ASAC Writing Lab: Common Mistakes & Word Choice
Answer Key

1. Fill in the blank with “that”, “who”, or “which”
   a. The party, **which** was over by nine, wasn’t loud enough to get a noise violation.
   b. My godmother, **who** is Italian, always cooks the best meatball.
   c. The political party **that** gets the most votes will win the Senate.
   d. Their argument **that** China would become a superpower was convincing.
   e. It is Ashley **who** I trust the most.
   f. Their argument, **which** had no basis in reality, was not convincing.

2. Fill in the blank with “affect(s),” or “effect(s)” or
   a. How does the placement of the verb **affect** the rest of the sentence?
   b. The prisoner was released with his personal **effects**.
   c. The pills won’t take **effect** for another hour.
   d. The size of the army will **affect** the outcome of the battle.
   e. The plan goes into **effect** on Thursday.
   f. The war will have a negative **effect** on civilians living in the area.
   g. She will **effect** a change if she becomes the first female president.
   h. The snow won’t **affect** my chances of getting home.

3. Fill in the blank with “then” or “than”
   a. We went to the store and **then** we went home.
   b. I am happier **than** I thought I would be.
   c. If that’s how you feel, **then** you should go home.
   d. I never knew someone who liked this band and **then** I met you.
   e. The movie is better **than** the book.

4. Fix the errors in the following paragraph by replacing the incorrect forms of “two/to/too” and “their/they’re/there”

   “It’s not over ’til it’s over over **there!” he shouted, with a smile that was too big. He had always been a bit obsessed with World War **Two** and music from that era. He thought that artists in the forties were inspiring, and that their work was important to study as part of the propaganda of the time. He liked to go to the library and see if **there** was any new books on the subject. The librarians were nice, and their advice was always helpful. “**They’re always there** if you need them” he thought, walking through the two main doors. “You’re such a nerd” said his friend. “You are, too”, he replied.