**Grammar Point: Lie / Lay**

*I like to lie on the ground.* *I lay the book on the table.*

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**Lie:** This means to recline, and is something that you do yourself.

**Lay:** This means to put or place something. Lay is a transitive verb, meaning that there is always an object after it. *(Lay the book on the table. Book is the object.)*

Complete the following sentences with either ***lie*** or ***lay***:

1. I am going upstairs to \_\_\_\_ down.
2. I like to \_\_\_\_ on the sofa and watch football.
3. Can you \_\_\_\_ your bag on the floor?
4. Do me a favour and \_\_\_\_ the table.
5. Can you \_\_\_\_ still without moving?
6. I like to \_\_\_\_ my pyjamas out on my bed.
7. The dog \_\_\_\_ on the ground.
8. Please \_\_\_\_ down for a minute.
9. You should \_\_\_\_ the bottle down.
10. We \_\_\_\_ in bed when we sleep.

**Answers:** 1.lie 2.lie 3.lay 4.lay 5.lie 6.lay 7.lay 8.lie 9.lay 10.lie

**Extension:** ***Lie*** and ***lay*** in the past tense.

The rule changes when you use ***lie*** and ***lay*** in the past tense, as ***lie*** becomes ***lay*** (a bit confusing at first), and ***lay*** becomes ***laid***. The table below will help:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Present | Past |
| Lie | Lie | Lay |
| Lay | Lay | Laid |

Here are some examples to show the difference:

Present tense: I *lie* on the ground during football practice.

Past tense: Last week I *lay* on the ground during football practice.

Present tense: I *lay* the book on the table and walk away.

Past tense: During Maths I *laid* the book on the table and walked away.

Complete these sentences with the correct form of ***lie*** or ***lay***. (Note: to challenge you there are a mixture of present and past tense examples!)

1. I like to \_\_\_\_ on the sofa and watch television.
2. Before school today I \_\_\_\_ my football boots by the front door.
3. I \_\_\_\_ in bed all day on Sunday.
4. Cats like to \_\_\_\_ in the sun.
5. John \_\_\_\_ down and went to sleep.
6. She \_\_\_\_ her pen on the desk and looked up.
7. It is relaxing to \_\_\_\_ down when you are tired.
8. Can you \_\_\_\_ that on the shelf and come here?
9. But I \_\_\_\_ the table last night.
10. The easy option is to \_\_\_\_ down and give up.

**Answers:** 1.lie 2.laid 3.lay 4.lie 5.lay 6.laid 7.lie 8.lay 9.laid 10.lie