

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Troublesome Word Pairs: Affect/Effect

There are some words in English that sound similar and may look similar, but are spelled and used differently. Sometimes it can be hard to tell them apart.

### Affect and effect

**Affect is most often used as a verb.**

**Examples:**

How will the falling snow **affect** the opening of school? (future tense verb)

The inspiring movie **affected** the students in a positive way. (past tense verb)

**Effect is most often used as a noun.**

**Examples:**

The **effect** of falling snow on school openings will be announced. (noun, subject)

The inspiring movie had a positive **effect** on the students. (noun, direct object)

**Write a weather report for a news broadcast in which you correctly use both *affect* and *effect* at least twice each and in different tenses. Have a partner check for correct usage and then read the broadcast aloud.**

**There are other less frequent uses of both *affect* (noun form) and *effect* (verb form).**

**Examples:** Reggie's voice had an unusual **affect** that made him sound important. (noun)

The purpose of the meeting is to **effect** changes that will help the community. (verb)

**Challenge: Use context clues to try to figure out the meanings of *affect* and *effect* in the sentences above. Write your guesses here.**

**affect:** \_\_\_\_\_

**effect:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Use a dictionary or online resource to look up the alternative forms of *affect* and *effect* and practice using them with a partner.**

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## Troublesome Word Pairs: Sit/Set

There are some words in English that sound similar and may look similar, but are spelled and used differently. Sometimes it can be hard to tell them apart.

### Sit and set

**Sit** is an intransitive verb. It does not take an object.

Please **sit** down.

Where would you like to **sit**?

**Set** is a transitive verb. It takes an object that receives an action from the verb.

Please **set** the tray down.

You can **set** those items anywhere you like.

**Sit** and **set** are NOT interchangeable. Review the sentences below.

INCORRECT: I would like to set here. Shall I sit plates on the table?

CORRECT: I would like to sit here. Shall I set plates on the table?

**Both of these verbs are irregular. See the chart below to review the verb tenses.**

<u>Infinitive</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>	<u>Future</u>
to sit	he sits	he sat	he has sat	he will sit
to set	he sets(it)	he set (it)	he has set (it)	he will set (it)

**Suppose you are the planner of a large dinner party. Write instructions for the people helping you about the placement of dishes and where you would like the guests to sit. Use *sit* and *set* at least three times each in at least two different tenses. Exchange your instructions with a partner and underline all forms of the verbs *sit* and *set* wherever they occur. Check each other's work for correct usage.**

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## Troublesome Word Pairs: Lie/Lay

There are some words in English that sound similar and may look similar, but are spelled and used differently. Sometimes it can be hard to tell them apart.

### Lie and lay

**Lie is an intransitive verb. It does not take an object.**

**Examples:**

Aunt Rose is tired and needs to **lie** down.

I will **lie** here on the sofa.

**Lay is a transitive verb. It takes an object that receives the action of the verb.**

**Examples:**

Mom said she **will lay** the dress on the bed.

**Lay** that book on the table.

**Lie and lay are NOT interchangeable. Review the sentences below.**

**INCORRECT:** Mario should lay on the bed if he is tired. I will lie a blanket out for him.

**CORRECT:** Mario should lie on the bed if he is tired. I will lay a blanket out for him.

**One challenging part of these two verbs is found in their conjugations, or how their tenses are formed. Review the chart below.**

<u>Infinitive</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Past Participle</u>	<u>Future</u>
to lie	she lies	she lay	she has lain	she will lie
to lay	she lays (it)	she laid (it)	she has laid (it)	she will lay (it)

**If you notice from the list above, the past tense of *lie* is *lay*. The past tense of *lay* is *laid*. These forms take practice. See the examples below.**

**Examples:**

Yesterday, Sally **lay** on the rug and watched TV.

Ken **laid** the clean cloth on the kitchen table.

**Write a series of sentences about the same character using as many forms of both verbs above as possible. Show them to a partner and check each other for correct usage. Challenge: With your partner, practice using the different forms aloud in conversation.**

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## Troublesome Word Pairs: Can/May

There are some words in English that sound similar and may look similar, but are spelled and used differently. Sometimes it can be hard to tell them apart.

### Can and may

The helping verb *can* refers to ability.

**Examples:**

My mom **can** run for five miles without stopping!

You **can** do anything if you put your mind to it.

The helping verb *may* refers to permission or a possibility.

**Examples:**

The designer **may** wish to choose the tiles himself.

You **may** go out and play after supper.

**Can and may are NOT interchangeable. There is a meaning distinction.**

**HINT: Substitute the words “able to” for *can* or *may*. Do you mean, for example, “is able to”? If not, choose *may*. Review the examples below.**

**INCORRECT: Can** I ride my bike after I do my homework?

**CORRECT: May** I ride my bike after I do my homework? (The speaker here asks for permission. The question is not, *Am I able to ride my bike?*)

**INCORRECT: May** we win the race?

**CORRECT: Can** we win the race? (The question here is, *Are we able to win the race?* This is not a question that asks permission.)

**Write six sentences that contain the word *can* or the word *may*. Include questions as well as statements. Write the sentences again and leave a blank for those words. Have a partner fill in the blank with either *can* or *may*. Check each other’s work.**

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## Troublesome Word Pairs: Let/Leave, Teach/Learn

There are some words in English that sound similar and may look similar, but are spelled and used differently. Sometimes it can be hard to tell them apart.

### Let and leave

**Let and leave have many shades of meaning. In colloquial, or regional, English, *let* and *leave* are close in meaning but not the same. Use a dictionary to review the many shades of meaning of these two verbs.**

**In one of its meanings, the verb *let* has to do with allowing or permitting something. To check the word, substitute the word *allow*. Examples:**

**Let** me help you with that. (Allow me to help you with that.)

Mary will **let** me be by myself for a while. (Mary will allow me to be by myself.)

**In one of its meanings, the verb *leave* has to do with letting something remain. Examples:**

Dad will **leave** the pie on the counter for you.

I will **leave** you alone until you feel better.

**Let and leave are NOT interchangeable. Review the examples below of colloquial expressions in English.**

**INCORRECT:** Let your brother alone. Leave him be.

**CORRECT:** Leave your little brother alone. Let him be.

### Teach and learn

**To teach something is to impart knowledge. To learn something is to receive knowledge. These two verbs are NOT interchangeable.**

**INCORRECT:** I will learn you how to solve this math problem.

**CORRECT:** I will teach you how to solve this math problem. I am sure you can learn it.

**Write three sentences using *let* and *leave*, and three sentences using *teach* and *learn*. Rewrite the sentences leaving blanks for those words, and have a partner complete the sentences. Check each other for correct usage.**