

Grammar

GOES TO THE GRAVE

Bones are amazing things. Find out why while mastering **AFFECT** and **EFFECT**.

DIRECTIONS: Read the brown boxes below. Circle the correct word in each **affect/effect** pair.

Feast of Flesh

After we die, our bones can last for hundreds or even thousands of years. The rest of our bodies? Not so much. The body starts to decompose minutes after death. As cells die, they release substances that eat away at the flesh. Maggots and other critters soon join the feast, until only bones remain. A number of factors **affect/effect** how quickly this happens. Bodies in cold places can take decades to decompose. Hot weather, on the other hand, has a fast-forward **affect/effect**: A body left out in the summer heat might be nothing but a skeleton in two weeks!

Why Your Skull Is Special

Not only does your skull protect your brain, it also **affects/effects** the way you look and sound. Of the 28 bones in your skull, 14 are in your face. Their shapes and sizes are what make you look like you. Meanwhile, your sinuses (four sets of air-filled cavities at the front of your face) help make you sound like you. The voice echoes inside the sinuses, which vary in size from person to person. The **affect/effect** of having bigger sinuses is more room for the voice to echo. The **affect/effect** of more room to echo is a deeper voice.

HINT

AFFECT or EFFECT?

Affect is mostly used as a verb meaning “to influence.” *Effect* is mostly used as a noun meaning “a result or an influence.” It can also mean something that makes an impression. (There are other ways to use both words, but you will not encounter them in this activity.)

Eye sockets never stop growing and changing shape. This doesn't affect your eyesight, though.

Skulls. They have such a haunting effect, don't you think?

Digging for Bones

Interested in bones? You might want to become a paleoanthropologist: a scientist who studies ancient human remains. These scientists have had a profound **affect/effect** on our understanding of what life was like for our ancestors. Paleoanthropologists can often figure out all sorts of things just by examining a skeleton—age, appearance, cause of death, even diet. Fun fact: Some early humans ate tree bark! Nom nom.