

“effect.” Oxforddictionaries.com. Oxford Dictionaries.2015 Web.9 March 2015.

“affect”Dictionary.com. Random House Dictionary. 2015. Web. 9 March 2015.

Adopted from "Affect vs. Effect Grammar Rules." YourDictionary. Love.To.Know.Corp., 1996. Web. 09 Mar. 2015.



**Community Colleges of Spokane
Spokane Community College
Tutoring Services**

Effect/Affect

Explanation: Both effect and affect can be used as a verb and a noun, but the word effect is most commonly used as a noun and the word affect is commonly used a verb.

Effect (Noun)

1. A change that is a **result or consequence** of an action or other cause
2. The way one thing acts upon another

Affect (Verb)

1. to **act** on, or to produce an effect or change in.

Try this acronym-RAVEN: **R**emember **A**ffect **V**erb **E**ffect **N**oun.

Examples of Effect as a Noun:

- Coming to the tutoring center may have a positive effect on your grade.
- In analyzing a situation, it is important to take the concepts of cause and effect into consideration.
- What effect did the loss have on the team?
- The new law prohibiting texting while driving will go into effect tomorrow.

Examples of Affect as a Verb:

- How does the crime rate affect hiring levels by local police forces?
- The weather conditions will affect the number of people who come to the county fair this year.
- His study was intended to show how alcohol affects reaction time.
- The quality of your work affects your grade

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Memory Tools:

Tip: Affect with an “a” is an action. This alliteration is a helpful way to remember the difference in meaning between these two words.

Tip: Trying switching out “result” for the effect/affect you are using. If you can successfully use result within the context of your sentence, you are correctly using the word effect.

Tip: If you forget which effect/affect to use and you are working in Microsoft word, right click the text and the program will tell you the definition of the word. This step will help you contextualize the word’s meaning and determine its appropriate usage.

Uncommon Usage of Affect and Effect

Affect can be used as a noun, which refers to an emotional state.

Effect can be used as a verb meaning to produce a result or cause something to occur.

YouTube Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnEz5FQ4wfY>

Online Resources:

- <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/exercises/4/24/42/>
- <http://cdn.oxwordsblog.wpfuel.co.uk/wpcms/wp-content/uploads/affect-effect-visual-guide.png?cc11b6>
- <http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/style-and-usage/affect-effect-grammar.html>

A quick & easy guide to “affect” and “effect”

1. Determine if the usage calls for a verb or a noun.
2. If a verb is needed, 95 percent of the time or more the word you want is “affect.” It means to change or to alter. “The weather **affects** our moods.” “Nutrition **affects** health.” “The seasons **affect** trees and flowers.” “The quality of your work **affects** your grade.”
3. The occasional need for “effect” as a verb arises when the narrow meaning “to cause or to bring about” is appropriate. These rare occasions often occur in some form of the expression “to effect a change” or, in police jargon, “to effect an arrest” (to cause or make an arrest happen). Nevertheless, it’s still best to avoid, particularly in the last example because it’s simply police jargon, and it's good to avoid jargon.
4. When a noun is required, the word is almost always “effect.” This means “a result.” “The **effect** of diligent study habits is better learning.” “The **effect** of making the correct choice is a better grade.”
5. “Affect” can be a noun, but its use is almost entirely reserved for psychological jargon. You could have a long career as a writer and editor and never encounter the need for the noun “affect.”
6. So be ready to make almost all verbs “affect.”
7. And be ready to make virtually all nouns “effect.”