Affect vs. Effect

Affect

Affect is almost always used as a verb. When used as a verb, its meaning is "to influence" something. Therefore, you would always use "affect" when trying to say that someone or something had an influence. For example, "The damp and rainy day affected Harry's mood." Very rarely, affect can be used as a noun. Psychologists are usually the only people to use affect as a noun to describe someone's mood or emotional state.

Effect

Effect is almost always used as a noun. When used as a noun, its meaning is "a result". Therefore, you would always use the word effect when trying to say that a change occurred as a result of something else. For example, "The rain had no effect on Harry's mood." Very rarely, effect can be used as a verb. In this instance, "to effect" means, "to bring about something, cause it to occur or to accomplish a task".

Affect vs. Effect Quiz

Read the sentences below and choose which word (effect or affect) correctly fits the blank.

1. The _____ of the preacher's words on the young boy's life was astounding.

2. Sheila was surprised that her book could _____ people so profoundly.

3. Meditation had an obvious _____ on Mandy's general behavior.

4. Patty realized her criticism had no _____ on Roger's poor work.

5. The coach's encouraging words before the big game were _____ (effective or affective).

6. Patty's harsh words didn't _____ Roger as much as he had anticipated.

7. The president couldn't _____ a new policy without his cabinet's consent.

8. His old teacher's wise words had the most _____ on Tom's career endeavors.

9. Anna's photograph had a profound _____ on John.

10. Chris was curious how the crime rate _____ed hiring rates in his neighborhood.

The answers can be found on the next page. Don't Peak!

1. **Effect** - Since the word preceding the blank is "the", a noun has to be used. Effect is almost always used as a noun.

2. **Affect** - In this sentence, the blank requires a verb or action. Since the definition of affect is "to influence", this word is used.

3. **Effect** - Since the word preceding the blank is "the", a noun has to be used. Effect is almost always used as a noun.

4. **Effect** - Since the word preceding the blank is "no", a noun has to be used. Effect is almost always used as a noun.

5. **Effective** - Since a desired result was achieved, the word effective is used.

6. **Affect** - In this sentence, the blank requires a verb or action. Since the definition of affect is "to influence", this word is used.

7. **Effect** - In rare cases, effect can be used as a verb. When used as a verb effect means, "to bring about or accomplish". Since the sentence is talking about "bringing about" new policies, the verb effect is used.

8. **Effect** - Since one of the words preceding the blank is "the", a noun has to be used. Effect is almost always used as a noun. The word "most" is simply an adjective used to describe the noun "effect".

9. **Effect** - Since the word preceding the blank is "a", a noun has to be used. Effect is almost always used as a noun.

10. **Affect** - In this sentence, the blank requires a verb or action. Since the definition of affect is "to influence", this word is used.