

## So and such

### A

Compare so and such:

We use **so** + *adjective/adverb*:

so stupid      so quick  
so nice        so quickly

- I didn't enjoy the book. The story was so stupid.
- I like Tom and Ann. They are so nice.

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 Tom and Ann. They are such nice people. (*not* so nice people)

Note that we say **such a . . .**:

- It's such a big house. (*not* a such big house)

### B

So and such make the meaning of an adjective (or adverb) stronger:

- It's a beautiful day, isn't it? It's so warm. (= really warm)
- He's hard to understand because he speaks so quickly.

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

- The book was so good that I couldn't put it down.
- I was so tired that I fell asleep in the armchair.

You can leave out **that**:

- I was so tired (that) I fell asleep.

- We enjoyed our vacation. We had such a good time. (= a really good time)

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

- It was such a good book that I couldn't put it down.
- It was such nice weather that we spent the whole day at the beach.

You can leave out **that**:

- It was such nice weather (that) we . . .

### C

We also use so and such to mean "like this":

- I was surprised to find out that the house was built 100 years ago. I didn't realize it was so old. (= as old as it is)
- I'm tired because I got up at 6:00. I don't usually get up so early.

- I didn't realize it was such an old house.
- The house was so messy. I've never seen such a mess. (= a mess like this)

### D

We say **so long** *but* **such a long time**:

- I haven't seen her for so long I've forgotten what she looks like.

**so far** *but* **such a long way**:

- I didn't know it was so far.

**so much, so many** *but* **such a lot of**:

- Why did you buy so much food?

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

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

- Why did you buy such a lot of food?

# Exercises

## 99.1 Put in *so*, *such*, or *such a(n)*.

1. He's hard to understand because he speaks so quickly.
2. I like Tom and Ann. They're such nice people.
3. It was a great vacation. We had such a good time.
4. I was surprised that he looked \_\_\_\_\_ good after his recent illness.
5. Everything is \_\_\_\_\_ expensive these days, isn't it?
6. The weather is beautiful, isn't it? I didn't expect it to be \_\_\_\_\_ nice day.
7. I have to go. I didn't realize it was \_\_\_\_\_ late.
8. He always looks good. He wears \_\_\_\_\_ nice clothes.
9. It was \_\_\_\_\_ exciting movie that I couldn't go to sleep when I got home.
10. I couldn't believe the news. It was \_\_\_\_\_ shock.
11. I think she works too hard. She looks \_\_\_\_\_ tired all the time.
12. The food at the hotel was \_\_\_\_\_ awful. I've never eaten \_\_\_\_\_ awful food.
13. They've got \_\_\_\_\_ much money, they don't know what to do with it.
14. I didn't realize you lived \_\_\_\_\_ long way from downtown.
15. I can't decide what to do. It's \_\_\_\_\_ problem.

## 99.2 Make one sentence from two. Use *so* or *such*.

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <del>She worked hard.</del>        | You could hear it from miles away.                  |
| 2. <del>It was a beautiful day.</del> | You would think it was her native language.         |
| 3. I was tired.                       | We spent the whole day indoors.                     |
| 4. We had a good time on vacation.    | <del>She made herself sick.</del>                   |
| 5. She speaks English well.           | I couldn't keep my eyes open.                       |
| 6. I've got a lot to do.              | I didn't eat anything else for the rest of the day. |
| 7. The music was loud.                | <del>We decided to go to the beach.</del>           |
| 8. I had a big breakfast.             | I don't know where to begin.                        |
| 9. It was terrible weather.           | We didn't want to come home.                        |

1. She worked so hard (that) she made herself sick.
2. It was such a beautiful day (that) we decided to go to the beach.
3. I was \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_

## 99.3 Use your own ideas to complete these pairs of sentences.

1. a) We enjoyed our vacation. It was so relaxing.
- b) We enjoyed our vacation. We had such a good time.
2. a) I don't like New York very much. It's so \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) I don't like New York very much. It's such \_\_\_\_\_.
3. a) I like Ann. She's so \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) I like Ann. She's such \_\_\_\_\_.
4. a) I wouldn't want to be a teacher. It's so \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) I wouldn't want to be a teacher. It's such \_\_\_\_\_.
5. a) It's great to see you again! I haven't seen you for so \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) It's great to see you again! I haven't seen you for such \_\_\_\_\_.