Date



Troublesome Verb Pairs

Teaching

Do not confuse these pairs of verbs. Read how they differ, and study the chart.

lie/lay Lie means "to rest or recline." It does not take an object. Lay means "to put or place something." It does take an object.

set/sit Sit means "to be in a seat" or "to rest." It does not take an object. Set means "to put or place something." It does take an object.

rise/raise Rise means "to move upward" or "to get up." It does not take an object. Raise means "to lift (something) up." It usually takes an object.

leave/let Leave means "to depart" or "to allow something to remain where it is." Let means "to allow" or "permit." Both leave and let may take objects.

	Present	Past	Past Participle	
Lie / Lay	lie My sister lies in a crib.	lay I lay down for a nap.	lain Others have lain there.	
	lay Al lays a book here.	laid He laid a book there.	laid He has laid two books down.	
Sit / Set	sit Jeff sits there.	sat Jeff sat there before.	sat Jeff has sat there often.	
	set Ann sets her hair.	set Ann set it last night.	set She has set it nightly.	
Rise / Raise	rise We rise at 8 A.M.	rose We rose early.	risen You have risen early.	
	raise Fay raises the flag.	raised I raised it before.	raised Fay has raised it.	
Leave / Let	leave Leave the bike here.	left You left your dog here.	left You have left a cat too.	
	let Let me ride your bike.	let I let the dog come in.	let I have let the cat go out.	

Using Troublesome Verbs Correctly

Underline the correct verb in parentheses.

- 1. That school (lets, leaves) both boys and girls try out for the baseball team.
- 2. Don't (let, leave) your camera in a hot place for too long.
- 3. You had better (let, leave) the traffic clear before you try to cross this highway.
- **4.** No one may (sit, set) in the bleachers during band practice.
- **5.** We usually (sit, set) on the porch steps and talk about the news of the day.
- 6. The cat (lay, laid) in front of the fire all afternoon.
- 7. I think you have (laid, lain) in the sun too long.
- **8.** I (rose, raised) at 5:00 this morning because I couldn't sleep.
- **9.** The ship's owners hope to be able to (rise, raise) the sunken ship.
- 10. (Let, Leave) the lasagna bake in the oven for forty-five minutes.
- 11. To avoid accidents, (sit, set) that vase in the center of the table.
- 12. Who (lay, laid) this rake on the ground with its tines up?

Troublesome Verb Pairs

More Practice

A. Using Troublesome Verbs Correctly

Underline the correct verb in parentheses.

- 1. Meg (sat, set) her science project on the teacher's desk.
- 2. Someone (let, left) the car windows open.
- **3.** The dog is (setting, sitting) under the tree enjoying the shade.
- 4. The patient must (lie, lay) perfectly still during the X-ray.
- 5. The family won't (let, leave) the occasion pass without a celebration.
- 6. The divers had (raised, risen) to the surface.
- 7. The platypus at the zoo (lay, laid) an egg yesterday.
- 8. The curtain (rose, raised) on the last act of the class play.
- 9. We (let, left) our car at the airport when we flew to visit our grandparents.
- 10. Sam (set, sit) the mysterious brown package on the table.

B. Correcting Troublesome Verbs

Examine the boldfaced verb in each of the following sentences. If the verb is not correct, write the proper verb on the line. If the verb is correct, write Correct.

1.	We laid our towels on the beach before running into the water.
2.	Will the police leave us go through the barricade?
3.	If you do not raise an objection, the motion may pass.
4.	Help me lie these ceramic tiles in place.
5.	Sometimes it's hard for babies to set long enough to have their picture taken.
6.	Tomorrow, I shall lay in the sun and relax.
7.	The bread should raise if the yeast is good.
8.	Set aside any doubts you may have.
9.	Steve has left his car run out of gas.
10.	The tools were lying in that metal box.
11.	Did your sister sit the cover over the cake after she took some?
12.	Larry fell asleep two minutes after he had laid down.

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Troublesome Verb Pairs

Application

A. Correcting Troublesome Verbs

Examine the boldfaced verb in each of the following sentences. If the verb is not correct, write the proper verb on the line. If the verb is correct, write Correct.

- 1. Throughout the game, we had to set in the bleachers.
- **2.** Before the parade started, Rose and George **rose** the banner.
- **3.** The guards waited for the shoplifter to **leave** the store.
- 4. Why don't you lay down until your headache goes away.
- **5.** The newspaper **set** on the doorstep waiting to be picked up.
- 6. This new race car will leave the rest of them in the dust.
- 7. The firemen set the old house on fire as a training exercise for their new firefighters.
- **8.** You'd better not **leave** your dog out of your sight.
- **9.** John is working very hard to **raise** enough money to buy a new TV.
- **10.** Thea **lay** out all the things to pack before putting them in the suitcase.

B. Using Troublesome Verbs Correctly

The following sentences contain five incorrectly used verbs. Rewrite the paragraph below, correcting all five errors.

Every year, right about this time, the same idea raises in my mind. The idea is that I'm working too hard. I sit here thinking that I need a vacation. Let the rest of the world raise at the crack of dawn. I need to lay in bed another hour or two or three. I need to just set and read all day. "Leave me alone," I want to tell the whole world. "Leave me rest."
