

Easily Confused Verbs

**Vaqueros: America's
First Cowboys**
Grammar: Easily Confused Verbs

Some verbs are easily confused because their meanings are closely related. Study the meanings of these easily confused verbs to avoid using the wrong one.

I'm going to **sit** in the shade under a tree.

She **set** the diary down on the bed.

sit to lower yourself onto a seat

set to place an item

can able to do

may allowed to do

teach to give instruction to someone

learn to receive instruction from someone

lie to recline on something

lay to put an item on top of something

rise to get up or to stand up

raise to lift something up

Thinking Questions

What definition fits the sentence? How does the sentence sound if you say it aloud?

1–6. Underline the correct verb in each sentence below.

1. Natalie is (teaching/learning) how to use a lasso.
2. The smoke was (rising/raising) from the valley below.
3. The cowboy was ready to (lie/lay) down his rope at the end of the day.
4. She (sit/set) her poncho on the ground.
5. Vaqueros often had to (lie/lay) on the cold, hard ground.
6. You (may/can) still see barbed wire fences marking the boundaries of ranches.