

Unit 98

So and such

**a** Study these examples:

- I didn't enjoy the book. The story was **so** stupid.
- I didn't enjoy the book. It was **such** a stupid story.

We use **so** with an adjective *without* a noun: **so stupid**  
We use **such** with an adjective *with* a noun: **such a stupid story**

You can also use **so** with an adverb:

- He's difficult to understand because he speaks **so** quickly.

**b** **So** and **such** make the meaning of the adjective stronger:

- It's a lovely day, isn't it? It's **so** warm. (= really warm)
- We enjoyed our holiday. We had **such a good time**. (= a really good time)

Compare **so** and **such** in these sentences:

- I like Tom and Ann. They are **so** nice.
- I like Tom and Ann. They are **such** nice people. (*not* 'so nice people')

We often say **so ... that ...** and **such ... that ...**:

- I was **so** tired **that** I went to bed at seven o'clock.
- She worked **so** hard **that** she made herself ill.
- It was **such** lovely weather **that** we spent the whole day in the garden.
- || The book was **so** good **that** I couldn't put it down.
- || It was **such** a good book **that** I couldn't put it down.

You can leave out **that** in these sentences:

- I was so tired (that) I went to bed at 7 o'clock.

**c** In these sentences we use **so** and **such** in a different way:

- I expected the weather to be much cooler. I didn't expect it to be **so** warm. (= as warm as it is)
- I'm tired because I got up at 6 o'clock. I don't usually get up **so** early. (= as early as 6 o'clock)
- Hurry up! Don't walk **so** slowly. (= as slowly as you are walking)
- I was surprised when Jack told me the house was built 100 years ago. || I didn't realise it was **so** old. (= as old as it is)
- || I didn't realise it **such** an old house.

**d** We say: **so** long but '**such** a long time'; **so** far but '**such** a long way'; **so** many, **so** much but '**such** a lot (of)':

- I haven't seen him for **so** long that I've forgotten what he looks like. (*or ... for such a long time ...*)
- I didn't know you lived **so** far from the city centre. (*or ... such a long way from ...*)
- Why did you buy **so** much food? (*or ... such a lot of food?*)

- || The book was **so** good **that** I couldn't put it down.
- || It was **such** a good book **that** I couldn't put it down.

