

# Lie vs. Lay

by me

# Lie vs. Lay Chart

|                     | <b>Present</b> | <b>Past</b> | <b>Past Participle<br/>(used with helping verbs<br/>such as <i>have</i>)</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|--|
| To recline          | lie, lying     | lay         | has/have/had lain  |
| To put or place     | lay, laying    | laid        | has/have/had laid<br>something   |
| To tell a falsehood | lie, lying     | lied        | has/have/had lied  |

source: <http://data.grammarbook.com/blog/definitions/no-lielay/>

# Truly or Falsely?

1. Every afternoon we *lay* down and rest for an hour.
2. Luke *laid* on the beach and soaked up the sunshine.
3. I distinctly remember *lying* my keys on the kitchen counter.
4. The reports were *laying* on my desk this morning.
5. When Sabine comes home every afternoon, she *lays* her coat on the chair by the door.
6. Yesterday Juan *laid* on his sofa watching television for three hours.

# What do you notice?

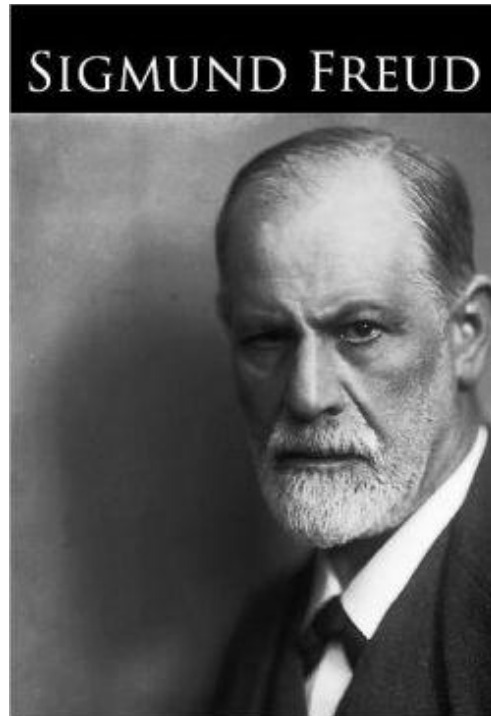
- Essential differences:
  - *to lie* is an intransitive verb
  - *laid* does not describe the act of reclining
  - *to lay* is a transitive verb
- Essential similarity:
  - the past tense form of *to lie* is *lay*
- Dear Abby:
  - “people *lie* and chickens *lay*”

# Visuals, anyone?

- lie, **lay**, **lain**

- lay, **laid**, **laid**

- lie, **lied**, **lied**



# Reference

Get It Write. (2009). Retrieved from  
<http://www.getitwriteonline.com/archive/051402lielay.htm>