

Some Commonly Misused Verbs

By Bill Carrigan

Sarasota Fiction Writers

Present Tense & Definition	Past Tense	Past Participle (has/have/had)	Present Participle
Lay (transitive v.) To put down • He <i>lays</i> the book on the table. • She <i>laid</i> the baby in the crib. • I <i>had laid</i> all the bricks before sundown. • The roofers are <i>laying</i> tiles.	Laid	Laid	Laying
Lie (intransitive v.) To recline • I <i>lie</i> in bed every night. • Yesterday we <i>lay</i> in clover. • She <i>had lain</i> on the floor till the doctor came. • Drunks were <i>lying</i> everywhere.	Lay	Lain	Lying
Wake (to cease to sleep or to rouse from sleep)	Woke or waked	Waked or woken	Waking
Awake (same)	Awoke	Awaked	Awaking
Awaken (same)	Awakened	Awakened	Awakening
Arise	Arose	Arisen	Arising
Dive	Dived or dove	Dived	Diving
Do (never <i>would have did that</i>)	Did	Done	Doing
Drag (never <i>drug</i> in past tenses)	Dragged	Dragged	Dragging
Dream	Dreamed/dreamt	Dreamed/dreamt	Dreaming
Drink	Drank	Drunk	Drinking
Forget	Forgot	Forgotten/forgot	Forgetting
Get	Got	Got/gotten	Getting
Go (<i>had gone</i> , never <i>had went</i>)	Went	Gone	Going
Hang (to suspend, hook)	Hung	Hung	Hanging
Hang (to execute by hanging)	Hanged	Hanged	Hanging
Lead (never <i>lead</i> in past tenses)	Led	Led	Leading
Mistake	Mistook	Mistaken	Mistaking
Pass (not <i>past</i> in past tenses)	Passed	Passed	Passing
Pay (not <i>payed</i> in past tenses)	Paid	Paid	Paying
Run (never <i>had ran</i>)	Ran	Run	Running
Set (to place)	Set	Set	Setting
Sit (to be in or to take a seated position; for the latter, <i>sit down</i> is clearer)	Sat	Sat	Sitting
Shrink	Shrank/shrunk	Shrunk/shrunken	Shrinking
Sing	Sang/sung	Sung	Singing
Sink	Sank/sunk	Sunk	Sinking
Spring	Sprang/sprung	Sprung	Springing

Strike

Struck

Struck/stricken

Striking

Swim

Swam

Swum

Swimming

Would (never *if I would have* . . . Use *if I had* or *had I* . . .)

*Hit on the link www.billcarrigan.com to sample or order Bill's novels.