

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 **affect** 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.