

A

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**.
- Everything happened **so quickly**.

We use **such** + noun:

such a story	such people
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We also use **such** + adjective + noun:

such a stupid story	such nice people
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- 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

B

So and **such** make the meaning stronger:

- I've had a busy day. I'm **so tired**. (= really tired)
- It's difficult to understand him. He talks **so quietly**.

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

- I was **so tired that** I fell asleep in the armchair.

We usually leave out **that**:

- I was **so tired** I fell asleep.

- We had a great trip. We had **such a good time**. (= a really good time)
- You always think good things are going to happen. You're **such an optimist**.

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

- 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

So and **such** also mean 'like this':

- Somebody told me the house was built 100 years ago. I didn't realise 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**? (= a thing like this)

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.

such a long time

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

so far

- I didn't know it was **so far**.

such a long way

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

so much, so many

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

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 was a great holiday. We had such a good time.
- 2 Everything is expensive these days, isn't it?
- 3 He always looks good. He wears nice clothes.
- 4 I couldn't believe the news. It was shock.
- 5 What a nice garden! These are lovely flowers.
- 6 The party was great. It was shame you couldn't come.
- 7 I was glad to see that he looked well after his recent illness.
- 8 I have to go. I didn't realise it was late.
- 9 Why does it always take you long time to get ready?
- 10 Everything went wrong. We had bad luck.

102.2 Make one sentence from two. Choose from the box, and then complete the sentences using **so** or **such**.

The music was loud.	It was horrible weather.	I've got a lot to do.
I had a big breakfast.	It was a beautiful day.	Her English is good.
The bag was heavy.	I was surprised.	The hotel was a long way.

- 1 It was such a beautiful day , we decided to go to the beach.
- 2 , she couldn't lift it.
- 3 , I don't know where to begin.
- 4 , I didn't know what to say.
- 5 , it could be heard from miles away.
- 6 , we spent the whole day indoors.
- 7 , you would think it was her native language.
- 8 , it took us ages to get there.
- 9 , I didn't eat anything for the rest of the day.

102.3 Put the words in the right order.

- 1 I got up at six this morning. I don't usually get up so early
(get up / early / usually / so / don't)
- 2 Why ? There's plenty of time.
(a / such / hurry / you / in / are)
- 3 It took us an hour to get here. I'm
(long / it / surprised / so / took)
- 4 He said he worked for a company called Elcron, but
(such / there's / company / no)
- 5 I regret what I did. I don't know why
(such / thing / I / did / a / stupid)
- 6 Why ? Can't you drive faster?
(driving / so / you / slowly / are)
- 7 Two months? How did you ?
(English / time / learn / short / a / such / in)
- 8 Why ? You could have got a cheaper one.
(expensive / you / an / phone / did / such / buy)

102.4 Use your own ideas to complete these sentences.

- 1 We enjoyed our holiday. We had such a good time
- 2 I like Kate. She's so
- 3 I like Kate. She's such
- 4 It's good to see you again! I haven't seen you for so
- 5 I thought the airport was near the city. I didn't realise it was such
- 6 The streets were crowded. There were so