

Lie, lie and lay!

LIE /laɪ/	<i>lied</i> /laɪd/	<i>lied</i> /laɪd/	<i>lying</i> /laɪɪŋ/
LIE /laɪ/	<i>lay</i> /leɪ/	<i>lain</i> /leɪn/	<i>lying</i> /laɪɪŋ/
LAY /leɪ/	<i>laid</i> /leɪd/	<i>laid</i> /leɪd/	<i>laying</i> /leɪɪŋ/

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From the chart above, we can conclude the following:

1. «**to lie**» = **mentir**. It's a regular verb, so you only have to add **-d**, as it ends in **-e**. This one's the easy one.
2. «**to lie**» = **tumbarse, estar tumbado, yacer**. It's an irregular verb. The most difficult things here are that:
 - its infinitive and gerund forms are the same as in «**to lie**» («**mentir**»).
 - its past simple form, «**lay**», coincides with the infinitive form of the verb «**to lay**» («**poner**»)
3. «**to lay something**» = **poner** (la mesa), **extender, colocar**. It's an irregular verb, although the spelling of the past simple, past participle and gerund forms are not difficult to remember. Also, as

you can see, «to lay something» is the only transitive verb of the three, meaning that it «affects» an object (i.e. *something*)

Maybe it's hard to memorise all of these forms together, but if you write them out in sentences, it will be easier. Let's see some examples:

1. Don't **lie** to me! = ¡No me **mientas**!

2. The book **lay** open on his desk. = El libro **estaba** abierto sobre su escritorio.

3. It's usually me who **lays** the table at home. = Suelo ser yo el que **pone** la mesa en casa.

Lie and Lay Commonly Confused Words Worksheet

The word (lie) means to rest in a horizontal position.

The word (lay) means to put or place something down.

Directions: Circle the confusing word (lie or lay) that best completes each sentence.

Example A: I had to (lie / lay) down after the game.

Answer: lie

1. When I arrived I (lie / lay) my coat on the couch.
2. I wanted to (lie / lay) down because I was sleepy.
3. I (lie / lay) down all the tableware because it was time to eat.
4. Do you want to (lie / lay) down on the bed or couch?
5. I decided to (lie / lay) down on the hammock.
6. I (lie / lay) down my briefcase before starting work.
7. The team went to (lie / lay) their bags near the front desk.
8. I went to (lie / lay) down on my bed.
9. My friend went to (lie / lay) his things on my bed.

Directions: Write a sentence with lie and lay on the lines below.

10. lie- _____

11. lay- _____