

APSU Writing Center

Lay and Lie

Present	Lay	Lie
Definition	to put something down	be or remain in a specified state
Past	Laid	Lay
Past Participle	laid	lain
Present Participle	laying	lying

Lay is defined as putting something down put down, especially gently or carefully.

- Present Tense
 - Is a transitive verb that **takes action**, which means it is doing something.
 - Example: I **lay** the paper on the table.
 - Example: You **lay** the cover on the desk.
- Past Tense
 - Lay become laid in the past tense and it includes the verbs “has” ,”have” , and “had”.
 - Example: Dr. Johnston **laid** her newborn baby in the crib yesterday.
 - Past Participle Example: The student had **laid** their assignment sheet on the table.

Lie is defined as a state of being or remaining in a way or direction.

- Present Tense
 - Is an intransitive verb and **does not take action**, which means it is unmoving.
 - Example: I **lie** on the sofa.
 - Example: We **lie** beside the ocean.
- Past Tense
 - Lie becomes lay in the past tense and the past participle of lie is lain.
 - Example: The pencils **lay** neatly in the box.
 - Example: His instructions have **lain** unused.

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Lead, Led, and Let

Word	Lead	Led	Let
Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be in charge or command of a leash for a dog or other animal a heavy metal that is denser than most common materials 	the past tense of to lead or be in charge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to allow something to happen allow someone to have the use of (a room or property) in return for regular payments; rent.

Lead has many definitions but can be determined by the way in which it is used in a sentence.

- Example: Sarah **lead** the class to the library.
- Example: I will follow you **lead**.
- Example: Whenever David goes on a walk, he makes sure to keep his dog on a **lead**.
- Example: **Lead** is soft and malleable, and also has a relatively low melting point.

Led is the past tense of the verb lead meaning to be in charge of and to guide.

- Example: The students were **led** to the writing center.
- Example: They **led** us to believe we were welcome guests.

Let is the ability to allow something to happen or occur. It can also be a synonym of the word rent.

- Example: Francisco **let** the students write on the board.
- Example: Marco **let** his flat out to his college roommate.

References

Allan Hancock College Writing Center. (2018, August). *Confused Words: Lay and Lie*. Allan Hancock College Writing Center.

<https://www.hancockcollege.edu/writing/documents/CCW%20%20Lay%20and%20Lie%20and%20Lead%20Led%20and%20Let.pdf>

Galvan, A. (2013). *Lay vs. Lie*. San José State University Writing Center.

<https://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/Lay%20vs.%20Lie.pdf>