

Effect vs. Affect

'Effect' and 'Affect' are words that are easy to confuse when you're writing.

Affect is always **VERB** and it is used to mean "to influence" or "to change" or 'to make a difference to'.

E.g.

The rain began to affect my health.

This is because the rain is making a difference, influencing or changing someone's health.

Effect vs. Affect

'Effect' and 'Affect' are words that are easy to confuse when you're writing.

Effect is usually a **NOUN** and it is "the result," "the change," or "the influence." It can also be used to talk about 'special effects.'

e.g.

The effect of studying will be a better grade. This is because there is a clear result from studying.

A verb or A noun?

...but how do I tell if it's a verb or a noun?

Effect= noun (a naming word). You can always tell if something is a noun if you can put 'a', 'an' or 'the' before it.

e.g.

'The effect of the wind was dramatic.'

'Her words had a great effect on the audience.'

So... if you're unsure if it's EFFECT or AFFECT think - could you put 'a', 'an' or 'the' before it?

If you can then you need EFFECT.

ANSWERS: Fill in the blanks to use the correct form of **EFFECT** or **AFFECT**.

1. The overall _____ was surprising.
2. When he lighted the oil a hundred tongues of flame shot up, and the _____ was really imposing.
3. The cold had a great _____ on him.
4. Poverty can _____ anyone, regardless of age, race, gender or social background.
5. The small town was _____ by the natural disaster.

ANSWERS: Fill in the blanks to use the correct form of EFFECT or AFFECT.

1. The overall EFFECT was surprising.
2. When he lighted the oil a hundred tongues of flame shot up, and the EFFECT was really imposing.
3. The cold had a great EFFECT on him.
4. Poverty can AFFECT anyone, regardless of age, race, gender or social background.
5. The small town was AFFECTED by the natural disaster.