

Affect vs Effect

The difference between the words **affect** and **effect** is confusing even to many adults. So don't worry if you have to think twice before using them correctly.

The word **effect** is a noun. It means a change that is a result of an action.

*Have you heard of the **effect** of cutting down trees?*

If you replace the word **effects** with consequences, the sentence will still make sense-

*Have you heard of the **consequence** of cutting down trees?*

The word **affect** is a verb. The verb **affect** means to influence something without actually causing it to happen.

*Did her misbehaviour **affect** your decision?*

This is correct because her misbehaviour influenced the speaker's decision

*Did her misbehaviour **influence** your decision.*

If we do a similar substitution as we did earlier, we would get

*Did her misbehaviour **consequence** your decision?*

This sounds wrong because consequence and effect are not doing words. Therefore you would have a wrong sentence because it would be lacking a verb.



Let's practice. Circle the correct word in brackets.

1. The volcanic ash from Norway (*affected/effected*) all of Europe.
2. This discussion will not (*affect/effect*) our friendship.
3. Even after she apologised, her words had no (*affect/effect*) on Jonathan.
4. Bad weather (*affects/effects*) my mood in strange ways.
5. The teacher said that she wanted to (*affect/effect*) change in the children's grades.
6. One (*affect/effect*) of my new spectacles is that I can see better.
7. Drinking a glass of glucose after you exercise (*affects/effects*) your energy levels.
8. This discussion will have no (*affect/effect*) on our friendship.
9. Adding salt into the batter (*affected/effected*) the overall taste of the dish.
10. Bad weather sometimes has a bad (*affect/effect*) on my mood.



Answers:
1. affected 2. affect 3. effect 4. affects 5. affect
6. effect 7. affects 8. effect 9. affected 10. effect