

Verbs *rise/raise* and *lie/lay*

The two pairs of verbs from the title are examples of some verbs that are often confused by learners of English because they sound or look alike, or because they even have some forms in common. Below you will find the explanation of their different meanings and use in sentences.

rise vs. raise

Infinitive	RISE /raɪz/	RAISE /reɪz/
3rs person singular	rises /raɪzɪz/	raises /reɪzɪz/
Past Simple	rose /rəʊz/	raised /reɪzd/
Past Participle	risen /rɪsən/	raised /reɪzd/
Present Participle	rising /raɪzɪŋ/	raising /reɪzɪŋ/

1.a. *Rise* is an intransitive verb and it means “to get up from a lying, sitting or prone position”, including “to get out of bed, especially in the morning”.

- The chairman *rose* from his chair and came forward to greet her.

1.a. It also means an increase in amount or number.

- Britain’s unemployment rate *has risen* from 7.5 to 7.7 percent since May.

1.b. *Raise* is a transitive verb and requires a direct object after it. Its meaning is “to lift or elevate something to a higher position or level”.

- If you have any questions, please *raise* your hand.

1.b. When we are talking about numbers, values and amounts, *raise* means “to increase the amount or level of something”.

- A ban on the sale of alcohol below cost would *raise* the price of less than 1% of alcohol sold in shops.

1.b. *Raise* also means “to cause, provoke or put forward for consideration”.

- The subject of funding *was raised* at the conference by several participants.

lie vs. lay

Infinitive	LIE /laɪ/	LAY /leɪ/
3rs person singular	lies /laɪz/	lays /leɪz/
Past Simple	lay /leɪ/	laid /leɪd/
Past Participle	lain /leɪn/	laid /leɪd/
Present Participle	lying /laɪŋ/	laying /leɪŋ/

2.a. *Lie* is an intransitive verb, which means that it does not take an object. In a sentence, it is usually followed by an adverb or a preposition phrase. It means “to be or move into a horizontal position on a surface”.

- He could not produce any document to support his claim and said the documents *were lying* in his office.

2.a. If something *lies* in particular place, it is in that place.

- In-store managers must look at what *is lying* in the warehouse while their staff are completing re-stocking orders.

2.a. It can also be a synonym of “exist” or “be”.

- The heyday for the private equity industry in the country still *lies* ahead of us.

2.a. When we are talking about responsibility, blame, a decision, a choice, etc. and we say that they *lie* with someone, we are actually saying that they have responsibility, must take the decision, etc.

- Responsibility for the accident ultimately *lies* with the local authorities.

2.b. *Lay* is a transitive verb and is followed by a direct object. It means “to put or place something in a particular position”.

- When he finished, he *laid* the tools on the workbench.

2.b. When used in the passive voice, the verb *lay* also means “to give something to someone so that they can think about it and then take a decision”.

- The proposal *was laid* before the CEO.

2.b It can also mean “to impute or attribute”.

- They *laid* the blame on their development partner.

To practice using the verbs *rise*, *raise*, *lie* and *lay*, complete the following sentences. In the brackets you will find the forms in which these verbs appear in the sentences.

1. The new manager _____ all the blame on her assistant. (Past Simple)
2. Our organisation _____ money for charity. (Present Continuous)
3. If you would like to dissent from the motion, _____ your hand now. (Imperative)
4. Sicily _____ on one of the main routes that asylum seekers use to get to Europe. (Present Simple)
5. The player _____ his cards on the table. (Future Simple)
6. Even chain supermarkets _____ prices in summer. (Present Simple)
7. He took his card, swiped it and then _____ it on the counter. (Past Simple)
8. He _____ to his feet to deliver his speech. (Past Simple)
9. Our landlord _____ the rent again, so now we must pay £20 more each month. (Present Perfect)
10. The multi-billion-pound budget _____ every year. (Present Continuous)

Key: 1. *laid*, 2. *is raising*, 3. *raise*, 4. *lies*, 5. *will lay*, 6. *raise*, 7. *laid*, 8. *rose*, 9. *has raised*, 10. *is rising*