

I

1. [leɪ] *n*1. 1) положение, расположение (*чего-л.*)the lay of the land - очертания и расположение страны; характер *или* рельеф местности2) *мор.* спуск (*троса*)2. *сл.*

1) род занятий, профессия, работа

to start a new lay - вступить на новое поприще

2) план, намерение

what's your lay tonight? - какие у вас планы на сегодняшний вечер?; чем ты сегодня вечером думаешь заняться?

3. *груб.*

1) любовница; любовник

he [she] is a good lay - он [она] хорош [хороша] в постели

2) совокупление

4. *мор. проф.* доля в предприятии (*особ. в китобойном промысле*)5. *с.-х.* яйценоскость; яйцекладка

to be in (full, good) lay - хорошо нестись

2. [leɪ] *v* (*laid*)

I

1. 1) класть, положить

to lay on a shelf [on a table] - положить на полку [на стол]

to lay one's hand on /upon/ smb.'s shoulder - положить руку кому-л. на плечо

he laid his head on a pillow - он положил голову на подушку

2) *прост.* ложиться

3) класть определённым образом

to lay bricks - класть кирпичи, делать кирпичную кладку

to lay the foundation - а) заложить фундамент, б) положить начало

to lay linoleum - настелать линолеум

2. устанавливать; разрабатывать

to lay plans - строить планы

3. прокладывать, закладывать

to lay a submarine cable - прокладывать подводный кабель

to lay a minefield - устанавливать минное поле, минировать

4. 1) повалить, свалить

to lay smb. low - а) сбить кого-л. с ног; to lay an opponent low with one punch - свалить противника одним ударом; an illness

laid him low - болезнь свалила его; б) унижить кого-л.

2) (*into, on*) *разг.* накидываться, набрасываться

to lay into smb. - а) набрасываться на кого-л. с кулаками; бить, избивать; б) накидываться на кого-л. с руганью

she laid on me good and proper - она накинулась на меня как фурия

3) (*about*) *разг.* размахивать чем-л.

to lay about oneself - махать кулаками; наносить удары направо и налево

he laid about him with a stick - он размахивал палкой

4) примять, прибить

to lay the dust - прибить пыль (*о дожде*)

to lay crops - примять посевы

5. *обыкн. pass* помещать; переносить (*действие и т. п.*)

the scene of the story is laid in London [in ancient times] - действие романа происходит в Лондоне [в древние времена]

6. предлагать пари, биться об заклад; делать ставку (*на лошадь и т. п.*)

to lay a wager on the result of the race - поставить на какую-л. лошадь на скачках

to lay a bet that ... - держать пари, что ...

I lay ten shillings that he will not come - держу пари на десять шиллингов, что он не придёт

I'll lay you never saw anything better than that - я готов поручиться, что вы никогда не видели ничего лучше этого

II A

1. 1) покрывать (*ковром и т. п.*)

to lay the cloth - положить /постелить/ скатерть на стол

to lay a floor with carpet - покрывать пол ковром

2) накладывать (*краску*)

to lay colours on canvas - накладывать краски на холст

to lay a ground - *жив.* делать грунтовку2. 1) накрывать (*на стол*)

to lay the table (for dinner) - накрыть на стол (к обеду)

2) закладывать дрова, уголь (*в камин и т. п.*)

the fire was laid - ≅ оставалось только развести огонь

3. 1) ставить (*ловушку*); устраивать (*засаду*)

to lay an ambush [a trap] for smb. - устроить кому-л. засаду [устроить ловушку для кого-л.]

2) *амер. сл.* (*for*) подстергать кого-л. (*в засаде*); подкарауливать кого-л.4. 1) класть (*яйца*), нестись

the hens are laying well now - куры теперь хорошо несутся

2) **энт.** откладывать (яйца)

5. 1) **накладывать** (*штраф, наказание и т. п.*); **налагать** (*бремя, обязательство*)

to lay a heavy tax on smth. - облагать что-л. большим налогом

to lay strict injunctions on smb. - отдавать кому-л. строжайшие приказания

2) **возлагать** (*ответственность*); **приписывать** (*вину*)

to lay the blame for smth. on smb. - свалить вину за что-л. на кого-л.

to lay an accusation against smb. - выдвинуть обвинение против кого-л.

the murder was laid to Smith - убийство было приписано Смиту

the disaster was laid to faulty inspection - катастрофа была отнесена за счёт неудовлетворительного техосмотра

6. **возлагать** (*надежды и т. п.*); **придавать** (*значение и т. п.*)

to lay one's hopes on smb. - возлагать большие надежды на кого-л.

to lay stress /emphasis/ - подчёркивать, считать важным

he lays great weight on your presence - он придаёт большое значение вашему присутствию

7. 1) **излагать, представлять** (*факты, сведения*); **ставить** (*вопрос*)

to lay one's ideas before smb. - излагать свои идеи кому-л.

to lay the case before the court - изложить дело перед судом

to lay an information against smb. - доносить на кого-л.

to lay evidence before a committee - представить комиссии доказательства

2) **заявлять** (*претензию, права*)

to lay a claim to smth. - предъявлять требование/претензию/ на что-л.

8. 1) **рассеивать** (*сомнения, опасения*); **успокаивать**

his doubts were laid - его сомнения рассеялись

2) **изгонять** (*злых духов*)

to lay a ghost [a spirit] - прогнать призрак /привидение/ [изгонять духов]

9. **вить** (*канат*)

10. **мор.** прокладывать (*курс*)

11. **зруб.** переспать (*с женщиной*); **тж.** to get laid

II Б

1. **to lay smb. under smth.** **накладывать** что-л. на кого-л., **обязывать** кого-л. **сделать** что-л.

to lay smb. under contribution - наложить на кого-л. контрибуцию

to lay smb. under an obligation - обязать кого-л.

to lay smb. under a necessity - принуждать /вынуждать/ кого-л.

2. **to lay smb., smth. + прилагательное** **приводить** в какое-л. состояние, **делать** чем-л.

to lay smth. flat - разрушить что-л.; сровнять что-л. с землёй

to lay land fallow - **с.-х.** оставить землю под паром

to lay the land waste - опустошить страну

to lay one's chest bare - обнажить грудь

to lay one's heart bare - **образн.** раскрыть кому-л. своё сердце, разоткровенничаться

to lay one's plans bare - раскрыть /разгласить/ свои планы

to lay open - а) раскрыть, обнаружить (*намерения, заговор*); б) открывать, оставлять незащищённым; to lay open a wound - оставить рану открытой в) разрезать, повредить (*щёку и т. п.*)

to lay oneself open - открыться для удара (*бокс*)

to lay oneself open to suspicions [to attack] - навлекать на себя подозрения [подвергать себя нападкам]

◇

to lay an aim - прицеливаться

to lay to heart - принимать близко к сердцу

to lay heads together - советоваться; обсуждать

to lay hands on - а) завладеть, прибирать к рукам, захватывать, присваивать; б) поднять руку на (*кого-л.*); to lay hands on oneself - наложить на себя руки, покончить с собой; в) найти, достать; I have it somewhere but I cannot lay (my) hands on it

now - у меня это есть где-то, но я не могу сейчас найти; г) **церк.** рукополагать, посвящать в сан

to lay smth. to /at/ smb.'s door /to smb.'s charge/ - обвинять кого-л. в чём-л., считать кого-л. ответственным за что-л., приписывать что-л. кому-л.

to lay one's bones - сложить свои кости, умереть; быть похороненным

to lay one's account with /on, for/ smth. - рассчитывать /надеяться/ на что-л.

to lay the stomach for a while - заморить червячка

to lay an egg - **сл.** а) провалиться, оскандалиться (*о певце, музыканте и т. п.*); б) **воен. жарг.** сбросить бомбу (*тж.* to lay a bomb)

lay a bomb)

II

[leɪ] **n**

лэ, баллада

the Lay of Igor's Warfare - Слово о полку Игореве

II

[leɪ] **a**

1. 1) **светский, мирской; не духовный**

lay members of the vestry - члены церковного совета из мирян

lay baptism - крещение, совершённое мирянином (*часто акушеркой*)

2) **не имеющий монашеского сана**

lay brother [sister] - послушник [послушница]

2. **непрофессиональный**

a lay opinion - мнение непрофессионала
lay analyst - психоаналитик без диплома врача
a book for the lay public - книга для неподготовленного читателя
a new Education Council containing lay members as well as teachers - в новый Совет по образованию входят не только педагоги, но и представители общественности

IV

[leɪ] a

некозырной (о карте)

V

[leɪ] past om lie² II

lay

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

lay [lay lays laid laying] verb, adjective, noun BrE [leɪ] ^α NAmE [leɪ] ^α

see also ↑lie^{v.}

verb (laid, laid BrE [leɪd] ^α; NAmE [leɪd] ^α)

PUT DOWN/SPREAD

1. transitive to put sb/sth in a particular position, especially when it is done gently or carefully

- ~ **sb/sth (+ adv./prep.)** She laid the baby down gently on the bed.
- He laid a hand on my arm.
- The horse laid back its ears.
- Relatives laid wreaths on the grave.
- ~ **sb/sth + adj.** The cloth should be laid flat. Some speakers confuse this sense of **lay** with **lie**, especially in the present and progressive tenses. However, **lay** has an object and **lie** does not
- She was lying on the beach.
- She was laying on the beach.
- Why don't you lie on the bed?
- Why don't you lay on the bed? In the past tenses **laid** (from lay) is often wrongly used for **lay** or **lain** (from lie)
- She had lain there all night.
- She had laid there all night.

2. transitive ~ sth (down) to put sth down, especially on the floor, ready to be used

- to **lay a carpet/cable/pipe**
- The foundations of the house are being laid today.
- (figurative) They had laid the groundwork for future development

3. transitive to spread sth on sth; to cover sth with a layer of sth

- ~ **A (on/over B)** Before they started they laid newspaper on the floor.
- The grapes were laid to dry on racks.
- ~ **B with A** The floor was laid with newspaper.

EGGS

4. transitive, intransitive ~ (sth) if a bird, an insect, a fish, etc. lays eggs, it produces them from its body

- The cuckoo lays its eggs in other birds' nests.
- new-laid eggs
- The hens are not laying well (= not producing many eggs)

TABLE

5. transitive ~ sth (BrE) to arrange knives, forks, plates, etc. on a table ready for a meal

Syn: ↑set

- to lay the table

PRESENT PROPOSAL

6. transitive ~ sth + adv./prep. to present a proposal, some information, etc. to sb for them to think about and decide on

- The bill was laid before Parliament.

DIFFICULT SITUATION

7. transitive ~ sth + adv./prep. (formal) to put sb/sth in a particular position or state, especially a difficult or unpleasant one

Syn: ↑place

- to **lay a responsibility/burden** on sb
- to lay sb under an obligation to do sth

WITH NOUNS

8. transitive ~ sth + adv./prep. used with a noun to form a phrase that has the same meaning as the verb related to the noun

- to lay the blame on sb (= to blame sb)
- Our teacher lays great stress on good spelling (= stresses it strongly)

PLAN/TRAP

9. transitive ~ sth to prepare sth in detail

- to lay a trap for sb
- She began to **lay her plans** for her escape.
- Bad weather can upset even the **best-laid** plans.

HAVE SEX

10. transitive, often passive ~ sb (slang) to have sex with sb

- He went out hoping to **get laid** that night.

FIRE

11. transitive ~ sth to prepare a fire by arranging wood, sticks or coal

BET

12. transitive to bet money on sth; to place a bet

- ~ **sth** to lay a bet
- ~ **sth on sth** She had laid \$100 on the favourite
- I think he'll come, but I wouldn't lay money on it.
- ~ **(sb) sth (that)...** I'll lay you any money you like (that) he won't come. This pattern is not used in the passive.

Rem: Idioms containing lay are at the entries for the nouns and adjectives in the idioms, for example lay sth bare is at bare.

Verb forms:

| verb forms | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| present simple | |
| I / you / we / they | lay |
| | B/E / / / / |
| | N/A / / / / |
| | B/E / / / / |
| | N/A / / / / |
| he / she / it | lays |
| | B/E / / / / |
| | N/A / / / / |
| | B/E / / / / |
| | N/A / / / / |
| past simple, past participle | |
| | laid |
| | B/E / / / / |
| | N/A / / / / |
| -ing form | |
| | laying |
| | B/E / / / / |
| | N/A / / / / |
| | B/E / / / / |
| | N/A / / / / |

Word Origin:

v. and n. sense 1 and Old English lecgan Germanic Dutch leggen German legen †lie

adj. Middle English Old French lai late Latin Greek laikos laos 'people'

n. sense 2 Middle English Old French lai Provençal lais

Example Bank:

- He laid the books down on the table.
- He laid the clothes neatly on his bed.
- She laid the child tenderly on the bed.
- The information is there; it just isn't laid out clearly.
- The owners have a tastefully laid out garden.
- The owners have built a gift shop and a tastefully laid out caravan site.
- They carefully laid a blanket over the body.
- With a resigned sigh she laid aside her book.
- Failing to act now will merely lay the burden on future generations.
- He laid stress on the importance of cooperation.
- Little did he know they had laid a trap for him.
- She laid the blame for the crisis at the Prime Minister's door.

Idiom: †lay of the land

Derived †lay about somebody ▪ †lay about you ▪ †lay into somebody ▪ †lay off ▪ †lay off somebody ▪ †lay off something ▪ †lay over ▪ †lay somebody off ▪ †lay somebody out ▪ †lay somebody up ▪ †lay something aside ▪ †lay something down ▪ †lay something in ▪ †lay something on ▪ †lay something on somebody ▪ †lay something out ▪ †lay something up

adjective only before noun

1. not having expert knowledge or professional qualifications in a particular subject

- His book explains the theory for the lay public.

2. not in an official position in the Church

- a lay preacher

see also †layman, †layperson, †laywoman

Word Origin:

v. and n. sense 1 and Old English lecgan Germanic Dutch leggen German legen †lie

adj. Middle English Old French lai late Latin Greek laikos laos 'people'

n. sense 2 Middle English Old French lai Provençal lais

noun

1. (taboo, informal) a partner in sex, especially a woman

- **an easy lay** (= a person who is ready and willing to have sex)
 - to be a great lay
2. (old use) a poem that was written to be sung, usually telling a story

Word Origin:

v. and n. **sense 1** and Old English *lecgan* Germanic Dutch *leggen* German *legen* †*lie*
 adj. Middle English Old French *lai* late Latin Greek *laïkos* *laos* 'people'
 n. **sense 2** Middle English Old French *lai* Provençal *lais*

Thesaurus:

lay noun

1. T (usually used with an adverb or preposition)

- He laid a hand on my arm.

place • • **put** • • **set** • • **position** •

lay/place/put/set/position sth **on** sth

lay/put/set sth **down**

lay/place/put sth **carefully**

Lay or place? **Lay** is more gentle and **place** is more deliberate. You **place** things but not people; you can **lay** things or people:

- A bomb was placed under the seat.

✗ A bomb was laid under the seat.:

- She laid the baby on the bed.

✗ She placed the baby on the bed.

2. T (usually used with an adverb or preposition)

- He laid newspaper on the floor.

spread • • **lay sth out** •

lay/spread/lay out sth **on** sth

lay/spread sth **over** sth

See also: †lay something by ▪ †lie of the land

lay

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **lay**¹ /leɪ/ BrE^ˈ AmE^ˈ
 the past tense of †lie¹

II. **lay**² S1 W2 BrE^ˈ AmE^ˈ verb (past tense and past participle **laid** /leɪd/)

1. **PUT SOMEBODY/SOMETHING DOWN** [transitive always + adverb/preposition] to put someone or something down carefully into a flat position **SYN place** :

- He laid his hand on my shoulder.
- They laid a wreath at the place where so many people died.
- Lay the material flat on the table.

2. **lay bricks/carpet/concrete/cables etc** to put or fasten bricks, a †carpet etc in the correct place, especially on the ground or floor:

- The carpet was laid last week.
- The project involved laying an oil pipeline across the desert.

3. **BIRD/INSECT ETC** [intransitive and transitive] if a bird, insect etc lays eggs, it produces them from its body:

- The flies lay their eggs on decaying meat.
- A cuckoo is able to lay in a range of different nests.

4. **TABLE** [transitive] *British English* to put the cloth, plates, knives, forks etc on a table, ready for a meal **SYN set**:

- John was laying the table.
- As she spoke, she was laying him a place at the table.

5. **lay the foundations/groundwork/base** to provide the conditions that will make it possible for something to happen or be successful

lay the foundations/groundwork/base for

- Mandela helped lay the foundations for a new democratic South Africa.
- It was an invention which laid the foundations of modern radio technology.

6. **GIVE INFORMATION** [transitive] *formal* to make a statement, give information etc in an official or public way **SYN put**:

- Several proposals have been laid before the committee.

7. **lay emphasis/stress on something** *formal* to emphasize something because you believe it is very important:

- a political philosophy that lays great stress on individual responsibility

8. **lay a hand/finger on somebody** [usually in negatives] to touch someone with the intention of hurting them:

- I swear I didn't lay a finger on him.
- If you lay one hand on me, I'll scream.

9. **lay something bare/open**

a) to show what something is really like, or stop hiding facts, feelings etc:

- Every aspect of their private life has been laid bare.

b) to remove the thing that is covering or hiding something else:

- When the tide goes out, vast stretches of sand are laid bare.

10. **lay somebody/something open to something** to do something that makes it possible for other people to blame you, criticize you etc

lay yourself open to something

By doing that, he laid himself open to ridicule.

Not to have taken action would have laid the department open to charges of negligence.

11. **lay waste something** (also **lay waste to something**) *formal* to destroy or damage something, especially in a war:

The island was laid waste and abandoned.

an attack which laid waste to hundreds of villages

12. **lay plans/a trap etc** to carefully prepare all the details of something:

We are laying plans now in order to be successful in the future.

the best-laid plans (=plans that have been made carefully)

Bad weather can upset even the best-laid travel plans.

13. **lay claim to (doing) something** to say that something belongs to you or say that you deserve something:

The town can lay claim to having the oldest theatre in Britain.

No one has laid claim to the property.

14. **lay siege to somebody/something**

a) if a group of people lay siege to a place, they try to get control by surrounding it:

The armies laid siege to Vienna in 1529.

b) to do everything you can to get someone to talk to you or notice you:

A group of young men were always at the stage door, trying to lay siege to the girls.

15. **HAVE SEX get laid** *informal* to have sex with someone:

All he wants to do is go out and get laid.

16. **LIE** [*intransitive*] *spoken* to be in a position in which you are flat – some people consider this use to be incorrect **SYN lie**

17. **RISK MONEY** [*transitive*] *especially British English* to risk an amount of money on the result of a race, sports game etc **SYN bet**

lay something on something

She laid £50 on the favourite, Golden Boy.

lay money (that)

I'd lay money that he will go on to play for England.

18. **lay somebody/something on the line**

a) to state something, especially a threat, demand, or criticism, in a very clear way:

Lay it on the line and tell them what's really been happening.

b) (also **put somebody/something on the line**) to risk losing your life, your job etc, especially in order to help someone:

I've laid myself on the line for him once already.

19. **lay something at the door of somebody/something** (also **lay something at sb's door**) to blame something or someone for something:

The continued divisions within the party cannot be laid entirely at his door.

Many illnesses are being laid at the door of stress.

20. **lay somebody low**

a) [*usually passive*] if an illness lays someone low, they are unable to do their normal activities for a period of time

lay somebody low with

She's been laid low with flu for a week.

b) *literary* to make someone fall down, or injure them seriously

21. **lay somebody to rest** *formal* to bury someone after they have died:

She was laid to rest beside her husband. ⇒ **lay/put something to rest** at ↑rest¹(10)

22. **lay the ghost (of something)** to finally stop being worried or upset by something from the past

⇒ **lay your hands on something** at ↑hand¹(18), ⇒ **lay the blame on somebody/something** at ↑blame², ⇒ **put/lay your cards on the table** at ↑card¹(13)

• • •

GRAMMAR

lay, lie

The verb **lay** always has an object, except in sense 3. Its basic meaning is 'put something down on something':

▪ She lays a silk cloth over the table.

The verb **lie** does not have an object. Its basic meaning is 'be or get into a horizontal position somewhere':

▪ She was lying (NOT laying) on her back.

▪ Lie down here for a while.

Lay is also the past tense of **lie**:

▪ I lay on the bed and tried to relax.

The past tense of **lay** is **laid**:

▪ She laid the baby on the bed.

lay about somebody *phrasal verb literary old-fashioned*

to attack someone violently **SYN set about**

lay about somebody with

He laid about his attackers with a stick.

lay something ↔ **aside** *phrasal verb*

1. to stop using something and put it down, especially so you can do something else **SYN put aside**:

Richard had laid aside his book to watch what was happening.

2. to stop behaving in a particular way, or stop having particular feelings, especially so you can achieve something **SYN put aside**:

On the day of the wedding, all arguments between the families were laid aside.

As a doctor, you often need to lay aside your personal feelings.

3. (also **lay something** ↔ **by**) to keep something, especially money, so you can use it in the future **SYN put by**:

She'd laid aside a few pounds each week from her wages.

lay something ↔ **down** *phrasal verb*

1. **OFFICIALLY STATE** to officially state something or say that rules, principles etc must be obeyed:

He had already clearly laid down his view in his opening speech.

lay down that

The contract laid down that the work must be completed before 2025.

2. **WEAPONS** if people lay down their weapons, they stop fighting:

The terrorists were urged to lay down their arms.

3. **lay down the law** to tell other people what to do, how they should think etc, in a very strong or impolite way:

I could hear him laying down the law.

4. **lay down your life** *formal* to die in order to help other people

lay down your life for

He was even prepared to lay down his life for his friends.

5. **KEEP** to store something, especially wine, to use in the future

6. **RECORD** to record your music, for example in a recording ↑**studio**:

They are just about to start laying down tracks for their second album.

lay something ↔ **in** *phrasal verb especially British English formal*

to get and store a supply of something to use in the future:

He likes to lay in a few special drinks for the festive season.

lay into somebody/something *phrasal verb*

to attack or criticize someone or something:

Outside the club, two men were laying into each other.

lay off *phrasal verb*

1. **lay somebody** ↔ **off** to stop employing someone because there is no work for them to do ⇒ **layoff**:

The company laid off 250 workers in December.

Millions of people have been laid off in the steel industry.

2. **lay off (something)** *informal* to stop using or doing something:

I think you'd better lay off alcohol for a while.

lay off doing something

I had to lay off running for several months.

3. **lay off (somebody)** *informal* to stop annoying someone or hurting them:

Just lay off, will you!

I wish he'd lay off me!

4. **lay something** ↔ **off** to pass the ball to someone in your team in a game such as football – used in sports reports

lay something off to somebody

Murphy has the ball and then lays it off to Owen.

lay something on *phrasal verb*

1. **lay something** ↔ **on** *especially British English* to provide something such as food, entertainment, or transport for a group of people:

They laid on a buffet for his farewell party.

A bus has been laid on to take you home.

2. **lay something on somebody** to ask someone to do something, especially something that is difficult or something they will not want to do:

Sorry to lay this on you, but we need someone to give a talk at the conference next week.

3. **lay it on (thick)** *informal*

a) to praise someone or something too much, especially in order to get what you want

b) to talk about something in a way that makes it seem more important, serious etc than it really is **SYN exaggerate**

lay somebody/something ↔ **out** *phrasal verb*

1. **SPREAD** to spread something out:

Lay out the map on the table and let's have a look.

2. **ARRANGE** to arrange or plan a building, town, garden etc **SYN set out**:

The garden is laid out in a formal pattern.

3. **EXPLAIN** to describe or explain something clearly **SYN set out**:

The financial considerations are laid out in a booklet called 'How to Borrow Money'.

4. **SPEND** *informal* to spend money, especially a lot of money ⇒ **outlay**

lay out something on something

What's the point in laying out money on something you'll only wear once?

5. **HIT** *informal* to hit someone so hard that they fall down and become unconscious:

One of the guards had been laid out and the other was missing.

6. **BODY** to prepare a dead body so that it can be buried

lay over *phrasal verb American English*

to stay somewhere for a short time before continuing your trip ⇒ **layover**

lay up *phrasal verb*

1. **be laid up (with something)** to have to stay in bed because you are ill or injured:

I was laid up for a week with flu.

2. to stop using a boat or vehicle, especially while it is being repaired

lay something ↔ **up**

Most of the yachts were laid up for the winter.

3. **lay something** ↔ **up** *old-fashioned* to collect and store something to use in the future:

We started laying up firewood for the winter.

III. **lay**³ *BrE* *AmE* *adjective* [only before noun]

[Date: 1300-1400; Language: Old French; Origin: lai, from Late Latin laicus, from Greek laikos 'of the people', from laos 'people']

a) not trained or not knowing much about a particular profession or subject ⇒ **layman** :

lay witnesses

b) not in an official position in the church:

a lay preacher

IV. **lay**⁴ BrE^u AmE^u noun [countable]

[Sense 1-3: Date: 1800-1900; Origin: †lay¹]

[Sense 4: Date: 1200-1300; Language: Old French; Origin: lai]

1. **the lay of the land**

a) the situation that exists at a particular time:

Get the lay of the land before you make any decisions.

b) the appearance of an area of land, for example the way it slopes

2. **the lay of something** the appearance of something and where each part of it is:

Mr. Lowe will give you the lay of the camp and tell you what we're going to be doing.

3. **be a good/quick/easy etc lay** *informal* to be a good, quick etc person to have sex with

4. **literary** a poem or song

lay

Freakuency Pack

12500 **1274**^{MCW}

15000 **848**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** LAY⁵⁵⁰¹⁹

lay³⁰³²⁷

laid¹⁶³²⁵

laying⁵³²⁸

lays²³⁸¹

lain⁶⁵⁸

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

9952 **2469**¹⁷²³⁵ *vvd*

4756 **6610**⁵⁴²⁹ *vvi*

3625 **7119**⁴⁹⁶⁹ *vv0*

1605 **11583**²⁵⁰⁹ *jj*

174 **56504**¹⁷⁷ *vvn*

4 **437006**⁴ *nn1*

4 **443484**⁴ *nnu*