

## Editorial Graphics and Publishing Services

### Is It Lie or Lay?

Many of us struggle with how and when to use the verbs *lie* and *lay*. Here is a quick reference to help keep you grammatically correct when using these words

**Lie (verb—lie, lay\*, lain):** to recline, rest, or remain in place

*Examples:* The preschoolers lie down for a nap in the afternoon.

Lie down if you feel dizzy.

She lay down yesterday.

She had lain down when the doorbell rang.

**Lay (verb—lay, laid, laid):** always followed by a noun or pronoun, to place or put something somewhere.

*Examples:* I lay the newspaper on her desk every morning.

The mail was laying on the table.

He laid the plant on the rack last week.

\*REMEMBER, lay is also the past tense of lie

*Example:* I lay down for a nap all afternoon yesterday.

He lay his briefcase on the counter.

**Question:** Is “lay” used correctly in this cartoon?



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