

Name: _____ Date: _____

Affect vs. Effect

The words **affect** and **effect** are often confused and misused. Figuring out which one to use can be as easy as determining whether your sentence calls for a verb or a noun.

If a verb is needed, most of the time the word you want is **affect**. It means *to change* or *to influence*.

Examples:

What you eat **affects** your health.

The water shortage **affected** the entire town.

If a noun is needed, the word you want is usually **effect**. It means *a result, an influence, or something that makes an impression*.

Examples:

An **effect** of eating well is a healthy body.

The new law will go into **effect** tomorrow.

Both **affect** and **effect** have additional meanings, but these meanings are used less often. This activity involves only the most common meanings.

Directions: Underline the correct boldface word in each sentence.

1. The bright-yellow walls in my room have a positive **affect/effect** on my mood.
2. Reading Helen Keller's autobiography had a profound **affect/effect** on Isabella: She decided to learn sign language and volunteer at a school for children who are deaf.
3. The drought will certainly **affect/effect** the crops this season.
4. How do you think the school's new dress code will **affect/effect** the students?
5. The loud music coming from next door **affects/effects** my concentration.
6. Gum disease is one possible **affect/effect** of not flossing your teeth.
7. Patrick worried that his knee injury would **affect/effect** his ability to play in the upcoming soccer tournament.

Directions: Rewrite the sentences below, changing the word in bold to a form of either **affect** or **effect**.

8. "Brain freeze" can be the **result** of eating ice cream too fast.

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9. Eating just before going to bed **messes up** my sleep.

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10. The rain had almost no **impact** on traffic.
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