VERBS COMMONLY CONFUSED

Some groups of verbs provide difficulties for language learners. Some examples are given here.

RISE/RAISE

*Rise* is an intransitive verb, irregular in form (rise - rose - risen). It is not followed by an object.

The sun rises at 5:45 tomorrow.

*Raise* is regular in form; it needs an object. Linda raised her hand.

The boss raised Malcolm's salary by five percent.

LIE/LAY

*Lie* is an intransitive verb; that is, it is not followed by an object. It has two different meanings.

lie -- lying -- lay -- lain

He was lying on his bed when I saw him.

She lay down for a nap.

lie -- lying -- lied -- lied

They lied when they were questioned by the police.

*Lay* is transitive and means "put" or "set."

lay -- laying -- laid -- laid

She laid her clothes on the end of the bed.

FEEL/FALL/FILL

feel -- felt -- felt

She felt sick all day yesterday.

fall -- fell -- fallen

(over)
VERBS COMMONLY CONFUSED (Continued)

He fell and broke his ankle.

fill -- filled -- filled

He filled the bottle with water.

ROB/STEAL

rob -- robbed -- robbed

He robbed a bank and stole $10,000.

steal -- stole -- stolen

They robbed an old man and stole his watch.

Keep your own list of examples of other troublesome verbs.