

# How to Use *Lie* and *Lay*

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## Lie

There are two senses of the verb **To Lie**. Both are intransitive:

He **lies** on the ground.

He **lies** about his age.

The past tense of **lie** in the sense of to rest is **lay**:

He **lay** on the ground for two hours.

The past tense of **lie** in the sense of to speak dishonestly is **lied**:

He **lied** about his age.

The past participle of **lie** in the sense of to rest is **lain**:

He had **lain** on the ground for two hours.

The past participle of **lie** in the sense of to speak dishonestly is **lied**:

He had **lied** about his age all his life.

## Lay

**Lay** is transitive:

He **lay** the egg in its nest.

The past tense of **lay** is **laid**:

He **laid** the egg in its nest.

The past participle of **lay** is **laid**:

He had **laid** the egg in its nest before I told him to.

## Erroneous Examples

He **laid** there unmoving.

He **lay** there unmoving.

He **lied** on the ground.

He **lay** on the ground.

He had **laid** there all morning.

He had **lain** there all morning.

He **lays** on the ground and thinks.

He **lies** on the ground and thinks.

He **layed** the egg in the nest.

He **laid** the egg in the nest.