

ASAC Writing Lab: Common Mistakes & Word Choice

Answer Key

1. Fill in the blank with “that”, “who”, or “which”

- a. The party, _____ was over by nine, wasn't loud enough to get a noise violation.
- b. My godmother, _____ is Italian, always cooks the best meatball.
- c. The political party _____ gets the most votes will win the Senate.
- d. Their argument _____ China would become a superpower was convincing.
- e. It is Ashley _____ I trust the most.
- f. Their argument, _____ 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 _____ the rest of the sentence?
- b. The prisoner was released with his personal _____.
- c. The pills won't take _____ for another hour.
- d. The size of the army will _____ the outcome of the battle.
- e. The plan goes into _____ on Thursday.
- f. The war will have a negative _____ on civilians living in the area.
- g. She will _____ a change if she becomes the first female president.
- h. The snow won't _____ my chances of getting home.

3. Fill in the blank with “then” or “than”

- a. We went to the store and _____ we went home.
- b. I am happier _____ I thought I would be.
- c. If that's how you feel, _____ you should go home.
- d. I never knew someone who liked this band and _____ I met you.
- e. The movie is better _____ 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 **their!**” he shouted, with a smile that was **to** big. He had always been a bit obsessed with World War **Too** and music from that era. He thought that artists in the forties were inspiring, and that **there** work was important to study as part of the propaganda of the time. He liked **two** go **too** the library and see if **their** was any new books on the subject. The librarians were nice, and **they're** advice was always helpful. “**Their** always **they're** if you need them” he thought, walking through the **too** main doors. “You're such a nerd” said his friend. “You are, **to**”, he replied.