

## Affect vs. Effect



Although there are a few exceptions, you will be right more than 90% of the time if you remember to use *affect* as a verb and *effect* as a noun.

### Affect (ALWAYS A VERB)

1. To have an influence on  
EXAMPLE: The price of gasoline affects the economy.
2. To respond to the emotions of; touch or move  
EXAMPLE: The news of his wife's promotion did not affect the husband.
3. To attack or infect, as a disease  
EXAMPLE: High cholesterol can affect the heart.

### Effect (NEARLY ALWAYS A NOUN)

1. Something brought about by a cause  
EXAMPLE: The effect of his missing class was getting assigned to Saturday detention.
2. The power to produce an outcome or achieve a result; influence  
EXAMPLE: The effects of the Tylenol should be felt within twenty minutes.
3. A scientific law, hypothesis, or phenomenon  
EXAMPLE: The Greenhouse Effect is the rise in temperature that the Earth experiences because certain gases in the atmosphere trap energy from the sun.

**Practice.** Complete the following sentences with *affect* or *effect*. If you are using one of them as a verb, you may need to change its tense.

Example: Some vitamins can have an instant effect on the immune system.

1. The D.A.R.E. program had a great \_\_\_\_\_ on the student population.
2. Smoking cigarettes can \_\_\_\_\_ the lungs and possibly cause death.
3. My best friend was greatly \_\_\_\_\_ by his mother's recent death.
4. Drowsiness can be a side \_\_\_\_\_ of cold medicine.
5. The senior class prank had a major \_\_\_\_\_ on the entire student body.
6. Studying for quizzes and exams can \_\_\_\_\_ a student's final grades.
7. Carpooling can \_\_\_\_\_ the environment in a positive manner.
8. Your answer will not \_\_\_\_\_ your grade on the test.
9. What he said to her \_\_\_\_\_ her deeply.
10. One \_\_\_\_\_ of the new lenses is my ability to read more easily.
11. Adding salt to the batter \_\_\_\_\_ the taste of the cake.
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the storm will not be clear for years.
13. The patient asked how the medication would \_\_\_\_\_ her energy level.
14. The speaker said that her organization wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ a major change in the party's platform.