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| **Vocabulary: Problem Words** |

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| The words in the groups below sound the same, or almost the same, and are often confused. However, they are spelled differently and have different meanings.  1. (a) affect (verb) – influence, move emotionally  (b) effect (noun) – result; power to influence  effects (plural) – personal property, belongings, goods  2. (a) lessen (verb) – reduce  (b) lesson (noun) – instruction period; useful experience  3. (a) coma (noun) – long period of unconsciousness  (b) comma (noun) – punctuation mark  4. (a) idle (adjective) – not working or in use; lazy  (b) idol (noun) – object of adoration; object worshiped as god  5. (a) final (adjective) – last; allowing no change; ending  (b) final (noun) – end of a series  (c) finale (noun) – final theatrical number  6. (a) metre (noun) – unit of length  (b) metre (noun) - device for measuring amount of flow  (c) meteor (noun) – fiery mass of rock from space  7. (a) canvas (noun) – heavy fabric, used for sails and for painting on  (b) canvass (verb) – visit somebody to solicit something, debate something, look at something  carefully |

Make two sentences using one of the vocabulary words above. Read them aloud to another student who must write the vocabulary word on the board. The others in the group must decide if the word is written correctly.

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| *Fill in the blank with the correct word.* |

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|  |  | **AFFECT** | **EFFECT** |  |
| 1. | What \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will this move have on the results? | | | |
| 2. | When they were transferred to Europe, they took all their personal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with them. | | | |
| 3. | The century has been full of inventions that have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the way we live. | | | |
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|  |  | **LESSEN** | **LESSON** |  |
| 4. | Driving defensively will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the chances of having an accident. | | | |
| 5. | He learned a hard \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from this experience. | | | |
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|  |  | **COMA** | **COMMA** |  |
| 6. | We use a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to separate things in a series of lists. | | | |
| 7. | After the blow on his head, he was in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for several days. | | | |
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|  |  | **IDLE** | **IDOL** |  |
| 8. | His popular recordings made him a teenage \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . | | | |
| 9. | It is an old saying that the devil finds work for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hands to do. | | | |
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|  |  | **FINAL** | **FINALE** |  |
| 10. | Their team played well but didn’t make it to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ match. | | | |
| 11. | The whole cast appeared on stage for the grand \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the performance. | | | |
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|  |  | **METRE** | **METEOR** |  |
| 12. | It was fascinating to see the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shoot through the sky. | | | |
| 13. | It says on my electric bill that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is read once every two months. | | | |
| 14. | The athlete needed to jump 10.6 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to win the competition. | | | |
|  |  | **CANVAS** | **CANVASS** |  |
| 15. | They will have to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for more memberships to keep the club going. | | | |
| 16. | His tent was made of durable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . | | | |