



Extra Help on *Affect/Effect* and *Principle/Principal*

Confused about the difference between *Affect* and *Effect*?

☛ If “**result**” or “**outcome**” would fit in that location, use **EFFECT**.

First, test the sentence with either the word “result” or “outcome” in place of *affect/effect*. If either “result” or “outcome” fits, use *effect*. If neither fits, use *affect*.

Try it here in the sample sentences that follow:

I am not sure what the (affect, effect) will be.

Test with “result” or “outcome” and you get . . .

*I am not sure what the (result) will be **or** I am not sure what the (outcome) will be.* Since at least one of these substitute words fits the sentence, use *effect*.

*I am not sure what the **effect** will be.*

Now try this sentence:

His attitude will (affect, effect) the whole group. Test with “result” or “outcome” and you get . . .

*His attitude will (result) the whole group **or** His attitude will (outcome) the whole group.*

Neither “result” or “outcome” fits, so choose *affect*.

*His attitude will **affect** the whole group.*

Here is more help:

☛ If the word you will use (either affect or effect) will **end in “-ed,”** use **affected**.

☛ If the word will **end in “-ive,”** use **effective**.

Grammar explanation: Remember that “**affect(ed)**” is most often a **verb**—it is the action of the subject—as in “The weather *affected* my mood.”

Your opinion affected my decision.
A person's attitude can affect other people.

However, “**effect**” is most often a **noun** and has “the,” “an,” or “a” somewhere in front of it.

My words had **a** wonderful **effect** on Bruce.

I wonder what will be **the effect** her decision?

This was **an effect** I hadn't predicted.

Confused about the difference between *principle* and *principal*?

☛ Use **principle ONLY** if you mean **rule, law, concept**.

Try these sentences:

*I am taking **Principles** of Economics.* (“Concepts” of Economics makes sense).

Or

*That decision violates my **principles*** (my “rules” makes sense).

☛ Use **principal** if you mean “**main**” or “**most important**.”

Test with this one first. Does “most important” or “main” fit the sentence location?

Try this practice sentence:

The (principle, principal) reason I am attending SCC is to better myself.

Now use the substitute test words:

The (most important) reason I am attending SCC is to better myself

Or

The (main) reason I am attending SCC is to better myself.

Either substitute word fits, so use ***principal***.

☛ Use **principal** if you mean **the head of a school**.

*I talked with the **principal** of the school.*

Confused about the difference between *to* and *too*?

- ☛ Use “too” when you mean “very” or “so” something.

Try testing the location with “very” or “so”; if either fits, use “too.”

I was (to, too) tired. I was “very” tired. I was “so” tired.

- ☛ Use “too” rather than “to” when you mean “also.”

I want to go, too (also)

We were (to/too) tired.

How tired? We were *very* tired or *so* tired, so it’s **too** tired to go to school.

We were (to/too) hungry.

How hungry? I was *very* hungry or *so* hungry, so it’s **too** hungry.

This is (to/too much) for me to handle.

How much? *Very* much or *so* much, so it is **too** much for me to handle.