

TROUBLESOME WORDS

?!
raise/rise
and
?!
lie/lay



?!
past/passed
and
?!
proceed/precede

Homonyms in English are strange little words that sound similar but are spelled differently and have different meanings. These can be tricky, and not just for those learning English as a second language—even those who have spoken the language since birth can confuse them from time to time. Here are some common homonyms and examples of each word's proper usage.

PAST VS PASSED

"Past" is a noun, adjective, and adverb, and "passed" is generally used as a verb or adjective. To determine the use and meaning, examine the rest of the sentence: read it "in context".

RISE VS RAISE

Similar to lie and lay, "rise" is an action that is performed, and "raise" is an action that is performed on an object.

*"When I **rise** in the morning, I like to read the paper."*

LIE VS LAY

When used as verbs, these words are frequently confused and are among the most difficult to keep straight. A way to remember: "lie" is "doing" and "lay" is "putting".

PROCEED VS PRECEDE

"Proceed" means to advance or carry on, especially after an interruption. "Precede" refers to something that comes before.

*"Dark skies and winds **precede** a storm."*

Troublesome Words

Sarah Louise Arnold



Troublesome Words:

Troublesome Words Bill Bryson, 2002 With *Troublesome Words* journalist and bestselling travel writer Bill Bryson gives us a clear concise and entertaining guide to problems of English usage and spelling Originally published as *The Penguin Dictionary of Troublesome Words* it has been an indispensable companion to those who work with the written word for nearly twenty years Now fully updated and revised it is better than ever So if you want to discover whether you should care about split infinitives are cursed with an uncontrollable outbreak of commas or were wondering if that newsreader was right to say an historic day this superb book is the place to find out [Bryson's Dictionary of Troublesome Words](#) Bill Bryson, 2002-09-17

One of the English language's most skilled and beloved writers guides us all toward precise mistake free grammar As usual Bill Bryson says it best English is a dazzlingly idiosyncratic tongue full of quirks and irregularities that often seem willfully at odds with logic and common sense This is a language where cleave can mean to cut in half or to hold two halves together where the simple word set has 126 different meanings as a verb 58 as a noun and 10 as a participial adjective where if you can run fast you are moving swiftly but if you are stuck fast you are not moving at all and where colonel freight once and ache are strikingly at odds with their spellings As a copy editor for the London Times in the early 1980s Bill Bryson felt keenly the lack of an easy to consult authoritative guide to avoiding the traps and snares in English and so he brashly suggested to a publisher that he should write one Surprisingly the proposition was accepted and for a sum of money carefully gauged not to cause embarrassment or feelings of overworth he proceeded to write that book his first inaugurating his stellar career Now a decade and a half later revised updated and thoroughly but not overly Americanized it has become Bryson's *Dictionary of Troublesome Words* more than ever an essential guide to the wonderfully disordered thing that is the English language With some one thousand entries from a an to zoom that feature real world examples of questionable usage from an international array of publications and with a helpful glossary and guide to pronunciation this precise prescriptive and because it is written by Bill Bryson often witty book belongs on the desk of every person who cares enough about the language not to maul or misuse or distort it **Bryson's Dictionary of Troublesome Words** Bill Bryson, 2013-05-07

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