

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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