

IRREGULAR VERBS – EXERCISE 6: LAY AND LIE

Directions: Choose the correct verb for the sentences below. Check your answers with the [interactive version](#) of the exercise.

1. Defeated, Melody _____ her head on the desk. Even though she had studied until 3 a.m., she could make no sense of the chemistry problems on the exam before her.

A. lay
B. laid
C. layed
2. The students who have Mr. Sebacher for World Literature believe that their professor reads Homer, Dante, and Shakespeare all evening. The reality is that Mr. Sebacher _____ on the couch, eats corn chips, and channel surfs until midnight.

A. lies
B. lays
C. laid
3. Theodora will nuzzle a snake, kiss a frog, and let a tarantula crawl up her arm. But if you were _____ a bowl of lima beans on the dining room table, she would run screaming from the house.

A. to lie
B. to lay
C. to have lain

4. Saxe, Diane's horse, will let you know when she deserves another carrot or apple. She sticks out her tongue so that it _____ outside her mouth like a long, fat, pink worm.
- A. lies
 - B. lays
 - C. will lay
5. _____ on the kitchen counter, the chocolate chip cookie teased Spencer the Chihuahua, who sat on the linoleum, whining and drooling.
- A. Laying
 - B. Lieing
 - C. Lying
6. Pumpkin, my oldest cat, loves _____ on my pillow. All night long, she and my head fight for room.
- A. to lay
 - B. to lie
 - C. to be laying
7. Removing the dirty sock from her granddaughter's mouth, Jeanne _____ Abigail in the crib and chased after Savannah, the family's new kitten, who was using the couch as a scratching post. Babies of any species, Jeanne knew, required constant supervision.
- A. lain
 - B. lay
 - C. laid

8. Bill went to the bank interview smelling of wet dog. He had _____ his one suit on the bed before going into the bathroom to shave. Dripping from the rain, Skipper, his Labrador retriever, decided the jacket made a perfect towel.

- A. lain
- B. laid
- C. layed

9. Rachel _____ the telephone receiver on the table and returned to the sci-fi novel she had left on the couch. The poor solicitor at the other end read five more minutes of spiel before realizing that no one was listening.

- A. lay
- B. layed
- C. laid

10. While Karen was cleaning green peppers at the sink, Chris _____ a long, fat anchovy onto the pizza, camouflaging it with sliced mushrooms and onions.

- A. laid
- B. layed
- C. lay

11. Jacob's physics notes were tucked in his book bag. A half-read copy of *Moby-Dick* served as a coaster for a glass of cold soda. An unopened trigonometry book was _____ on the desk. Although final exams were only two days away, Jacob decided to play another level of *Tomb Raider*, his favorite computer game.

- A. lying
- B. lieing
- C. laying

12. Kevin _____ the dripping barbecue sandwich on his plate and grabbed a fork and knife. He ignored the stares of the other restaurant patrons and ate his sandwich with utensils.
- A. laid
 - B. layed
 - C. lay
13. The bright floral-print tie _____ against Dr. Kinser's crisp white shirt gives everyone the impression that snow has fallen in the rainforest.
- A. laying
 - B. lying
 - C. lieing
14. After an especially long week at work, Deepa _____ on the sofa, watching television and trying to relax. Once the University of Florida football game began, however, she was jumping up every five minutes to boo referee calls and cheer effective Gator plays.
- A. lay
 - B. was laying
 - C. laid
15. The last slice of cheesecake _____ on a platter in the middle of the table; everyone wanted to eat it, but only Cassandra was assertive enough to scoop the slice onto her own plate.
- A. lay
 - B. was laying
 - C. laid

16. When Carol went hunting through the kitchen for a midnight snack, she found a stale chocolate chip cookie _____ in a crumpled bag behind an empty cereal box.
- A. laying
 - B. lieing
 - C. lying
17. Robin can't _____ anything on the counter. Money, glasses of orange juice, stacks of paper—all of these get swatted to the floor by Buster, her mischievous cat.
- A. lay
 - B. lie
 - C. have lain
18. If Della hadn't _____ the leaky take-out container of moo goo gai pan on the top shelf of the refrigerator, she would not have had to mop up the ooze that dripped over four shelves of food.
- A. lain
 - B. laid
 - C. lied
19. A crumpled ten-dollar bill _____ at the bottom of the washing machine. Mike retrieved the money and drove to Tito's Taco Palace, where he bought fifteen tacos and a large root beer.
- A. lay
 - B. lied
 - C. laid

20. The message light on the phone was blinking. Eight appointments and an afternoon meeting filled the calendar. A stack of top priority work _____ in the middle of the desk. Valerie knew that lunch would be a bottled water and a handful of antacid tablets.

- A. laid
- B. lied
- C. lay

