

English Ladder

Student Workbook

"Affect" and "Effect"

A polished self-study handout designed for print or tablet use. Read the concept, notice the pattern, and then complete the matching practice set on your own.



Grammar Concepts #38

Key Points

Key Points to Remember:

Visual anchor





Use the concept poster to spotlight the main language pattern in "Affect" and "Effect" and keep the explanation visible during practice and discussion.

ENGLISH LADDER

Concept #38 ► **Affect & Effect**

The most common words to describe causal change are "affect", "impact", and "influence". Examine how these words are used below.

Note: Try to use "positive(ly)" or "negative(ly)" when using these causal terms.

Adverb ► Verb		Adjective ► Noun
College has positively/negatively affected/impacted my life.		College has had a positive/negative effect/impact on my life.
		
Note: Different spellings.		
My father has positively influenced my life.		My father has been a positive influence on/in my life.
		
Note: The word "influence" is most commonly used when the cause is a person.		

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Core Idea

The image explains the difference between "affect" and "effect," as well as how to use related terms like "impact" and "influence." To deepen your understanding, we'll explore the synonyms of these terms and how they can be used interchangeably, with some nuances.

Quick reference

1. "Affect" as a Verb	Definition: "Affect" means to produce a change or influence something.
2. "Effect" as a Noun	Definition: "Effect" refers to the result or outcome of an action.
3. "Impact" as a Verb and Noun	Definition: "Impact" can be both a verb (to have a strong effect on something) and a noun (the strong effect itself).
4. "Influence" as a Verb and Noun	Definition: "Influence" can refer to the power to change or affect something (verb) or the person or thing that exerts this power (noun).

Key Points

1. "Affect" as a Verb

- Definition: "Affect" means to produce a change or influence something.
- Synonyms: "Influence": Often used when referring to the power to change someone's behavior or thinking. Example: "The coach's advice influenced the team's strategy." "Alter": Implies a change in the state or condition. Example: "The new policy altered the way we handle customer complaints." "Modify": Indicates a slight or partial change. Example: "The software update modified the program's interface." "Change": A more general term that can be used in place of "affect." Example: "The weather changed our travel plans."
- Example Sentences: "The new manager's approach affected employee morale." "Her decision to leave the company influenced the entire team's outlook."

2. "Effect" as a Noun

- Definition: "Effect" refers to the result or outcome of an action.



- Synonyms: "Outcome": Focuses on the final result of a process. Example: "The outcome of the negotiations was favorable." "Result": A direct consequence of an action or event. Example: "His hard work had a positive result on his grades." "Consequence": Often implies a negative result but can be neutral. Example: "The consequences of skipping classes were severe." "Impact": Can also be used as a noun to describe a strong effect. Example: "The new law had a significant impact on small businesses." "Repercussion": Usually refers to unintended negative outcomes. Example: "The repercussions of the scandal were widespread."
- Example Sentences: "The new policy had an immediate effect on employee productivity." "His speech produced a lasting impact on the audience."

3. "Impact" as a Verb and Noun

- Definition: "Impact" can be both a verb (to have a strong effect on something) and a noun (the strong effect itself).
- Synonyms as a Verb: "Influence": As discussed, this is about guiding or changing. Example: "The new technology influenced how we work." "Affect": Can often be used in place of "impact." Example: "The economic crisis affected all sectors."
- Synonyms as a Noun: "Effect": As covered, a direct result. Example: "The effect of the storm was devastating." "Consequence": A result, often negative. Example: "The environmental consequences of pollution are severe." "Repercussion": Again, often unintended negative outcomes. Example: "The repercussions of the decision are still being felt."
- Example Sentences: "The new regulations impacted the entire industry." (Verb) "The earthquake had a devastating impact on the region." (Noun)

4. "Influence" as a Verb and Noun

- Definition: "Influence" can refer to the power to change or affect something (verb) or the person or thing that exerts this power (noun).
- Synonyms as a Verb: "Shape": Implies guiding the development of something. Example: "Her advice shaped my career choices." "Persuade": Suggests convincing someone to do or believe something. Example: "He persuaded me to take the job offer." "Sway": Often implies a subtle or gradual change in opinion. Example: "The compelling argument swayed public opinion."
- Synonyms as a Noun: "Authority": Implies recognized power to influence or control. Example: "He is an authority in his field." "Control": Suggests power to direct or manage. Example: "The board has significant control over company policies." "Guidance": The act of providing direction or advice. Example: "Her guidance was crucial to our success."
- Example Sentences: "Her mentor influenced her decision to study abroad." (Verb) "His mother has always been a positive influence in his life." (Noun)

Key Points to Remember:



- Affect (verb) means to produce a change or influence something. Synonyms: Influence, alter, modify, change.
- Effect (noun) refers to the result or outcome of an action. Synonyms: Outcome, result, consequence, impact, repercussion.
- Impact can be both a verb (to affect something strongly) and a noun (the effect itself). Synonyms as a Verb: Influence, affect. Synonyms as a Noun: Effect, consequence, repercussion.
- Influence can also be a verb (to change or affect) or a noun (the power to do so). Synonyms as a Verb: Shape, persuade, sway. Synonyms as a Noun: Authority, control, guidance.

By understanding and using these synonyms, you can express yourself more precisely and variably in English. This will also help you to recognize subtle differences in meaning when you encounter these words in different contexts.



Practice Check

Answer the quiz questions below with responses consistent with the grammar concepts taught in this article.

ITEM 01

Which sentence correctly uses "affect"?

- a) The new policy had a great affect on employee productivity.
- b) The weather will affect our plans for the weekend.
- c) The new medicine had a strong affect on her health.
- d) His decision will effect our strategy.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 02

Which sentence correctly uses "effect"?

- a) The new law will effect the economy significantly.
- b) The effect of the new law was immediately felt.
- c) She wanted to effect changes in her diet.
- d) The storm will effect the coastal areas.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 03

Choose the correct sentence:

- a) The new CEO greatly effected the company's strategy.
- b) The CEO's new policy will have a major affect on our sales.
- c) The new policy had a positive effect on our team.
- d) The new policy will greatly effect our production.

Correct choice: _____

**ITEM 04**

Which sentences are correct regarding the use of "impact"?

- a) The new law will have a large impact the environment.
- b) The speech impacted the audience deeply.
- c) The new policy is likely to impact the profits.
- d) The decision had a great impact in the company's morale.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 05

Which sentence correctly uses "influence"?

- a) Her advice greatly influenced my decision.
- b) The manager's influence on the team was profound.
- c) The speech influenced the entire audience.
- d) His influence greatly impacted our strategy.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 06

Which sentences use "influence" correctly?

- a) The new law will influence the outcome of the elections.
- b) Her influence is likely to affect his decision.
- c) The event had a major influence the policy changes.
- d) The decision had a great influence the company's morale.

Correct choice: _____

**ITEM 07**

Which sentences are correct regarding the use of "alter"?

- a) The coach's advice altered the team's performance.
 - b) The new schedule had a strong alter on our plans.
 - c) The project was altered due to budget cuts.
 - d) The decision altered the company's direction.
-

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 08

Which sentences use "change" appropriately?

- a) The decision greatly changed the course of events.
 - b) The new policy had a change in the company's direction.
 - c) The manager's influence changed team dynamics.
 - d) The project was greatly change due to feedback.
-

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 09

Which sentences correctly use "outcome"?

- a) The outcome of the meeting will affect our strategy.
 - b) The new strategy had a strong outcome on sales.
 - c) The event resulted in a positive outcome.
 - d) The outcome of the speech impacted the audience.
-

Correct choice: _____

**ITEM 10**

Which sentences use "result" appropriately?

- a) The result of the experiment was conclusive.
 - b) The new law will result a positive change.
 - c) His decision resulted in a major impact.
 - d) The result of the meeting will greatly affect our plans.
-

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 11

Which sentences are correct regarding the use of "consequence"?

- a) The consequence of the decision was severe.
 - b) The consequence of his actions greatly affected the outcome.
 - c) The new policy had a significant consequence on the company's direction.
 - d) His actions will consequence major changes.
-

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 12

Which sentences correctly use "modify"?

- a) The teacher modified the lesson plan to suit the students' needs.
 - b) The schedule was modified due to unforeseen circumstances.
 - c) The new policy will modify the company's structure.
 - d) His actions modified the outcome significantly.
-

Correct choice: _____

**ITEM 13**

Which sentence uses "repercussion" correctly?

- a) The repercussion of the new law was positive.
- b) The repercussions of the scandal were far-reaching.
- c) His actions had a repercussion on the entire team.
- d) The event resulted in a repercussion.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 14

Which sentences correctly use "shape"?

- a) The coach's advice helped shape the team's strategy.
- b) The new law will shape the future of the industry.
- c) His influence shaped the company's culture.
- d) The decision shaped the outcome of the project.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 15

Which sentences are correct regarding the use of "persuade"?

- a) She persuaded him to accept the offer.
- b) The evidence persuaded the jury of his guilt.
- c) His arguments persuaded the team to adopt a new approach.
- d) The speech persuaded great influence on the audience.

Correct choice: _____

**ITEM 16**

Which sentences use "sway" appropriately?

- a) The politician's speech swayed public opinion.
- b) The evidence swayed the jury's decision.
- c) The new policy swayed the company's direction.
- d) The weather swayed the outcome of the game.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 17

Which sentence correctly uses "guidance"?

- a) His guidance was crucial in the project's success.
- b) The teacher's guidance influenced the students' choices.
- c) Her guidance had a major effect on my career.
- d) The guidance of the manual was clear and effective.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 18

Which sentences correctly use "authority"?

- a) The manager has the authority to make decisions.
- b) The professor is an authority in her field.
- c) The law gives authority over public safety.
- d) His authority shaped the company's direction.

Correct choice: _____

**ITEM 19**

Which sentence uses "control" correctly?

- a) The manager's control over the project was firm.
- b) He has control in the company's direction.
- c) The remote control the TV.
- d) The manager control the project's outcome.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 20

Which sentences correctly use "positive effect"?

- a) The new policy had a positive effect on employee morale.
- b) Her guidance had a positive effect in my decision.
- c) The weather had a positive effect on our plans.
- d) His influence had a positive effect on the company's culture.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 21

Which sentences are correct regarding the use of "profound impact"?

- a) The speech had a profound impact on the audience.
- b) The new technology had a profound impact in the industry.
- c) His actions had a profound impact on the company's direction.
- d) The book had a profound impact in my thinking.

Correct choice: _____

**ITEM 22**

Which sentence correctly uses "major influence"?

- a) The mentor had a major influence in his career decisions.
- b) The teacher had a major influence on the student's success.
- c) His advice was a major influence in the project.
- d) The speaker's words had a major influence in the audience.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 23

Which sentences correctly use "authority" in the context of expertise?

- a) The professor is an authority in the field of linguistics.
- b) She is an authority in her area of research.
- c) His authority in the field is well recognized.
- d) The manager's authority in the project was clear.

Correct choice: _____

ITEM 24

Which sentences correctly use "alter" in the context of change?

- a) The schedule was altered to accommodate more participants.
- b) The decision altered the course of the project.
- c) The weather altered our travel plans significantly.
- d) His influence altered the team's strategy.

Correct choice: _____



Self-check Answer Key

Use the key after you have completed every item on your own.

ITEM 01

b) The weather will affect our plans for the weekend.

ITEM 02

b) The effect of the new law was immediately felt.

ITEM 03

c) The new policy had a positive effect on our team.

ITEM 04

b) The speech impacted the audience deeply.

ITEM 05

b) The manager's influence on the team was profound.

ITEM 06

a) The new law will influence the outcome of the elections.

ITEM 07

a) The coach's advice altered the team's performance.

ITEM 08

a) The decision greatly changed the course of events.

ITEM 09

a) The outcome of the meeting will affect our strategy.

ITEM 10

a) The result of the experiment was conclusive.

ITEM 11

a) The consequence of the decision was severe.

ITEM 12

a) The teacher modified the lesson plan to suit the students' needs.

ITEM 13

b) The repercussions of the scandal were far-reaching.

ITEM 14

a) The coach's advice helped shape the team's strategy.

**ITEM 15**

a) She persuaded him to accept the offer.

ITEM 16

a) The politician's speech swayed public opinion.

ITEM 17

a) His guidance was crucial in the project's success.

ITEM 18

a) The manager has the authority to make decisions.

ITEM 19

a) The manager's control over the project was firm.

ITEM 20

a) The new policy had a positive effect on employee morale.

ITEM 21

a) The speech had a profound impact on the audience.

ITEM 22

b) The teacher had a major influence on the student's success.

ITEM 23

a) The professor is an authority in the field of linguistics.

ITEM 24

a) The schedule was altered to accommodate more participants.