift up)	raising	raised	raised

Note the definitions of each verb. Also note that confusion may arise because the base form (infinitive) of the verb “lay” is the same word as the past form of the verb “lie.”

Remember:

The first verb in each pair is followed by an adverb. You **lie down**. You **sit up**. The sun will **rise in the east**. The second verb in each pair is followed by a noun (or object). **Lay** the **book** on the desk. **Set** the **table**. **Raise** your **hand** if you know the answer.

Below are some practice sentences. The answers can be found on the next page.

1. Teachers might need to (lie, lay) down for a nap after school.
2. Administrators have (lain, laid) the groundwork for a productive school year.
3. The student was tired of (sitting, setting) at the computer.
4. He had (sat, set) there for several hours without a break.
5. The student hoped to (rise, raise) his grade point average.
6. The ROTC students (rose, raised) the flag before school.
7. I am hopeful that a better year (lies, lays) ahead.
8. Your mom has (lain, laid) your assignment on the kitchen table.
9. You have (lain, laid) on the couch too long.
10. (Sitting, Setting) up will improve your posture.

**Correct answers are in red.**

1. Teachers might need to (**lie**, lay) *down* for a nap after school. (*Down* is an adverb.)
2. Administrators have (lain, **laid**) the *groundwork* for a productive school year. (*Groundwork* is an object.)
3. The student was tired of (**sitting**, setting) *at the computer*. (*At the computer* is an adverb.)
4. He had (**sat**, set) *there* for several hours without a break. (*There* is an adverb.)
5. The student hoped to (rise, **raise**) his *grade point average*. (*Grade point average* is an object.)
6. The ROTC students (rose, **raised**) the *flag* before school. (*Flag* is an object.)
7. I am hopeful that a better year (**lies**, lays) *ahead*. (*Ahead* is an adverb.)
8. Your mom has (lain, **laid**) your *assignment* on the kitchen table. (*Assignment* is an object.)
9. You have (**lain**, laid) *on the couch* too long. (*On the couch* is an adverb.)
10. (**Sitting**, Setting) *up* will improve your posture. (*Up* is an adverb.)