

TEAS 7 · ENGLISH

10 word pairs the TEAS keeps swapping

The exam rarely asks which word is correct. It writes a sentence with one word swapped.

English is 37 questions in 37 minutes — one minute each, with no time to reason it out. Vocabulary and conventions are 22 of the 33 scored questions, and this is where they live. Read the sentence with the OTHER word of the pair: the one that breaks is the answer.

1	affect / effect	affect is the verb, effect is the noun. The drug <i>affects</i> him; the <i>effect</i> was mild.
2	fewer / less	fewer for things you can count, less for things you cannot. Fewer patients, less pain.
3	its / it's	it's is only ever "it is". If the sentence does not survive "it is", use its.
4	then / than	then is time, than is comparison. Bigger <i>than</i> , and <i>then</i> it stopped.
5	who / whom	swap in he/him. If him fits, whom fits.
6	lie / lay	you lie down yourself; you lay something else down. Lay takes an object.
7	principal / principle	the principal is a person or the main one; a principle is a rule.
8	accept / except	accept is to take; except is to leave out.
9	farther / further	farther is distance you could measure; further is degree or extent.
10	complement / compliment	a complement completes; a compliment praises.

Ten pairs. Write the pair, write the test, write one sentence for each side. Ten minutes, not ten hours.