TIPS FOR USING “LIE & LAY” AND “SIT & SET”

1. “To lie” means “to be at rest”; you don’t lie anything down. The forms are lie, lay, lain & lying.
2. “To lay” means “to place or put somewhere”; an object must always follow this verb. The forms are lay, laid, laid, & laying.
3. “To sit” means “to occupy a seat”; you don’t sit anything down. The forms are sit, sat, sat, & sitting.
4. “To set” means “to put in place,” and it is always followed by an object. The forms do not change in the present and past tense or the past participle: set, set & set. The present participle is setting.

Exercise - Select the correct form of the verb.

1. The dishes were still (setting, sitting) on the sink when Ahn arrived home.
2. Misha had (laid, lain, layed) in the sun for two hours and was severely burned.
3. A suspicious-looking package was (laying, lying) on the back seat of the car.
4. The first-graders (sat, set, sit) on the floor as Mrs. Aikens read to them.
5. Rob can’t remember where he (laid, layed, lay) his keys.
6. If you don’t mind (setting, sitting) in the back row, I can get you a ticket.
7. Books are available to show you how to (set, sit) the table for a formal dinner.
8. Our dog Rubble (lays, lies) at my feet every Saturday morning and watches cartoons on TV.
9. Maria preferred to stand because she had been (setting, sitting) all day.
10. The salesperson had been (laying, lying) in wait for me when I returned.
11. I (sat, sit, set) at the desk for two hours trying to finish my essay.
12. He bought a machine capable of (laying, lying) over five yards of concrete at a time.
13. Trish has a habit of (laying, lying) her schoolwork all around the house.
14. The photographer asked the chorus members to (set, sit) near one another.
15. I (sat, set) my wallet on the counter a minute ago, but now it’s gone.
16. Homer walked in, (sat, set) down, and then dozed off.
17. I was just (setting, sitting) down the packages when the telephone rang.
18. Jason’s father accused him of (laying, lying) around all day.
19. The stage manager (sat, set) the props in place for the beginning of Act Three.

1. “To rise” means to go upward unassisted. Its forms are rise, rose, risen & rising.
2. “To raise” means something is forced upward by someone or something. Its forms are similar throughout: raise, raised, raised, & raising.

1. Because our landlord is (rising, raising) our rent, we will be moving next month.
2. The cost of living in California has (risen, raised) dramatically in the last ten years.
3. She has (risen, raised) her objections to the committee before.
4. The soldier (rose, raised) his hand and saluted General Jones.
5. The plane began to (rise, raise) off the rain-covered runway.