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Lose It or Loose It. There's a Difference

Lose ten pounds or loose ten pounds? What is it that you *really* want to do? If you lose the ten pounds, then we won't be able to find them. That would be a good thing. But if you loose the ten pounds, you set them free to roll about like a tumbleweed. Ten pounds on the loose would *not* be a good thing.

LOSE means to lack the possession of, to come to be without.

LOOSE means not tight.

LOOSEN means to unfasten something or make it less

Examples:

The hockey team doesn't want to **lose** the game.

The girl had such a bad sunburn that she could only wear **loose** clothes.

Set the dog **loose**. Don't tie him up again.

I am so frustrated! I always seem to **lose** my keys.

Loosen your hold on the bat. You are gripping it much too tightly!

Practice:

1. The shoes were so big that they were _____ on the little boy's feet.
2. I turned a corner to _____ the guy who was tailing me.
3. Our football team hasn't done so well this year. We are sure to _____ every game.
4. After the bad weather, the penned up dogs were set _____ to run outside again.
5. The pet store manager was told to _____ the dog's collar as it was much too tight around his neck.
6. Those rules are much too _____! You need to tighten up security around here.
7. Her husband had to work on her necklace for over an hour before he could _____ the hung clasp.
8. She wanted her hair fixed in soft _____ curls.
9. It is a terrible thing to _____ one's self-respect.
10. You will _____ out if you don't get there before the sale ends.

Two, too or to?

😊 **Two is a number.**

She counted, "One, two, three."

😊 **Too is an adverb that can mean also.**

He wanted to go too.

😊 **Too is an adverb that can mean more than enough.**

This is too much for me!

😊 **To plus a noun or noun phrase is a preposition.**

Take me to the ball game.

I went to bed early that night.

😊 **To plus a verb is an infinitive.**

She wanted to go.

He decided to run away.

Choose the correct two, too, or to for each of the blanks below:

1. Many students read _____ quickly and _____ carelessly.
2. I was _____ scared _____ say a word to her!
3. I am going _____ the store now.
4. They are building _____ new houses on our block.
5. May I go _____?
6. Do you think it is _____ late _____ do that now?
7. I have _____ new shirts that I can't wait _____ wear.
8. My dental appointment lasted _____ hours and that was _____ long!
9. This room is _____ cold _____ stay in very much longer.
10. After I played raquetball for _____ hours, I was _____ tired _____ walk home.
11. It is not good _____ put _____ much salt on your food.
12. My next dental appointment is for tomorrow at _____ o'clock.
13. I am not _____ excited about going _____ the dentist again.
14. My brother flew _____ Alabama earlier this week.
15. We have planted _____ rose bushes in pots on the patio.

LIE - To lie down is an act that can be attributed to the subject. There is no object of this verb, as the subject is doing the action without a receiver.

Conjugation of LIE:

I lie down today. (present tense)

The money lay there yesterday. (past tense)

Sarah will lie down there tomorrow. (future tense)

The book has lain here many times before. (use perfect tense with have, had, has)

LAY - Lay must have a direct object. One lays *something* down. (Hint: substitute "put." If "put" works, then "lay" is also correct.)

Conjugation of LAY:

I lay the book down. (present tense)

I laid it down yesterday. (past tense)

I will lay it down again tomorrow. (future tense)

I have laid it here many times before. (use perfect tense with have, had, has)

Choose the lie or lay for each of the blanks below. Be sure to use the correct tense.

1. He _____ on the hard pavement this morning, gasping for breath.
2. How long did he _____ there?
3. I don't know how long he had _____ there.
4. He picked up the wounded bird and _____ it gently on the table.
5. She _____ her sewing aside and went to the door.
6. Are you going to _____ there all day?
7. The three puppies _____ in the basket.
8. Linda _____ her coat on the couch.
9. Not feeling well, he _____ in his bed all day.
10. He decided to just _____ around the house all summer.
11. Someone _____ the dictionary on my glasses.
12. The money _____ there all day in plain sight.
13. She had _____ the book on the ground under the tree.
14. Ginny _____ down on a beach towel.
15. I saw the hat that you _____ on the hall table.
16. She had just _____ down for a nap when the phone rang.
17. The two teenagers _____ in the sun all day.
18. Have they _____ the cornerstone of the building yet?
19. She had _____ the coverlet over the child at midnight.
20. He should not _____ the blame for the accident on the other driver.

Additional Exercise

Ann 1 the baby on the bed and then 2 his stuffed bear beside him. I wondered how long the baby would 3 there without crying. Aunt Marge said that she remembered one day when he had 4 in the same position for an hour. She said another time when she was there, the puppy had 5 next to the baby on the bed. She remembered picking up the puppy while it was still asleep. Then she 6 the puppy on the rug. When Aunt Marge left, the puppy was still there. It had 7 there for nearly two hours sound asleep! Meanwhile, the baby woke up and 8 quietly for fully half an hour just watching the puppy snore. Finally, neither the puppy nor the baby could 9 there any longer, so the baby 10 on the old sympathy play and started whining pitifully until Ann was forced to 11 aside the sweater that she had hoped to finish knitting while the baby 12 down.

How Does the Effect Affect You? - Another Grammatical Riddle

AFFECT ... EFFECT ...

Two very confusing words often misused. Cause and effect, sound effects, weather that affects your health, an affected tone of voice ... a spelling nightmare. Let's look at basic definitions and parts of speech.

AFFECT – verb – to act upon, to change or to cause a change

AFFECTED – adjective – influenced by an outside force

EFFECT – noun – result; consequence

(Note: there is one exception to this rule. When effect is used to indicate a scientific "cause and effect" instance, then it may be used as a verb. An example is:

Do you know the name of the doctor who effected a cure for rabies?)

Although the definitions are certainly beneficial in knowing which spelling of similar-sounding words to use, it is the part of speech that gives us the best clue. Here are examples:

1. She knew the _____ of the weather would impact the arthritis in her knee negatively.

Two clauses are seen here: She (subject) knew (verb)

and

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_____ (subject) would impact (verb)

A noun must go in the blank to act as the subject. Therefore, the only spelling choice available to us is EFFECT. She knew the EFFECT of the weather would impact the arthritis in her knee.

2. The weather always _____ the arthritis in her knee.

One clause: weather (subject) _____ (verb)

The verb form is spelled AFFECT. Past tense becomes AFFECTED. The weather always AFFECTED the arthritis in her knee.

3. The _____ knee responded negatively to the damp weather due to its arthritic condition.

One clause: knee (subject) responded (verb)

The blank before the noun must be filled by an adjective. Therefore, the spelling must be AFFECTED. The AFFECTED knee responded negatively to the damp weather due to its arthritic condition.

EXERCISES:

1. The applause showed how deeply the presentation had _____ the audience.
2. His attitude was _____ by his upbringing.
3. What _____ do you think the news will have on her?
4. No matter what he does, it will have no _____ on me.
5. No matter what he does, it will not _____ me.
6. What do you think the _____ of the decision will be?
7. How did her son's departure _____ Mrs. Sanago?
8. How was the team _____ by the loss of their coach?
9. I was impressed by the _____ of Churchill's words on Britain during that time.
10. Do you know what _____ that medicine will have on you?

Sit or Set - Does it Matter?

SIT - To sit is an act that can be attributed to the subject. To sit means to take a resting position. There is no object of this verb, as the subject is doing the action without a receiver of the action.

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Conjugation of SIT:

I sit today. (present tense)

The money sat there yesterday. (past tense)

Sarah will sit there tomorrow. (future tense)

The book has sat here many times before. (use perfect tense with have, had, has)

SET - Set must have a direct object. To set means to place something in a special or certain position. One sets *something* down. One sets *something* right. (Hint: substitute "put." If "put" works, then "set" is also correct.)

Conjugation of SET :

I set the book down. (present tense)

I set it down yesterday. (past tense)

I will set it down again tomorrow. (future tense)

I have set it here many times before. (use perfect tense with have, had, has)

Choose the sit or set for each of the blanks below. Be sure to use the correct tense.

1. Have you _____ the alarm clock for tomorrow?
2. How long did he _____ there?
3. I don't know how long he had _____ there.
4. He picked up the wounded bird and _____ it gently on the table.
5. She _____ her sewing aside and went to the door.
6. Are you going to _____ there all day?
7. Where shall we _____?
8. Linda _____ her coat on the couch.
9. _____ the packages on the front porch by the door.
10. He decided to just _____ around the house all summer.
11. Someone _____ the dictionary on my glasses.
12. The money _____ there all day in plain sight.
13. She had _____ the book on the ground under the tree.
14. Ginny _____ down on a beach towel.
15. I always _____ near the door.
16. Dr. Javier _____ my brother's arm when he broke it.

17. The two teenagers _____ in the sun all day.
18. Chris may _____ a new record in the race today.
19. Just _____ right here until they call your name.
20. Sandy, please _____ the table.

Is It Farther or Further?

Two words often confused are farther and further. Is it farther down the road or further? Do you have to read further in the book or farther? Do you further your education? Yes! Let's take a look at the meanings for these two words.

FARTHER denotes physical advancement in distance.

FURTHER denotes advancement to greater degree, as in time.

The correct answers to the above examples follow:

It is farther down the road. (For distance physically traveled.)

You read further in the book. (To a greater degree than where you are now.)

You further your education. (To a greater degree than what you have now.)

Practice:

How much _____ do you plan to drive tonight?

I've reached the end of my rope with this dog chewing up the carpet. I just can't go any _____.

Do you have any _____ plans for adding on to the building?

That's a lot _____ than I want to carry this machine and tripod!

The _____ that I travel down this road, the _____ behind schedule I get.

How much _____ do you intend to take this legal matter?

I want to _____ my career by taking some management courses.

It's not that much _____ to the gas station.

How much _____ do I have to read in this text?

How much _____ do I have to run, Coach?