

Name: _____

Misused Verbs: Lie/Lay

No, in this case we are not talking about whether or not you are telling the truth. The question is: when you stretch out on your bed, do you **lie** or do you **lay**? The answer is: it depends when you are doing it.

Yes, this one is a little trickier than most. Read about the differences (and similarities) between **lie** and **lay**:



Lay: to lay means to place an object or objects down somewhere. **Lay** is the correct present tense form of the verb. **Laid** is the correct past tense form of the verb. This verb **to lay** always includes an item that is being put or placed.

The geese each **lay** three eggs per day.
Yesterday, the geese **laid** four eggs.

Lie: to lie means to recline your body. **Lie** is the correct present tense form of the verb. However, **lay** is the correct past tense form of the verb. That's right, lay. It's no wonder it gets confused with the verb above, since the past form is the same as that verb's present form.

I need to go **lie** on my bed.

Last night I **lay** on my bed, unable to sleep.



Choose "lie," "lay," or "laid" to complete each sentence.

1. Before I went to bed, I _____ (lie, lay, laid) my clothes out for tomorrow.
2. Every afternoon, we _____ (lie, lay, laid) on the bed for a nap.
3. When they're cold, they _____ (lie, lay, laid) a blanket on their legs.
4. All of last week I _____ (lie, lay, laid) in bed feeling sick.
5. Our pet dogs like to _____ (lie, lay, laid) under the table.
6. Yesterday, the boys _____ (lie, lay, laid) their backpacks outside.
7. While we meet, they _____ (lie, lay, laid) their purses on the couch.
8. Susanna and Maribel often _____ (lie, lay, laid) on the floor to make posters.
9. Last night we all _____ (lie, lay, laid) awake until midnight.
10. Yesterday, our teacher _____ (lie, lay, laid) on the ground, injured.

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