DIRECTIONS: People often confuse words that either look alike or have similar meanings. Select the word with the appropriate meaning. Look up the definitions of the words on the left; then fill in the blanks in the sentences. Changes to the word may be needed to make the correct tense.

1. accept-except
   The committee decided to _______ bids from all firms _______
   Bonning and Raines.

2. advice-advise
   The former chairman has _______ the board that he will stay on an 
   extra six months to provide __________________________ to his successors.

3. affect-effect
   The new interior decorations should have a positive _________ on 
   office morale and should __________________________ productivity as well.

4. allude-elude
   Howard Cosell _____________ to the quarterback's ability to 
   ___________ tacklers.

5. credible-creditable
   While working under time constraints that did not seem ________, the 
   staff did a first-rate, __________________________ job.

6. emigrate-immigrate
   The first refugees to ____________ from Vietnam ________________ to Singapore.

7. formally-formerly
   __________ the interim treasurer at Basking, Inc., Marie Cesare, will 
   be __________________ appointed to permanent status this week.

8. past-passed
   Even before two weeks had ________, production had improved markedly 
   over ____________ levels.

9. principle-principal
   The __________________ stockholder announced he was following 
   the ________ of supply-and-demand.

10. than-then
    Sara tried dieting, ____________ jogging; she is both thinner and 
    healthier ____________ in the past.

ANSWERS:

1. accept, except
2. advised, advice
3. effect, affect
4. alluded, elude
5. credible, creditable
6. emigrate, immigrated
7. formerly, formally
8. passed, past
9. principal, principle
10. then, than
DON'T CONFUSE WORDS WITH SIMILAR MEANINGS

1. aggravate- The union leader was ________ by the actions of the dissidents; the actions annoy______________ an already tense situation.

2. anxious- A few ________ moments passed before someone ____________ to take on the task volunteered.
   eager

3. imply-infer The new ruling ______________ that overtime requests will be more limited; at least that's what I ______________ from it.

4. less-fewer ________ than eight board members were present, _____________ than a quorum.

5. scarce-rare _____________ supplies made milk a ______________ commodity for customers with children.

ANSWERS:

1. annoyed, aggravated
2. anxious, eager
3. implied, infer
4. fewer, less
5. scarce, rare

Revised: Spring 2008
STUDENT LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER (SLAC)
Texas State University-San Marcos