

# English Ladder

## Student Workbook

### "So" and "Such"

A polished self-study handout designed for print or tablet use. Read the concept, notice the pattern, and then complete the matching practice set on your own.



Grammar Concepts #40

Key Points






#### Visual anchor

Use the concept poster to spotlight the main language pattern in "So" and "Such" and keep the explanation visible during practice and discussion.

**ENGLISH LADDER** Concept #40 ► **So | Such**

We often use "so" or "such" to refer to a quantity or degree that causes something. But these two words are used differently.

{ "so" + adjective + Ø } { "such" + article + adjective + noun }

- The flight was **so long** (that) I fell asleep. 
  - The flight was **such a long trip** (that) I fell asleep.
- My cat is **so fun** (that) I'm never bored. 
  - I've **such a fun cat** (that) I'm never bored.
- Tokyo is **so large** (that) I always get lost. 
  - Tokyo is **such a large city** (that) I always get lost.
- John worked **so hard** (that) he got a raise. 
  - John was **such a hard worker** (that) he got a raise.
- The joke was **so funny** (that) I laughed loudly. 
  - It was **such a funny joke** (that) I laughed loudly.

Note: The word "that" is optional in all ten of these sentences.  
Note: Articles are not needed with plural nouns such as in "such fun cats".

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## Core Idea

Understanding the correct use of "so" and "such" is crucial in achieving fluency in English. These two words are used to emphasize the extent or degree of something, but they differ significantly in their grammatical usage and the type of emphasis they provide.

### Quick reference

1. The Use of "So"	"So" + adjective: When "so" is used with an adjective, it emphasizes the degree of the quality described by the adjective. The result is often described in a following clause. Example: "The flight was so long (that) I fell asleep." Here, "so long" stresses the length of the flight, with the outcome that the speaker fell asleep due to the prolonged duration.
1. The Use of "So"	"The weather was so cold (that) the lake froze overnight."
2. The Use of "Such"	"Such" + article + adjective + noun: When "such" is used, it intensifies the entire noun phrase. This construction is used to emphasize the exceptional nature of the noun described by the adjective. Example: "It was such a long trip (that) I fell asleep." "Such a long trip" underscores the unusual length of the trip, leading to the result that the speaker fell asleep.
2. The Use of "Such"	"She has such a lovely voice (that) everyone stops to listen."
2. The Use of "Such"	Example: "They are such good friends (that) they spend every day together."
2. The Use of "Such"	Example: "It was such bad weather (that) the event was canceled."

## Key Points

### 1. The Use of "So"

"So" is primarily used as an intensifier that precedes an adjective or an adverb. The structure to follow is:

Structure: "so" + adjective/adverb + (that) + clause

Explanation:



- "So" + adjective: When "so" is used with an adjective, it emphasizes the degree of the quality described by the adjective. The result is often described in a following clause. Example: "The flight was so long (that) I fell asleep." Here, "so long" stresses the length of the flight, with the outcome that the speaker fell asleep due to the prolonged duration.
- "So" + adverb: When "so" is used with an adverb, it intensifies the manner in which an action is performed, again with the resulting consequence often in a subsequent clause. Example: "He drove so quickly (that) we arrived ahead of schedule." In this case, "so quickly" emphasizes the speed at which the driving occurred, leading to the result of an early arrival.

Further Examples:

- "The weather was so cold (that) the lake froze overnight."
- "She speaks so softly (that) I can barely hear her."
- "He ran so fast (that) he won the race by a large margin."

Important Note: The word "that" in these constructions is often optional, particularly in informal speech. However, its inclusion makes the cause-and-effect relationship explicit.

## 2. The Use of "Such"

"Such" is used to emphasize a noun or a noun phrase, which typically includes an adjective. The structure is:

Structure: "such" + article + adjective + noun + (that) + clause

Explanation:

- "Such" + article + adjective + noun: When "such" is used, it intensifies the entire noun phrase. This construction is used to emphasize the exceptional nature of the noun described by the adjective. Example: "It was such a long trip (that) I fell asleep." "Such a long trip" underscores the unusual length of the trip, leading to the result that the speaker fell asleep.

Further Examples:

- "She has such a lovely voice (that) everyone stops to listen."
- "They live in such a quiet neighborhood (that) you can hear the birds chirping."
- "He faced such a difficult challenge (that) he needed extra help."

Use with Plural Nouns: When using "such" with plural nouns, the article is omitted.

- Example: "They are such good friends (that) they spend every day together."

Important Note: "Such" can be followed by an uncountable noun without an article, but this usage is less common and more advanced.

- Example: "It was such bad weather (that) the event was canceled."

## 3. Key Differences Between "So" and "Such"



To ensure precise and effective use of "so" and "such," it is essential to recognize the fundamental differences in their usage:

- **Type of Word They Modify:** "So" modifies adjectives or adverbs. It intensifies the quality or manner described. "Such" modifies nouns or noun phrases. It emphasizes the overall nature or essence of the noun.
- **Examples:** "So" + Adjective/Adverb: "The room was so clean (that) you could eat off the floor." "She smiled so warmly (that) everyone felt welcome." "Such" + Noun Phrase: "It was such a clean room (that) you could eat off the floor." "She has such a warm smile (that) everyone felt welcome."
- **Result Clauses:** Both "so" and "such" constructions often lead to a result clause introduced by "that." The word "that" clarifies the effect or outcome of the emphasized condition.

#### 4. Common Pitfalls and Correct Usage

It is common for non-native speakers to mistakenly interchange "so" and "such." The key to avoiding these errors is to focus on whether the sentence emphasizes an adjective/adverb or a noun phrase.

Common Mistakes:

- **Incorrect:** "It was so a long trip (that) I fell asleep." **Correct:** "It was such a long trip (that) I fell asleep."
- **Incorrect:** "The cake was such delicious (that) everyone ate it." **Correct:** "The cake was so delicious (that) everyone ate it."

Guidelines to Avoid Mistakes:

- Use "so" with adjectives/adverbs: "She was so happy (that) she couldn't stop smiling."
- Use "such" with noun phrases: "It was such a happy moment (that) everyone celebrated."

#### 5. Advanced Examples for Practice

For learners who are comfortable with the basic structures, here are some more complex examples that illustrate the use of "so" and "such."

- **With "So":** "The lecture was so intriguing (that) the audience remained silent throughout." "He reacted so calmly (that) no one realized how serious the situation was."
- **With "Such":** "It was such a riveting lecture (that) the audience remained silent throughout." "They are such dedicated volunteers (that) they work on weekends without complaint."

By rigorously practicing the use of "so" and "such" in various sentence structures, learners can significantly improve their ability to express emphasis in English. Understanding the nuances of these words will not only make your language more accurate but also more expressive and effective.



## Practice Check

Answer the quiz questions below with responses consistent with the grammar concepts taught in this article. Choose " so " or " such " to make the sentences grammatically correct. The word (that) is optional in these sentences.

### ITEM 01

The cake was \_\_\_\_ delicious (that) everyone wanted a second slice.

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 02

It was \_\_\_\_ a cold night (that) we decided to stay indoors.

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 03

She spoke \_\_\_\_ quietly (that) no one could hear her.

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 04

It was \_\_\_\_ a long journey (that) we had to stop twice.

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 05

He was \_\_\_\_ tired (that) he fell asleep in the middle of the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 06

The teacher gave \_\_\_\_ difficult homework (that) the students needed extra help.

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 07

The music was \_\_\_\_ loud (that) it could be heard from the street.

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEM 08

They are \_\_\_\_ good friends (that) they share everything.

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## ITEM 09

The weather was \_\_\_\_ nice (that) we spent the entire day outside.

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Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 10

The city is \_\_\_\_ big (that) you can easily get lost.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 11

It was \_\_\_\_ an interesting movie (that) I watched it twice.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 12

The exam was \_\_\_\_ hard (that) most students failed.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 13

She gave \_\_\_\_ good advice (that) I followed it immediately.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 14

The soup was \_\_\_\_ hot (that) I had to wait before eating it.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 15

It was \_\_\_\_ a beautiful painting (that) everyone admired it.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 16

The athlete ran \_\_\_\_ fast (that) he broke the record.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 17

It was \_\_\_\_ a shocking news (that) everyone was speechless.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 18

The cake was \_\_\_\_ sweet (that) I couldn't finish it.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## ITEM 19

He gave \_\_\_\_ an interesting lecture (that) no one wanted it to end.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 20

The dog was \_\_\_\_ friendly (that) even strangers petted it.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 21

It was \_\_\_\_ an exciting game (that) we couldn't stop cheering.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 22

She performed \_\_\_\_ well (that) she received a standing ovation.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 23

It was \_\_\_\_ a big surprise (that) everyone gasped.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## ITEM 24

The soup was \_\_\_\_ hot (that) I had to blow on it before eating.

---

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## Self-check Answer Key

Use the key after you have completed every item on your own.

**ITEM 01**

The cake was Correct so delicious (that) everyone wanted a second slice.

**ITEM 02**

It was Correct such a cold night (that) we decided to stay indoors.

**ITEM 03**

She spoke Correct so quietly (that) no one could hear her.

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It was Correct such a long journey (that) we had to stop twice.

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**ITEM 14**

The soup was Correct so hot (that) I had to wait before eating it.

**ITEM 15**It was **Correct** such a beautiful painting (that) everyone admired it.**ITEM 16**The athlete ran **Correct** so fast (that) he broke the record.**ITEM 17**It was **Correct** such a shocking news (that) everyone was speechless.**ITEM 18**The cake was **Correct** so sweet (that) I couldn't finish it.**ITEM 19**He gave **Correct** such an interesting lecture (that) no one wanted it to end.**ITEM 20**The dog was **Correct** so friendly (that) even strangers petted it.**ITEM 21**It was **Correct** such an exciting game (that) we couldn't stop cheering.**ITEM 22**She performed **Correct** so well (that) she received a standing ovation.**ITEM 23**It was **Correct** such a big surprise (that) everyone gasped.**ITEM 24**The soup was **Correct** so hot (that) I had to blow on it before eating.