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Transitive vs. Intransitive: High-Impact Verbs

Medium | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Conditional sentence | Imperative mood | Infinitive | Inversion | Irregular verb | Object | Participle | Past tense | Present tense | Sentence | Verb | Passive voice | Perfect tense | Progressive tense | Simple tense

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1. Help Dr. Von Hooten finalize his slightly unhinged laboratory notes.

"First, I must _____ the lightning rods to the roof so the electricity can flow freely. Once the storm begins, the monster will _____ from the operating table! Finally, I will _____ the enchanted cape over its shoulders while it _____ there, contemplating its new existence."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** raise
- **B)** rise
- **C)** arise

Blank 2

- **A)** raise
- **B)** rise
- **C)** arise

Blank 3

- **A)** lay
- **B)** lie
- **C)** laid

Blank 4

- **A)** lays
- **B)** lies
- **C)** laid

2. Help Dr. Frankenstein's slightly less famous cousin, Dr. Stein-Franken, organize his laboratory notes. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use high-impact transitive and intransitive verbs!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The bubbling green concoction **rose** to the top of the flask, threatening to spill over.
- **B)** Igor **raised** the massive electrical switch to power up the machine.
- **C)** The temperature in the underground lair **raised** dramatically when the laser activated.
- **D)** Dr. Stein-Franken **laid** the ancient spellbook gently on the obsidian altar.
- **E)** The exhausted monster **laid** down on the cold stone floor to take a nap.

3. Complete the eccentric theater director's stage directions for the grand finale.

"During yesterday's rehearsal, our lead actor _____ on the floor for twenty minutes instead of acting! Today, we must fix this. Juliet, please _____ the poison vial carefully on the table, and then _____ on the velvet couch to deliver your monologue. And please, find out who _____ these heavy props in the wrong spot before someone trips!"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** lay
- **B)** laid
- **C)** lied

Blank 2

- **A)** set
- **B)** sit
- **C)** sat

Blank 3

- **A)** sit
- **B)** set
- **C)** sat

Blank 4

- **A)** laid
- **B)** lay
- **C)** lied

4. Choose the correct words to complete the IT guy's overly dramatic email about the broken coffee machine.

Should any mechanical problems _____ with the new espresso maker, be warned that a lack of caffeine will _____ a terrible fury in the marketing department.

Select one.

- **A)** arise / arouse
- **B)** arouse / arise
- **C)** arise / arise
- **D)** arouse / arouse

5. Complete the eccentric baker's blog post about the perfect sourdough by choosing the correct verb for each blank.

To bake the ultimate sourdough, first carefully _____ the shaped dough on a warm, floured towel. Watch in awe as the bread begins to _____ beautifully over the next few hours. If the yeast seems sleepy, you might need to _____ the temperature in your kitchen. Finally, let the freshly baked loaf _____ undisturbed on a cooling rack for at least an hour, no matter how delicious it smells!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** lay
- **B)** lie
- **C)** lying

Blank 2

- **A)** rise
- **B)** raise
- **C)** arise

Blank 3

- **A)** raise
- **B)** rise
- **C)** arouse

Blank 4

- **A)** lie
- **B)** lay
- **C)** seat

6. Complete the detective's slightly unprofessional crime scene report.

The suspect _____ the stolen diamonds on the kitchen table, but right now, my lazy cat is _____ exactly where the evidence used to be.

Select one.

- **A)** lay / laying
- **B)** laid / laying
- **C)** lay / lying
- **D)** laid / lying

7. An aspiring fantasy author is editing the climax of her novel but keeps confusing her verbs. Play the role of her heroic editor and select ALL the sentences that are grammatically correct!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The majestic dragon **vanished** the attacking army in a puff of smoke.
- **B)** The fiery volcano **erupted** with a deafening roar, shaking the entire kingdom.
- **C)** The dark sorcerer **obliterated** the castle walls with a single flick of his wand.
- **D)** The magical shield **collapsed** the enemy's arrows upon impact.
- **E)** The brave knight **emerged** from the dark cavern, holding the legendary sword.

8. Help the exhausted detective finish typing his dramatic incident report by choosing the correct past-tense verb for each blank.

The suspect _____ the stolen diamonds gently on the velvet cushion. Then, he _____ in the leather armchair to admire his sparkling loot. He had just _____ his weary head back when the police alarms blared outside. The priceless jewels had _____ there for mere seconds before we burst through the door and arrested him!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** set
- **B)** sat
- **C)** seat

Blank 2

- **A)** sat
- **B)** set
- **C)** seated

Blank 3

- **A)** laid
- **B)** lain
- **C)** lied

Blank 4

- **A)** lain
- **B)** laid
- **C)** lied

9. Detective Barnaby is dramatically recounting the events of a jewel heist to the press, but his grammar is sometimes as questionable as his detective skills. Select ALL the sentences where he uses his verbs correctly!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The shadowy figure **disappeared** into the foggy London night.
- **B)** The criminal mastermind **eluded** the police for six consecutive months.
- **C)** The priceless ruby **stole** from the museum display case at midnight.
- **D)** The suspects **fled** the country before we could issue an arrest warrant.
- **E)** The sudden blaring of the alarm **occurred** the burglars, causing them to drop the loot.

10. Help the exhausted film director correct his script notes for the upcoming zombie movie.

Every time the full moon _____, the zombies are supposed to _____ their arms and groan dramatically!

Select one.

- **A)** raises / rise
- **B)** rises / rise
- **C)** rises / raise
- **D)** raises / raise