



Misused Words

Grammar Mania Monday



Then vs. Than

Then

- At that time.
 - I was at work **then**.
 - Come over this afternoon; I'll be ready **then**.
- Next in time, space, or order; immediately afterward.
 - We saw a movie and **then** went out for dinner.
 - We filled up the car and **then** began the trip.
- In addition; moreover; besides.
 - The glasses are \$100, and **then** there is sales tax.
 - First you need a license, and **then** you can drive.
- In that case, accordingly.
 - If the weather is bad, **then** my flight will get canceled.
 - If there is heavy traffic, **then** I might be late.

Than

- Than is a conjunction that is used for making **comparisons** between elements, objects, people, etc.
 - He is taller **than** I am.
 - She can run faster **than** I can.
 - Your meal looks better **than** mine does.
 - Coca-Cola is better **than** Pepsi.
- In the following popular phrases, than should be used.
 - More than; less than.
 - He has less **than** I have.
 - She has more **than** I have.

A good trick to keep track of these words is that then is usually used to indicate time. Both then and time have a letter “**E**” in them.

Than is used to make comparisons. Both than and comparison have a letter “**A**” in them.

1. Cesar is better at playing basketball **then/than** Rafael.
2. Back **then/than**, we kept our doors unlocked.
3. First I'll take a short nap; **then/than** I'll be ready to do some more homework.
4. Did you get more presents **then/than** he did?
5. This lightbulb is more energy efficient **then/than** that one.



Good vs. Well

Good

- Good modifies a **noun**; something can be or seem good.
 - This is **good** lasagna!
 - Today, at last, life is **good**.

Well

- Well modifies a **verb**; an action can be done well.
 - Did you do **well** on your exams?
 - She jogged very **well** for her age.
- However, when you're talking about health, well can be used as an adjective.
 - She asked about David's illness, and I told her he is **well** now.

All you need to remember when you are pondering whether good or well is best for your sentence is that good describes a person, place, or thing, whereas well describes an action.

If you're having a **good** *day*, then your day is *going well*.

1. How **good/well** can the students at your school sing?
2. The director told them that the school concert was very **good/well** .
3. She had a **good/well** time yesterday.
4. Lindsay always has several **good/well** ideas for weekend plans.
5. Jacob did not feel **good/well**; his stomach hurt and he had a fever.



Affect vs. Effect

Affect

- Affect is usually a **verb**, and it means to impact or change.
 - The tornado **affected** citizens within forty miles of Topeka.
 - The medicine will **affect** your eyesight for at least an hour.
 - Winning the swimming medal **affected** Tina's performance in school, too.

Effect

- Effect is usually a **noun**, an effect is the result of a change.
 - The **effect** of the tornado was devastating.
 - You'll feel the **effect** of the medication in the next twenty minutes.
 - Tina's big win had an **effect** on her confidence level overall.

A is for action. Verbs are about action. Affect starts with an **A**, so it's a verb.

1. The **affect/effect** of the antibiotic on her infection was surprising.
2. I did not know that antibiotics could **affect/effect** people so quickly.
3. Plastic surgery had an **affect/effect**, not only on her appearance, but on her self-esteem.
4. There were few campaign issues that directly **affected/effected** Canadians.
5. The article is about how institutions have an **affect/effect** on individuals.



Individual Practice

1. I do assure you that the news does not **affect/effect** me either with pleasure or pain.
2. Accidents **affect/effect** insurance premiums similarly.
3. That **affect/effect** is only amplified in a playoff atmosphere.
4. These superpowers are the only weapons that have any **affect/effect** on Invaders.
5. Mrs. Shorter needed one more **good/well** picture for the yearbook.
6. The ice-cream sandwiches looked **good/well** to us.
7. They danced **good/well** at the party.
8. “I hope everything goes **good/well** tomorrow,” said Fran.
9. The company has received more **then/than** 500 complaints about its meat products.
10. If Nadia takes your advice, **then/than** she’s sure to be a success.
11. I think a liter holds a little more **then/than** a quart does.
12. If their next song isn’t better **then/than** let’s leave.