Lie—Lay—Lain

How does it work?

Easy Peasy.

LIE: Present Tense

Lie-Lay-Lain: Ya hear it all the time; Lie being first in line, you know "lie" is present tense of that verb.

Lie is something you do. "I lie down on the bed." (~; Easy to remember—Lie is something you do;~) hahah~

Lay is something you do *to* something. "I lay the book down." Lay requires an object and is the present tense of *that* verb. Ya lay something down, including yourself, when you refer to yourself in the 3rd person: I lay the book down. Now I lay me down to sleep. Lay requires an object.

Lie requires no object (as a present-tense verb). "Lay lady lay across my big brass bed" is incorrect. Should be "lie lady, lie"—but

vernacular;-)

LAY: Present Tense of a whole different verb:

If there's an *object*, you start with Lay. "If there's an object, there is no lie!" (hahah) so Lay is the beginning and laid is next (there is no "laid" in the object-less lie).

Lay—Laid—Laid:

Now I lay me down to sleep.

Yesterday I laid me down to sleep.

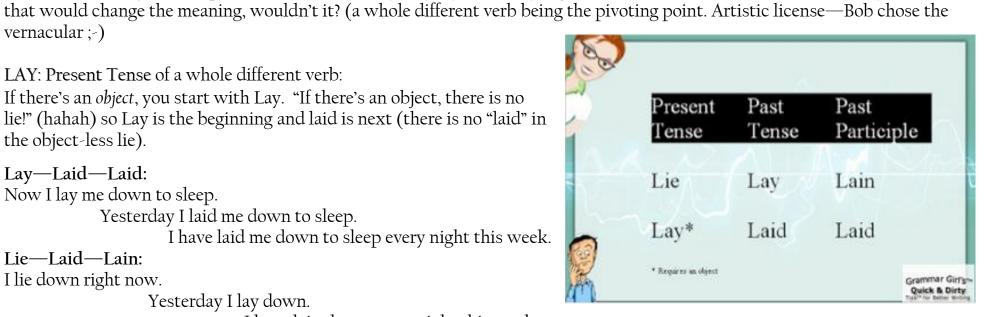
I have laid me down to sleep every night this week.

Lie—Laid—Lain:

I lie down right now.

Yesterday I lay down.

I have lain down every night this week.



pic from: http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/lay-versus-lie.aspx