

English Verbs – “lie” vs “lay”

1. to lie (lie/lie/lie/lying) - *mentir*

Verbs: to lie, to tell lies, to lie to somebody

Examples: You should never tell lies to your seniors!
After he lied to me, I cannot trust him any more.

Nouns: lie, lie detector, liar

Examples: That is a lie! I wouldn't do something like that!
Robert failed the lie detector test.
He is a liar! He never tells the truth!

2. to lie (down) (lie/lay/lain/lying) - *deitar*

Verbs: to lie (on something), to lie down, to lie in, to lie ahead, to lie low,
to lie about/around, to take something lying down

Examples: Doctor: Please lie on the table, face up.
I need to lie down for ten minutes. I have a headache.
I always lie in at the weekends. Bliss!
The future is uncertain. Who knows what lies ahead?
The soldiers are looking for us. We should lie low for a while.
He lies about/around all day. He is so lazy!
He will not take the news lying down. He will rebel.

Nouns: lie-down, lie-in

Examples: I need a lie-down for ten minutes. I have a headache.
I want a lie-in tomorrow. I have a day off!

3. to lay (lay/laid/laid/laying) – *colocar*

Phrasal verbs/Expressions:

to lay a trap
to lay plans
to lay the table
to lay your cards on the table
to lay bricks
to lay a carpet
to lay an egg
to lay blame
to lay aside
to lay before (somebody)
to lay down
to lay into
to lay off
to lay on
to lay out
to lay over

Nouns:

lay-by
layer
bricklayer
carpet layer
layout
layover

Exercise. Complete the following with appropriate verbs, phrasal verbs or expressions. Conjugate where necessary.

1. Little Johnny never _____ to his teacher. He is a good boy!
2. I always like to _____ for an hour after lunch. It helps me to digest my food.
3. Alice – please _____ the plates on the small table. Lunch is nearly ready.
4. That's not true! It's a _____ !
5. Do you ever _____ on Saturdays? Or do you have to work?
6. Roger is a _____. He _____ three carpets yesterday!
7. Have you ever _____ to your spouse?
8. Yesterday, I _____ on my bed for hours, thinking about my future.
9. This year, our chickens _____ over 100 eggs!
10. Can you please show me the _____ of the factory floor? We need to find space for another lathe.
11. We need to _____ some rules before we start. Otherwise, there will be trouble ahead.
12. Please don't _____ on yourself. We are all partly responsible for what happened.