Lie or Lay?

Choose the verb that fits.

6.LU.1.E "Form and use often confusing verbs (e.g., lie/lay, sit/set, rise/raise) correctly in sentences."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RESTING

Use lie when the subject rests or reclines. Lie does not take an object.

The astronaut will lie inside the sleeping pod.

PUTTING

Use lay when someone puts something down. Lay takes an object, the thing being placed.

Marta will lay the blanket across the bench.

1 SORT

8 items

For each sentence, circle LIE or LAY, then choose two items and explain why each verb fits.

1. The puppy will ____ beside the fireplace. LIE LAY
2. The gardener will ____ seeds in the soil. LIE LAY
3. ____ your helmet on the shelf. LIE LAY
4. After practice, we ____ on the gym floor. LIE LAY
5. Please ____ still during the photo. LIE LAY
6. The campers will ____ under the stars. LIE LAY
7. ____ the folders in the cabinet. LIE LAY
8. The nurse will ____ a bandage over the cut. LIE LAY

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new sentence using lie for resting and one new sentence using lay for putting something down.

LIE _____

LAY _____

CHALLENGE

Write two past-tense sentences: use lay for resting in one sentence and laid for putting an object down in the other.

ANSWER KEY

Lie or Lay?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	The puppy will ___ beside the fireplace.	**LIE**	The puppy is resting, and no object is being placed.
2	The gardener will ___ seeds in the soil.	**LAY**	Seeds are the object being placed.
3	___ your helmet on the shelf.	**LAY**	The helmet is the object being placed.
4	After practice, we ___ on the gym floor.	**LIE**	We are resting, and no object is being placed.
5	Please ___ still during the photo.	**LIE**	The subject is resting or staying still.
6	The campers will ___ under the stars.	**LIE**	The campers are resting, and no object is being placed.
7	___ the folders in the cabinet.	**LAY**	The folders are the object being placed.
8	The nurse will ___ a bandage over the cut.	**LAY**	A bandage is the object being placed.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **LIE**: I lie on the couch after school.
- **LAY**: Lay the napkin beside your plate.

Challenge: Yesterday, the fox lay beneath the bridge. I laid my keys in the drawer.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. Items 1, 4, 5, and 6 are LIE. Items 2, 3, 7, and 8 are LAY. In student explanations, look for resting with no object for lie and placing an object for lay.