

Rule 25

Some words are easily confused. Take care to use **can/may, sit/set, lie/lay, and good/well** correctly.*

• can—may

Use *can* to tell that someone is able to do something.

*Juan **can** swim across the lake.*

Use *may* to ask or give permission to do something.

***May** I sit next to you?*

• sit—set

Use *sit* to mean “stay seated.”

*Dad will **sit** in that chair.*

Use *set* to mean “to put or place.”

*He **set** his glass down on the table.*

• lie—lay

Use *lie* to mean “to rest or recline.”

*I want to **lie** on the sofa.*

Use *lay* to mean “to put or place.”

*I will **lay** the book on the end table.*

• good—well

Good is an adjective. Use *good* to describe nouns.

*The dinner smells **good**.*

Well is usually an adverb. Use *well* to describe verbs.

*He dances very **well**.*

*See Notes to the Teacher on page 104 for additional information.

Which Is Correct?



A Cross out the incorrect sentences. Rewrite them correctly on the lines below.

1. Can I go to Peter's party?
2. Stuart can run faster than anyone else I know.
3. The tired dog wants to lay down by the fire.
4. Lay the new clothes out on the bed.
5. Please sit the vase down very carefully.
6. Did you set next to Mrs. Gomez?
7. You may go to the movies after dinner.
8. After she lies the eggs, the hen sets on them.
9. Lay the baby in her crib so she can take a nap.

B Make your corrections here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Select the Correct Word

Circle the correct word in each sentence.

1. Daylela (can may) dance better than anyone else in the class.
2. Students in Mr. Tanaka's class (can may) sharpen their pencils only if they ask permission first.
3. (Can May) I help you prepare dinner tonight?
4. Grandpa always (sits sets) in that chair when he comes to our house.
5. (Sitting Setting) in the beach chair is my Aunt Mary.
6. I (set sit) my reading glasses down here somewhere.
7. If you are not feeling well, you should go (lay lie) down.
8. (Lay Lie) the gifts under the Christmas tree.
9. I will (lay lie) the keys beside your purse.
10. My sister plays the flute pretty (good well).
11. The movie we saw last weekend was quite (good well).
12. Sara plays chess very (good well) for a beginner.

Name _____

Write It Right



Use each word below in a sentence of your own.

1. can _____

2. may _____

3. sit _____

4. set _____

5. lie _____

6. lay _____

7. good _____

8. well _____
