

LESSON 137

761 “So” – and its many uses (continued)

it is not so so, you have come! it so happens
I told you so just (exactly)

Here are some more expressions in English that contain the word “so”:

- 1) “He said the train had left, but it was not so.”
Here, the word “so” means “true”.
- 2) “So, you’ve got a new job, I hear!”
Here, the word “so” is used to start a conversation on a particular subject.
- 3) “It so happens I have just the thing you are looking for.”
Here, the expression “it so happens” means “by chance”.
- 4) “I told you so! We spent too long in the restaurant, and now we’ve missed the last bus home!”
Here, the expression “I told you so” means “This is exactly what I predicted”.

Can you give me some further examples of the word “so”?

Some further ... are 1) He said the train had ... etc.

melt

What do we get when ice melts?

We get water when ice melts

have something to do with ...

Has my job got anything to do with art?

No, your job ...

762 If you interfered in a private matter that had nothing to do with you,
what might somebody say to you? If I ...
"Mind your own business!"

pick at

pick out

Why do people sometimes pick at their food? People sometimes ...
because they aren't very hungry,
or they don't like the food very much

Do you find it hard to pick out the right clothes to wear when you're
going to a party? Yes, I find it ... ~ No, I don't find it ...

regard

regards

greet

greetings

bye-bye

see you

Do you think most people in this country regard pollution as a serious
problem? Yes, I think most ... ~ No, I don't think most ...

When we want to send our greetings to somebody through a third
person, what do we say? When we want ...
we say "Give my regards to ..."

What do we say when we greet someone in the street?
When we greet ..., we say
"Hello!", "Good evening!" etc.

And what do we say when we leave someone?
When we leave someone, we say
"Goodbye", "Bye bye", "See you", "Cheers" etc.

scent

give off

Which flower do you think gives off the nicest scent? I think the ...
gives off the nicest scent

763 **welcome**

What does somebody mean when they open their front door and say
"Welcome!" to a visitor? When somebody ...
they mean that they are happy
to invite the visitor into their home

When was the last time you went to an airport to welcome a friend or relative? The last time I ... was ...

go right **temper** **lose one's temper**

thoughtful **go bad**

When things don't go right, what do you do: lose your temper, or just become very quiet and thoughtful? When things

don't go right, I ..

What do we do with food that has gone bad? We throw away food that has gone bad

What kind of things put you in a bad temper? The kind of temper are ...

Would you say that, generally speaking, women were more sweet-tempered than men? Yes, I'd say that ...
~ No, I wouldn't say that...

by now

If you had left for Scotland ten hours ago, would you have arrived there by now? Yes, if I'd left ..., I'd ...
~ No, if I'd left ..., I wouldn't ...

764 **warn** **ahead** **triangle**

What kind of sign do we see on the side of the road that warns us that there's danger ahead? The kind of sign we ...

ahead is usually a red triangle with a picture of the danger in the middle. If, for example, there is a dangerous bend ahead, there will be a line in the shape of a dangerous bend inside the triangle.

mercy

In ancient history, did the conquerors of a country usually show mercy to the people of the country they had conquered? No, in ancient history, the conquerors ...

desire

What's a similar word to "wish"?

A similar word to "wish" is "desire"

Do you have any great desire to travel around the world at some point in your life?

Yes, I have a great ...

~ No, I don't have any great ...

ignore

If you developed an ache in your lower back that would not go away, would you ignore it or go to the doctor?

If I developed ..., I'd ...

765 upright

lung

organ

Why is it healthier to sit and walk upright rather than with one's head and shoulders bent forward?

The reason it's

healthier ... is that the lungs

and other organs of the body are not pressed

against each other, and, with an upright back, the blood

moves more freely in the body and the person feels less tired

seldom

What's another word for "rarely"?

Another word ...

What's the difference between "seldom" and "rarely"?

The difference between "seldom" and "rarely"

is that "seldom" is a more formal word than "rarely"

Does it often rain in the south of Spain?

No, it doesn't ...

it seldom rains ...

work out

Work out this problem, please: what gets wetter while it's drying?

The answer is "a towel"

What are you doing?

I'm working out a problem

confusion

electrical

Do you agree that the instruction booklets that come with electrical products sometimes contain so much detail that they simply cause confusion?

Yes, I agree that...

~ No, I don't agree that...

766 advance

step by step

progress

in advance

in arrears

Why is it better to advance step by step when learning a foreign language rather than try to progress too quickly?

The reason it's better to advance ...

too quickly is that it's impossible to

absorb high level language unless you can use

language from lower levels easily and without thinking

Do advances in science mean that more people are living longer these days than ever before?

Yes, advances in ...

When people work, are they normally paid in advance or in arrears?

When people work, ... in arrears

cuff

preparation

Idiom 38

off the cuff = without preparation

e.g. In answer to my question about prices, he was only able to give me a rough idea off the cuff, but said he would email me a full and proper answer the following day.

What does the idiom "off the cuff" mean?

The idiom ...

"without preparation"

Give me an example, please.

He gave his wedding

speech off the cuff because he

hadn't had any time to prepare properly

767 Have you ever had to make a speech off the cuff?

Yes, I've had to ...
~ No, I've never had to ...

valley

injustice



Dictation 92

The chickens/ have not laid a single egg/ for an entire week./ The soldiers behaved with great courage/ and fought well,/ but still they lost the battle./ He had the choice/ of either entering the government/ and becoming some kind of official/ or of entering the church/ and becoming a priest./ The village looked very pretty/ lying in the valley/ in the morning sunshine./ It is not uncommon/ in big cities/ to find people on the street/ preaching against social injustices./ Some people find travelling/ a stressful experience.