

Lose It or Loose It - There's a Difference **by Elaine Ernst Schneider**

***Lose** ten pounds or **loose** ten pounds? What is it that you really want to do? If you **lose** the ten pounds, then we won't be able to find them. That would be a good thing. But if you **loose** the ten pounds, you set them free to roll about like a tumbleweed. Ten pounds on the **loose** would not be a good thing.*

LOSE means to lack the possession of, to come to be without.

LOOSE means not tight.

LOOSEN means to unfasten something or make it less constraining.

Examples:

The hockey team doesn't want to *lose* the game.

The girl had such a bad sunburn that she could only wear *loose* clothes.

Set the dog *loose*. Don't tie him up again.

I am so frustrated! I always seem to *lose* my keys.

Loosen your hold on the bat. You are gripping it much too tightly!

Exercise 1

1. The shoes were so big that they were _____ on the little boy's feet.
2. I turned a corner to _____ the guy who was tailing me.
3. Our football team hasn't done so well this year. We are sure to _____ every game.
4. After the bad weather, the penned up dogs were set _____ to run outside again.
5. The pet store manager was told to _____ the dog's collar as it was much too tight around his neck.
6. Those rules are much too _____! You need to tighten up security around here.
7. Her husband had to work on her necklace for over an hour before he could _____ the hung clasp.
8. She wanted her hair fixed in soft _____ curls.
9. It is a terrible thing to _____ one's self respect.
10. You will _____ out if you don't get there before the sale ends.

How Does the Effect Affect You? - Another Grammatical Riddle by Elaine Ernst Schneider

AFFECT ... EFFECT ...

*Two very confusing words often misused. Cause and **effect**, sound **effects**, weather that **affects** your health, an **affected** tone of voice ... a spelling nightmare. Let's look at basic definitions and parts of speech.*

AFFECT – verb – to act upon, to change or to cause a change

AFFECTED – adjective – influenced by an outside force

EFFECT – noun – result; consequence

(Note: there are two exceptions to this rule. When **effect** is used to indicate a scientific "cause and effect" instance, then it may be used as a verb. An example is:

Do you know the name of the doctor who effected a cure for rabies?

Also, when **affect** is used in the sense that someone adopted or pretended something, it is a verb. An example is:

Tom **affected** an Irish accent for his role in the play. Or, Stinson **affected** a limp to impress the referees.

But, when **affect** is used to mean **an emotion**, then it is a noun. For example:

The crying of the widow created an **affect** of sorrow in the room.

Although the definitions are certainly beneficial in knowing which spelling of similar-sounding words to use, it is the part of speech that gives us the best clue. Here are examples:

1. She knew the _____ of the weather would impact the arthritis in her knee negatively.
2. The weather always _____ the arthritis in her knee.
3. The _____ knee responded negatively to the damp weather due to its arthritic condition.

EXERCISE 2

1. The applause showed how deeply the presentation had _____ the audience.
2. His attitude was _____ by his upbringing.
3. What _____ do you think the news will have on her?

4. No matter what he does, it will have no _____ on me.
5. No matter what he does, it will not _____ me.
6. What do you think the _____ of the decision will be?
7. How did her son's departure _____ Mrs. Sanago?
8. How was the team _____ by the loss of their coach?
9. I was impressed by the _____ of Churchill's words on Britain during that time.
10. Do you know what _____ that medicine will have on you?

Choose, Chose, Choice

choose - (verb) to make a choice or selection.

chose - past tense of verb choose.

choice - (noun) choosing; selection.

Exercise 3

She also helps them become self-supporting if they _____ to leave their husbands.

In the past, delegates sometimes voted many times before they _____ a candidate.

Reverend Reed says many couples today _____ simple, nontraditional weddings.

Companies can _____ to follow the rules, which will not be legally enforced.

But which of the many Washington museums should they see? And what will they _____ to see in each one?

Ten Olympic Committee members reportedly accepted gifts and large amounts of money to _____ Salt Lake City, Utah, to hold the events.

For example, a couple can go to a store and _____ gifts they would like to receive.

Last week, the I-O-C _____ Beijing, China, to hold the summer Olympic Games of Two-Thousand-Eight.

They will also _____ many state and local officials.

Companies can _____ to follow the rules, which will not be legally enforced.

In the past, Mark _____ to fly rather than drive.

They say child care is the only _____ for some families if they want to avoid being poor.

It will _____ candidates who support community or national development.

Yesterday I _____ to go by train.

They say advertising also increases public knowledge and _____ of treatments.

He says _____ friends from other ethnic groups is an individual .

Each state must _____ its electors by this Tuesday.

The delegates also will nominate Mr. Gore's _____ for vice president.

Last week, they _____ her as captain.

The zoo officials _____ the animals during a recent trip to the Wolong Reserve.