Misused Verbs: Sit/Sat/Set

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The verbs "sit," "sat," and "set" are very easy to confuse because they look and sound so much alike. So when should you use "sit," and when is "sat" or "set" the better choice?

Sit: to sit means to bend your knees and rest your bottom on a chair or some other surface. Sit is the correct present tense form of the verb. Sat is the correct past tense form of the verb. There is no object involved.

Set: to set means to place an object or objects somewhere. It is the same form whether you are talking/writing in the past or present tense. Set always includes an item that is being put or placed.

Choose "sit," "sat," or "set" to complete each sentence.

When I finally got back home, I	(sit/sat/set) down in a chair.
2. He couldn't remember where he	(sit/sat/set) his wallet.
3. I promised my brother he could	(sit/sat/set) beside me.
4. Before dinner each night I have to	(sit/sat/set) the table.
5. We carried the heavy boxes inside and	(sit/sat/set) them down.
6. Grandmother Parkinson needs to	(sit/sat/set) and rest.
7. When the dog wanted to come in, he	(sit/sat/set) by the door.
8. Jessica came in from the rain and	(sit/sat/set) her umbrella down.
9. Yesterday at the show, we were able to	(sit/sat/set) in the first row!
10. When the mail arrives, I sort it and then	(sit/sat/set) it on the desk.