

so and such

Use

Both *so ... that* and *such ... that* are used to show the results of a situation or action. They take the following structures:

Form

Example

with an adjective:

so + adjective + that

Al is **so good that** he was made manager.

with a noun:

so + many/much + noun + that

such + a/an + adjective + noun + that

such + adjective + plural noun + that

such + a lot of + noun + that

Al sells **so many cars that** he was made manager.

Al is **such a good worker that** he was made manager.

Al gets **such good results that** he was made manager.

Al makes **such a lot of money for the company that** he was made manager.

with an adverb:

so + adverb + that

Al **works so well that** he was made manager.

too and enough

Use

Both *too* and *enough* are used to talk about how much or how little of something there is. We use *too* to describe the negative effect of having more than necessary. We use *enough* to describe the effects of having/not having the right amount of something.

Form

Example

with an adjective:

too + adjective (+ full infinitive)

adjective + enough (+ full infinitive)

It's **too cold** to work in the garden.

Carol isn't **patient enough** to work as a teacher.

with a noun:

too + many/much + noun (+ full infinitive)

enough + noun (+ full infinitive)

Jonty works **too many hours** to have any hobbies.

We don't have **enough money** to pay our bills.

with an adverb:

too + adverb (+ full infinitive)

adverb + enough (+ full infinitive)

I got there **too late** to see the manager.

Jack did the work **quickly enough** to finish half an hour early.

Watch out!

- *Too* does not mean the same as *very*. We only use *too* when we are describing something negative.
✓ I've got **too much** work. I can't come out tonight.
✗ This job is ~~great~~ because you get paid ~~too much~~ money.
- *Enough* always comes after the adjective.
✓ You're not old **enough** to work here.
✗ You're not ~~enough~~ old to work here.
- Both *too* and *enough* can be followed by *for*.
✓ It's too hot **for** me in this office.
✓ You're not old enough **for** the army.

A Complete using *so* or *such*.

- 1 The pan was hot that I nearly dropped it!
- 2 Mr Jones was a kind man that I was sad when he moved to another town.
- 3 We have many pets that sometimes it's really noisy!
- 4 Alicia is good at basketball that I think she could be a professional.
- 5 There was a lot of smoke that I couldn't see.
- 6 Tyrone ran fast that no one had a chance in the race.
- 7 Cherie is popular that everyone wants to be friends with her.
- 8 Would you like to have long hair that you can sit on it?

B If the phrase in **bold** is correct, put a tick (✓). If it is wrong, write the correct phrase.

- 1 Paris Hilton is **such famous that** she gets recognised wherever she goes.
.....
- 2 There were **so many customers in the shop that** I couldn't move!
.....
- 3 The man spoke **such quickly that** I couldn't understand a word he said.
.....
- 4 I had **so good marks that** my dad bought me a new computer!
.....
- 5 Victoria is **so old that** she can remember seeing a car for the first time.
.....
- 6 There was **so a long queue that** we decided to go home.
.....
- 7 I've got **so a lot of friends that** I don't have time to see them all.
.....
- 8 Big Brother was **such successful that** they're making another series.
.....

C Complete each second sentence using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words.

- 1 I have a lot of money and I don't know what to do with it. **such**
I have that I don't know what to do with it.
- 2 Adrian fell asleep during the film because he was very tired. **so**
Adrian he fell asleep during the film.
- 3 Today was so hot that I didn't want to do anything. **such**
Today was that I didn't want to do anything.
- 4 I didn't have time to open all my Christmas presents because I got so many! **such**
I got Christmas presents that I didn't have time to open them all!
- 5 They closed the funfair because it was very dangerous. **that**
The funfair they closed it.
- 6 The food was so spicy that I couldn't eat it. **such**
We had that I couldn't eat it.

D Circle the correct word or phrase.

- 1 This soup is **very salty** / **too salty** to eat.
- 2 If you run **too fast** / **fast enough**, you might win the race.
- 3 Don't drive **too fast** / **fast enough** or you might have an accident.
- 4 Have we got **too much** / **enough** time or do we need more?
- 5 Do you think you're **too strong** / **strong enough** to lift this heavy chair?
- 6 There are **too many** / **enough** questions here! I can't do all of them in five minutes!
- 7 Are you **enough warm** / **warm enough**? Shall I put the heating on?
- 8 This tea is **too** / **enough** hot to drink. I'll wait for it to cool down.

E Complete using a word from box A and a word or phrase from box B. You have to use the words in box A more than once.

A enough • so • such • too

B a long time • a lot of fun • beautiful • early • hard • hot • many things • sweets

- 1 We were having at the party that I didn't want to come home.
- 2 I put in the plastic bag and it broke.
- 3 We didn't have for everyone to have one.
- 4 Nancy is that I think I'm falling in love with her.
- 5 It's raining to go out. Let's stay in and watch TV.
- 6 When the milk is, pour it into the cup and stir with a spoon.
- 7 We waited for that I thought the bus was never going to come!
- 8 Stacy got to the theatre that there was no one there.

F Write *so*, *such*, *too* or *enough* in each gap.

My first - and last! - day at work

I'll never forget my first day at work. It was (1) a disaster that I lost my job! The boss explained what I had to do, but she did it (2) quickly that I didn't understand. I wasn't brave (3) to ask her to repeat it, so I pretended I knew what to do. It wasn't difficult at first – just putting numbers into a computer. Soon, though, I was (4) busy that I started making more and more mistakes. I made (5) a lot of mistakes that the other workers noticed. They tried to help me, but it was (6) late. In the end, I just had (7) much to do that I gave up. I sat there and stared at my computer for two hours! The boss came back and she was (8) shocked that she fired me immediately! My first day was also my last!