

Lesson Plan:

"Lay" vs. "lie"

LEVEL Intermediate (B1/B2)	TIME 45-60 minutes	TOPIC The difference between lay and lie (with verb tenses)
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Objective

Students will be able to correctly use *lay* and *lie* in present, past, and participle forms in speaking and writing.

Materials

- Whiteboard / board markers
- Handouts with explanations and exercises
- Verb form chart (print or projected)
- Sentence cards (optional)

Lesson Stages

1. Warm-up (5 minutes)

Goal: Activate prior knowledge.

- Ask: "What do you do when you're tired?" Elicit answers like "sleep,"

"rest," "lie down."

- Write: I lie down when I'm tired. and I lay my phone on the table.

2. Presentation (10-15 minutes)

Explain:

Verb	Meaning	Object?	Example
Lie	To rest or recline	✗	I lie on the sofa.
Lay	To put something down	✓	I lay the book down.

Verb Forms Chart:

Verb	Present	Past	Past Participle	-ing Form
lie	lie	lay	lain	lying
lay	lay	laid	laid	laying

Note: The past tense of *lie* is *lay*, which causes confusion!

3. Practice (10-15 minutes)**Activity 1: Fill in the blanks**

- Handout with 10 sentences (mix tenses, e.g. "Yesterday, I ___ down for a nap.")

Activity 2: Sentence matching

- Match actions to correct sentences: e.g. "putting a book on the table" →

"*He laid the book down.*"

4. Production (10-15 minutes)

Activity: Partner practice or short writing task

- Each student writes 3 sentences using *lie* and 3 using *lay*.
- Pairs check each other's work and discuss any corrections.

5. Review & Wrap-up (5 minutes)

- Quick review quiz (3-5 questions on board)
- Ask students to explain the rule in their own words (oral or written).

Homework (optional)

- Write 5 sentences using *lay* and *lie* in different tenses.
- Bring a picture of someone lying down or laying something and describe it.