

1.6 so and such

We use the pronouns **so** and **such** when we want to stress the noun they precede.

We use **so** before:

- adjectives without nouns:
*I love talking with my aunt Tanya. She is **so inspiring**.*
- quantifying expressions (e.g. **many/much**) followed by a noun:
*I'm very happy that **so many friends** are coming to the party.*
*Teenagers don't spend **so much time** watching TV these days.*

We use **such** before:

- adjectives followed by nouns:
*Greg has got **such a comfortable sofa** in his bedroom.*
- nouns:
***Such people** will always help you in need.*
*Angela always has **such luck** – she is always in the right place, at the right time.*

Notice that with **such**:

- we use the indefinite article **a/an**, if it precedes a countable singular noun:
*Moving to the UK was **such a good decision** because we live closer to my family now.*
*Uncle Tom has **such an interesting life** – he travels a lot.*
- we do not use any article if it precedes a plural or uncountable noun:
*Bob works as a police officer and he often gives people **such bad news** that they feel upset.*
*Every morning Josh goes for **such long walks** with his dogs.*

So and **such** may be also used in expressions **such ... that** and **so ... that**, when we want to stress an adjective or noun and focus on the consequences of events described in the main sentence clause:

*Luckily, my parents bought **such a cheap house** that we've got some money for new furniture.*

*My younger sister has got **so many toys** that my parents want to give some away.*

1 Choose the correct option.

- 1 He's **so** / **such** adventurous and loves extreme sports.
- 2 That was **so** / **such** an irresponsible thing to do!
- 3 There were **so** / **such** many people at the restaurant – we couldn't get a table.
- 4 They're never at home because they're **so** / **such** busy people.
- 5 The book was **so** / **such** an interesting – I read it in one day.
- 6 It's **so** / **such** a lovely day today – let's go to the park.
- 7 I had **so** / **such** much work to do yesterday.
- 8 Becky made **so** / **such** a good impression when she met my parents.

2 Complete the sentences with **so**, **such**, or **such a(n)**.

- 1 You really shouldn't spend _____ much time playing games.
- 2 My sister is _____ friendly and caring person!
- 3 My neighbours are _____ outgoing people and love having garden parties.
- 4 You've got _____ many clothes that you must have something I can borrow.
- 5 It was _____ amazing idea to have a family picnic in the park.
- 6 I won't ask Ann because she gave me _____ irresponsible advice last time.

3 Join the two sentences to make one. Use **so**, **such** and **that**.

- 1 My brother is a cheerful person. He says hello to everybody.

- 2 It was a wonderful holiday. We want to go back next year.

- 3 My father was inexperienced at cooking. He burned our breakfast.

- 4 It was a comfortable armchair. I fell asleep.

- 5 The shirt was inexpensive. I bought one for you too.

- 6 The weather was bad. We decided to stay at home.

4 UNIT REVIEW Choose the correct answer, A, B or C to complete the text.

My favourite cousin is the son of my dad's brother. His name is Jack and he's the same age as me. We don't have any brothers or sisters but we spend ¹ _____ time together that we are like brothers. We have ² _____ fun together and do all kinds of adventurous things like going climbing and visiting new places. We are different in many ways, however. For example, I think that Jack is ³ _____ hard-working person. He always gets good grades at school and is able to really focus ⁴ _____ one thing and does the best he can at everything. I can be rather shy – not like me. I also think he's a little too ⁵ _____ because sometimes I have to tell him not to worry ⁶ _____ what other people think or say. Despite these differences, he's still my best friend.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 A so much | B so many | C such a |
| 2 A so | B such | C such an |
| 3 A such | B such a | C so |
| 4 A at | B with | C on |
| 5 A sensible | B selfish | C sensitive |
| 6 A on | B about | C at |