

25 Fun and Safe Science Experiments for Kids: Help Your Child Have Fun and Get Smarter at Science

Comparing Efficient, Effective, and Proficient

These three words cover some overlapping territory.

Efficient most often describes what is capable of producing desired results without wasting materials, time, or energy. While the word can be applied to both people and things, it is far more commonly applied to things, such as machines, systems, processes, and organizations. The focus of the word is on how little is wasted or lost while the desired results are produced.

Effective typically describes things—such as policies, treatments, arguments, and techniques—that do what they are intended to do. People can also be described as effective when they accomplish what they set out to accomplish, but the word is far more often applied to things.

Proficient typically describes people, and it often is followed by the preposition at. If you are proficient at something, you are very good at it. You are, in fact, so good at doing it that you are unusually efficient when you do it. One can also be proficient in something, such as a language.

Reference

[Study Guide for Fundamentals of Engineering \(FE\) Electrical & Computer CBT Exam: Practice over 700 solved problems with detailed solutions based on NCEES® FE Reference Handbook Version 10.0.1](#)

[Biomedical Engineering: Bridging Medicine and Technology \(Cambridge Texts in Biomedical Engineering\)](#)