

So and such

Compare so and such:

We use **so** + *adjective/adverb*:

so stupid so quick
so nice so quickly

- I didn't like the book. The story was so stupid.
- I like Liz and Joe. They are so nice.

We use **such** + *noun*:

such a story such people

We also use **such** + *adjective + noun*:

such a stupid story such nice people

- I didn't like the book. It was such a stupid story. (*not* a so stupid story)
- I like Liz and Joe. They are such nice people. (*not* so nice people)

We say **such a ...** (*not* a such):such a big dog (*not* a such big dog)

B

So and such make the meaning of an adjective (or adverb) stronger:

- It's a beautiful day, isn't it? It's so warm. (= really warm)
- It's difficult to understand him because he talks so quietly.

You can use **so ... that**:

- The book was so good that I couldn't put it down.
- I was so tired that I fell asleep in the armchair.

We usually leave out **that**:

- I was so tired I fell asleep.

- It was a great holiday. We had such a good time. (= a really good time)

You can use **such ... that**:

- It was such a good book that I couldn't put it down.
- It was such nice weather that we spent the whole day on the beach.

We usually leave out **that**:

- It was such nice weather we spent ...

C

We also use **so** and **such** with the meaning 'like this':

- Somebody told me the house was built 100 years ago. I didn't realize it was so old. (= as old as it is)
- I'm tired because I got up at six. I don't usually get up so early.
- I expected the weather to be cooler. I'm surprised it is so warm.

- I didn't realise it was such an old house.
- You know it's not true. How can you say such a thing?

Note the expression **no such ...** :

- You won't find the word 'blid' in the dictionary. There's no such word. (= this word does not exist)

D

Compare:

so long

- I haven't seen her for so long I've forgotten what she looks like.

so far

- I didn't know it was so far.

so much, so many

- I'm sorry I'm late – there was so much traffic.

such a long time

- I haven't seen her for such a long time. (*not* so long time)

such a long way

- I didn't know it was such a long way.

such a lot (of)

- I'm sorry I'm late – there was such a lot of traffic.

Exercises

102.1 Put in so, such or such a.

- 1 It's difficult to understand him because he speaks so quietly.
- 2 I like Liz and Joe. They're such nice people.
- 3 It was a great holiday. We had such a good time.
- 4 I was surprised that he looked well after his recent illness.
- 5 Everything is expensive these days, isn't it?
- 6 The weather is beautiful, isn't it? I didn't expect it to be nice day.
- 7 I have to go. I didn't realise it was late.
- 8 He always looks good. He wears nice clothes.
- 9 It was boring film that I fell asleep while I was watching it.
- 10 I couldn't believe the news. It was shock.
- 11 I think she works too hard. She looks tired all the time.
- 12 The food at the hotel was awful. I've never eaten awful food.
- 13 They've got much money they don't know what to do with it.
- 14 I didn't realise you lived long way from the city centre.
- 15 The party was really great. It was pity you couldn't come.

102.2 Make one sentence from two. Use so or such.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 She worked hard. 2 It was a beautiful day. 3 I was tired. 4 We had a good time on holiday. 5 She speaks English well. 6 I've got a lot to do. 7 The music was loud. 8 I had a big breakfast. 9 It was horrible weather. 10 I was surprised. 	<p>You could hear it from miles away. You would think it was her native language. We spent the whole day indoors. She made herself ill. I couldn't keep my eyes open. I didn't eat anything else for the rest of the day. We decided to go to the beach. I didn't know what to say. I don't know where to begin. We didn't want to come home.</p>
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- 1 She worked so hard she made herself ill.
- 2 It was such a beautiful day we decided to go to the beach.
- 3 I was
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

102.3 Use your own ideas to complete these pairs of sentences.

- 1 a We enjoyed our holiday. It was so relaxing.
- b We enjoyed our holiday. We had such a good time.
- 2 a I like Catherine. She's so
- b I like Catherine. She's such
- 3 a I like New York. It's so
- b I like New York. It's such
- 4 a I wouldn't like to be a teacher. It's so
- b I wouldn't like to be a teacher. It's such
- 5 a It's great to see you again! I haven't seen you for so
- b It's great to see you again! I haven't seen you for such