

Easily Confused Verb Pairs

Remember always to check troublesome verb pairs. To use them correctly, study which words should have or usually have direct objects.

Use **lie** when you mean "rest" or "recline." It does not take an object.

Example:

You can *lie* here for a while.

Use **lay** when you mean "place something in a reclining position." *Lay* does take an object.

Example:

Lay the books on the desk.

Use **sit** when you mean "rest, as in a chair." *Sit* does not take an object.

Example:

Please *sit* down.

Use **set** when you mean "put something in a certain place." *Set* does take an object.

Example:

My sister *set* the flowers on the table.

Use **rise** when you mean "get up" or "move higher." *Rise* does not take an object.

Example:

Smoke from the fire *rises*.

Use **raise** when you mean "lift something up." *Raise* does take an object.

Example:

My grandmother *raises* the window slightly.

Use **leave** when you mean "to depart" or "to allow something to remain where it is."

Leave may take an object.

Example:

She did *leave* home.

Use **let** when you mean "to allow" or "to permit." *Let* may take an object.

Example:

Angelina *lets* me help.



Choose the correct verb to complete each sentence. Write it in the blank.

Ramona (1) _____ (laid, lay) down on her bed to do her homework. The thickest novel she had ever seen was (2) _____ (lying, laying) in front of her. Why had she (3) _____ (let, left) her book report until the last minute? Why had her parents (4) _____ (let, left) her put it off? Mrs. DeLeon came in and (5) _____ (sat, set) a plate of food beside Ramona. Then she (6) _____ (sat, set) down in a chair beside her daughter. Ramona (7) _____ (rose, raised) her head and looked at her mother. "I thought I'd (8) _____ (bring, take) you dinner in your room, so you can finish your book," Mrs. DeLeon said.

Ramona (9) _____ (sat, set) up and (10) _____ (sat, set) the food on her lap. "Thanks for your help, Mom. I hope I can (11) _____ (raise, rise) to the occasion."

