

397 **Shall and May.**

Distinguish between:

(a) **May** I shut the door? *and*(b) **Shall** I shut the door?

**May** *I shut the door?* Means that I wish the door closed and I ask your permission to shut it. **Shall** *I shut the door?* Means that I want to know whether **you** wish the door closed.

398 **Say and Tell.***Don't say:* He told, 'I will/'ll go home.'

He told that he'd go home.

✓ *Say:* He **said**, 'I will/'ll go home.'He **said** that he'd go home.

Use **to say** (1) when referring to a person's actual words, and (2) in indirect speech **if the sentence doesn't contain an indirect object**.

Note: Common idioms with **say** and **tell**:

**Say** a prayer. Who **says**? I must **say** that again! If you **say** so. **Tell** the truth. **Tell** a lie. **Tell** a story. **Tell** the time. **Tell** your fortune. **Tell** someone your name.

(See Exercise 42 on pages 156–157.)

399 **Make and Do.**(a) **Make.***Don't say:* The carpenter did a large table.✓ *Say:* The carpenter **made** a large table.(b) **Do.***Don't say:* You must make your work carefully.✓ *Say:* You must **do** your work carefully.

**To make** primarily means to construct or manufacture something, while **to do** means to accomplish a thing.

Note: Common exceptions with **make** and **do**: (a) **To make** a mistake, to **make** a promise, to **make** a speech, to **make** an excuse, to **make** haste, to **make** fun of, to **make** progress, to **make** a noise, to **make** a bed (= to prepare the bed for sleeping on). (b) **To do** good, to **do** evil, to **do** your best, to **do**

your duty, to **do** someone a favour, to **do** wrong, to **do** a puzzle, to **do** business, to **do** away with, to **do** gymnastics, to **do** exercises.

(See Exercise 43 on page 157.)

400 **Lie and Lay.**(a) **Lie.***Don't say:* I'm going to lay down for an hour.✓ *Say:* I'm going to **lie down** for an hour.(b) **Lay.***Don't say:* Please lie the exam papers on the desk.✓ *Say:* Please **lay out** the exam papers on the desk.

**Lie** (= **to rest**) is an intransitive verb and never has an object. **Lay** (= **to put**) is a transitive verb and always requires an object. Their principal parts are **lie, lay, lain**, and **lay, laid, laid**.

Note: **Lie, lied, lied** is to tell an untruth: *He has lied to me.* **Lay, laid, laid** also means to produce eggs: *The hen has laid an egg.* (Idiom: **Lay the table** is to prepare the table for a meal.)

(See Exercise 44 on page 157.)

401 **Sit and Seat.**(a) **Sit.***Don't say:* We seat at a desk to write a letter.✓ *Say:* We **sit** at a desk to write a letter.(b) **Seat.***Don't say:* He sat the passengers one by one.✓ *Say:* He **seated** the passengers one by one.

Use **sit** as an intransitive verb. **Seat** is a transitive verb and requires an object. Very often the object of **seat** is a reflexive pronoun: *He seated himself near the fire.* The principal parts of the two verbs are: **sit, sat, sat**, and **seat, seated, seated**.

Note: Don't confuse **sit** with **set**, which usually means **to place**. Common idioms with **set**: **to set the table**, **to set on fire**, **to set off (or out)**, **to set a trap**, **to set a clock**, **to set a price**, **to set your heart on**, **to set free**, **to set an example**, **to set a broken bone**, **to set to work** (= to start work).

(See Exercise 45 on page 158.)