

Aunt Ruth Grammar Drills for Excellence

A Companion to
I Laid an Egg on Aunt Ruth's Head



Joel Schnoor

Sample

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I Laid an Egg on Aunt Ruth's Head

by

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1A

Lie and Lay

Use forms of lie to complete these sentences.

- a. Aunt Ruth, thoroughly exhausted from her adventures, is going to _____ down and take a nap!
- b. Yesterday, Binky _____ down and took a nap.
- c. Lois has _____ down on the couch recently.
- d. I was _____ in bed when you called me. I'm telling you the truth!

Use forms of lay or lie to complete the following sentences.

- e. I was busy _____ the new sod in the back yard. I didn't notice that Aunt Ruth was _____ on a blanket, sunning herself. I'll dig her up tomorrow.
- f. Last night, the chickens watched in amazement as Clovis _____ the book on the shelf.
- g. He has no idea what he is doing. He has never _____ new carpet.
- h. I need to _____ the egg on Aunt Ruth's head before she awakens.

Use the appropriate word to complete the sentence.

- i. This worksheet is exhausting me. I need to _____ down a while and rest.
- j. He _____ in bed all last week with the flu.
- k. It's not polite to _____ on the couch when we have guests; you should be sitting!
- l. She has _____ on the floor all day watching Aunt Ruth exercise!

1B

Lie and Lay

Circle the seven errors with lie and lay in the story below.

It was a dark and stormy afternoon, and Philbert was laying beneath the pecan tree. Next to him was his favorite hen, Rosie, who had lain four eggs that very day. I'm not lying.

Now, Philbert had laid beneath that tree before, and he had always enjoyed watching the squirrels scurry back and forth on the branches as they gathered nuts for dinner. On this particular afternoon, as he lied there with his eyes closed, he was listening to the sounds of the squirrels chattering. Rosie, too, seemed to be enjoying the squirrels as she worked on laying another egg. She had lay there before and always enjoyed the furry little critters.

As he lay there, he began drifting off to sleep. He had a dream that a giant squirrel was climbing the tree, in search of the world's largest pecan. He imagined that the branches were creaking, twigs were snapping, and the tree was swaying under the weight of the huge squirrel.

Laying there, he was startled awake when he heard a clearly audible voice say, "I think I can, I think I can." He opened his eyes. Above him, perched in the tree, was Aunt Ruth! Carrying a bag of nuts and a bottle of glue, she was gluing the pecans onto the tree! Philbert watched her. She would glue a pecan and then eat a pecan; she would glue another pecan, and then she would eat another pecan.

"What are you doing, Aunt Ruth?" exclaimed Philbert. This startled Aunt Ruth, who hadn't seen him as he laid there below, and she lost her balance and fell out of the tree, landing right on top of Philbert and Rosie.

"Oh, you caught me," sighed Aunt Ruth. "I'm the Pecan Fairy, going around the world and gluing pecans onto all the pecan trees."

Rosie looked at Aunt Ruth, and then she clucked, "Are you nuts?"

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It's and Its

Are these sentences correct?

- a. Y / N Its about time you invited Aunt Ruth over to your house, don't you think?
- b. Y / N Many thought Gerald wanted to escape, but for a content goldfish, escaping was the furthest thing from it's mind.
- c. Y / N I saw a red fox this morning. Its tail was so pretty.
- d. Y / N We have had the family car for ten years now, and I think it's on its last legs.

Fill in the blank with the correct word, either its or it's.

- e. It looks like ____ going to be a long day at the park with Aunt Ruth.
- f. I found our chicken busily laying ____ eggs on Aunt Ruth's head.
- g. Have you ever seen Saturn through a telescope? ____ rings are simply beautiful.
- h. _____ time for lunch! I wonder what Aunt Ruth will stir up in her cauldron.
- i. How much is the elephant in the window? Yes, I mean the one with ____ ears cut short and ____ tail cut long.

Are these sentences correct?

- j. Y / N It's simply amazing!
- k. Y / N Its another day at the office.
- l. Y / N Its back is scaly and its scalp is furry.
- m. Y / N It's time for Aunt Ruth's birthday celebration.
- n. Y / N It's its tenth time that it's taken food from our bird feeder today!

Review 5

Select the appropriate words.

- a. I'm not sure how this happens, but Aunt Ruth seems to consistently loose / lose her pet elephant Binky.
- b. The night was real / really awful. Binky fell on me while attempting a cartwheel.
- c. So, my head hurt and I just wasn't feeling very well / good when I woke up this morning.
- d. "Say, that's a nice tie your / you're wearing," said Binky, who was more complementary / complimentary than the average elephant.
- e. Where do elephants keep luggage? In they're / there / their trunks, of course.
- f. Binky did not move all day. He was quite stationary / stationery.
- g. With a pencil, the little girl wrote a letter on Binky's side. She must have thought Binky was stationary / stationery.
- h. Their / They're going to the zoo tomorrow, where they hope to see myriad of / myriad animals.
- i. Your / You're certain that those are your / you're plans for the afternoon?
- j. Regardless / Irregardless, I hope you show up at the restaurant.

Rewrite the following sentences so they use parentheses correctly.

- k. Binky loves jazz music (his favorite artist is Elephant Gerald.)
- l. Binky can use his trunk to play notes higher than any jazz trumpeter, (except for Maynard Ferguson).

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Dangling Participles

Fix the dangling participles and misplaced modifiers below.

Example: Flying high overhead, Vic saw the ducks from his hidden duck blind.

(Fixed): From behind his duck blind, Vic saw the ducks flying high overhead.

- a. Raining heavily – in fact, it was an absolutely torrential downpour – I made it from my car to the house without getting too wet.

- b. Spicier than I normally like, I ate the whole plate of Mexican food that was placed in front of me.

- c. Barking all night long, I was kept awake by the dogs across the street.

- d. Spiraling through the air, I made the perfect pass for the winning touchdown in the football game.

- e. Cheesy and bubbling and piping hot, I love eating macaroni and cheese on a cold autumn day.