

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**

We also use **such** + *adjective + noun*:

such a stupid story **such nice people**

- ☐ 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.
I had a big breakfast.
The bag was heavy.

It was horrible weather.
~~It was a beautiful day.~~
I was surprised.

I've got a lot to do.
Her English is good.
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