

Commonly Confused Words

"**Lie**" means to rest flat, to recline, to stay in a place, and also to speak untruth. As a noun, "**lie**" means untruth.

"**Lay**" is to put down something or someone carefully, or in case of animals or birds it means to produce eggs. It is also the past simple tense of "**lie**" meaning to recline. Now let's look at the conjugation.

Present simple	Past simple	Present participle	Past participle
lie (to recline)	lay	lying	lain
lie (to speak untruth)	lied	lying	lied
lay	laid	laying	laid

Example

PREVIEW

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Choose the correct form of the verbs "lie" or "lay" to complete each of the following sentences.

- 1) Craig had been _____ for hours.
- 2) _____ the book on the table.
- 3) Don't _____ the truth.
- 4) Sea turtles often _____ their eggs on the beach.
- 5) I _____ down on the grass.
- 6) He's been _____ the floor tiles all morning.
- 7) The treasure had _____ hidden for centuries before being discovered.
- 8) The suspect _____ to the police about his whereabouts.

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