

3 speak and talk

Speak and *talk* have very similar meanings and are often equally appropriate:

*I'm going to **talk/speak** to my teacher about it after the lesson.*

- We usually use *speak*, not *talk*, for formal speeches:
~~✗ Before the election the President talked to the nation on television.~~
 ✓ Before the election the President **spoke** to the nation on television.
- We use *speak*, not *talk*, to refer to languages:
~~✗ Anatoly talks English with an accent.~~ ✓ Anatoly **speaks English** with an accent.
- We use *talk* for long conversations:
~~✗ We were up half the night speaking!~~ ✓ We were up half the night **talking!**

There are a number of expressions with *speak* or *talk*:

*Could you **speak up**?* (= talk louder) *I'd like **to talk about** our plans.* (= explain/discuss)

*You're **talking nonsense**.* (I strongly disagree with what you are saying.)

4 lay and lie, raise and rise

INFINITIVE	PAST TENSE	PAST PARTICIPLE	PRESENT PARTICIPLE
<i>lay</i> (= action)	<i>laid</i>	<i>laid</i>	<i>laying</i>
<i>lie</i> (= state)*	<i>lay</i>	<i>lain</i>	<i>lying</i>
<i>lie</i> (= tell lies)*	<i>lied</i>	<i>lied</i>	<i>lying</i>
<i>raise</i>	<i>raised</i>	<i>raised</i>	<i>raising</i>
<i>rise</i> *	<i>rose</i>	<i>risen</i>	<i>rising</i>
<i>arise</i> *	<i>arose</i>	<i>arisen</i>	<i>arising</i>

* these verbs are intransitive
(cannot have an object)

Lay expresses an action; *lie* describes a state or position:

*First, **lay** all the parts on a clean work-surface.* (action = place them flat on something)

*I think I'll just **lie** on the sofa until my headache goes.* (state/position)

*We've **been laying** artificial grass on the new pitch. We found these photos **lying** in a drawer.*

*That child **lies** all the time.* (= says things which are not true)

Raise refers to the action of someone or something lifting, increasing or moving something else (i.e. an object) in an upward direction. *To rise* only refers to the movement itself:

*The government has been urged to **raise** corporation tax rates to match those in other European*

*Union states. Rates are predicted to **rise** by ten percent.*

~~✗ Fares will raise next year.~~ ✓ They will **raise the fares** next year.

~~✗ They will rise the fares next year.~~ ✓ **Fares will rise** next year. (no object)

FORMALITY CHECK In formal English we sometimes use *arise* to refer to difficulties occurring, or something caused or started by a situation. It does not have an object:

*Tissue rejection is a problem which can **arise** in this procedure.*

*We will contact you, should the need **arise**.*

~~✗ Let's hope nobody arises that issue.~~ ✓ Let's hope that issue **doesn't arise**.

5 rob and steal

Rob refers to the person or place that suffered the crime; *steal* refers to what was taken:

~~✗ Thieves stole my uncle.~~ ✓ Thieves **robbed** my uncle. (*rob* + victim)

~~✗ A gang stole the head office.~~ ✓ A gang **robbed** the head office. (*rob* + place)

~~✗ They robbed his gold watch.~~ ✓ They **stole** his gold watch. (*steal* + object taken)

We can use the preposition *from* to link *steal* to a person or place and we can use the preposition *of* to link *rob* with the thing which was taken:

*Colonel Blood **stole** the crown jewels **from** the Tower of London in 1665.*

*No man has the right to **rob** another **of** his freedom.*

say/tell ► Unit 50.2