Affect, almost always a verb, means “to influence, have an effect on.”

*For example*
The adverse economic situation affected our ability to get a raise

*Note:* The noun affect has a specialized meaning in psychology: an emotion or mood. Consult your dictionary.

Effect, usually a noun, means “an outcome or result.”

*For example*
The teacher’s pleas for silence had no effect on the rowdy class.

*Note:* It also may be a verb meaning “to make happen or produce”

*For example*
The principal hopes to effect a major change in behavior among the students.