Commonly Confused Words: Affect vs. Effect

Affect and effect sound a little alike, but their meanings are different.

**Affect** is usually used as a verb meaning to change or influence. It may be used rarely as a noun with a different pronunciation meaning emotion behavior.

Example 1: Your test grade will **affect** your final grade.
Example 2: He assumed a serious **affect** as he began the lecture.

**Effect** is usually a noun meaning a result, an impression, or something that comes into being. It sometimes may be used as a verb meaning to cause something to change.

Example 1: The baby's crying had a terrible **effect** on the passengers.
Example 2: The new roof gave the **effect** of a whole new house.
Example 3: The new rules go into **effect** on the first of the month.
Example 4: We can **effect** change if we work together.

Choose **affect** or **effect** to complete each sentence.

1. Another drought will ______________ the wheat crop.
2. The bad behavior of some students may ______________ the reputation of the whole school.
3. The movie had a big ______________ on her.
4. He did not want the scandal to ______________ the outcome of the election.
5. The silence was not the ______________ Barry wanted.
6. To understand history we must often look at an event's cause and ______________.
7. Her calm ______________ helped everyone relax.
8. He will ______________ his departure tonight.
9. The ______________ of the hurricane is being felt throughout the state.
10. The disease would ______________ her ability to walk.
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