

# Troublesome Verbs

Some pairs of verbs are confusing because they have similar meanings or because they look alike.

	Present	Past	Past Participle
<i>Lay</i> means “put” or “place.”	lay	laid	(has, have, had) laid
<i>Lie</i> means “rest” or “recline.”	lie	lay	(has, have, had) lain
<i>Set</i> means “put something somewhere.”	set	set	(has, have, had) set
<i>Sit</i> means “sit down.”	sit	sat	(has, have, had) sat
<i>Let</i> means “allow.”	let	let	(has, have, had) let
<i>Leave</i> means “go away.”	leave	left	(has, have, had) left

**Directions** Write the form of the underlined verb indicated in ( ).

1. I sit in the front row at the gospel and blues convention. (past)

**sat** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Someone had set a program on every seat. (past participle)

**set** \_\_\_\_\_

3. A crew had lay a platform stage on the floor. (past participle)

**laid** \_\_\_\_\_

4. The lead singer had lie down for a short nap. (past participle)

**lain** \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you leave your seat, you lost it. (past)

**left** \_\_\_\_\_

6. Ushers let no one in after the performance started. (past)

**let** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions** Use context to help you decide which verb is needed. Then find the principal part needed on the chart. Underline the verb that correctly completes the sentence.

- Janine (set, sit) the record on the turntable.
- Then she (sat, sit) down on the couch.
- The music (leave, let) her relax.
- Pretty soon, she had (laid, lain) down.
- Her mother had (left, let) for work.
- Before she went, she had (laid, lain) out food for lunch.