

# English Grammar



## SO and SUCH

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# SO and SUCH

## **So and Such**

Do you have trouble with the English words **SO** and **SUCH**? The meaning can be the same but they are used with different grammar. (Different kinds of words.)

**SO** is used to mean very; extremely or to some high degree or level.

“Patricia is **so** nice. I really like talking to her.”

**SUCH** is used to so show a high level of importance.

“Patricia is **such** a nice person. I really like talking to her.”

Both words are used to give more emphasis to an **adjective** or **adverb** but the grammar is different. **SO** is used with **adjectives** and **adverbs** by themselves. **SUCH** is used with **adjective phrases**. (**adjectives** connected to **nouns**)



# SO and SUCH

Both words are used to give more emphasis to an **adjective** or **adverb** but the grammar is different.

**SO** is used with adjectives and adverbs by themselves.

## SO

*hungry* **adjective**

“I’m **so** *hungry*! When is dinner?” = I’m extremely hungry!

*busy* **adjective**

“I asked Greg to go to his favorite restaurant for lunch but he said no. He must be **so** *busy* today.” = Greg must be very busy.

*quickly* **adverb**

“Greg came in the lunchroom and ate his lunch **so** *quickly*. He was gone in just 5 minutes.” = Greg ate his lunch very quickly.

*quietly* **adverb**

“I teach high school students, sometimes they talk **so** *quietly* it’s hard to hear them. Don’t be shy! English is fun!” = my high school students sometimes talk very quietly



# SO and SUCH



**SUCH** is used with adjective phrases. (**adjectives** connected to **nouns**) Please look at the following examples:

## SUCH

*busy* **adjective** + *guy* **noun**

“We asked Greg to come over for dinner last Thursday but he didn’t have time. He is **such a busy guy**.” = Greg is a very busy person.

*angry* **adjective** + *driver* **noun**

“I don’t like to take road trips with Alex. He is **such an angry driver**, it’s stressful to be in a car with him.” = Alex gets very angry when he drives.



# SO and SUCH

We asked Greg to come over for dinner last Thursday but he didn't have time. He is **such** *a busy guy*.



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## SUCH

Remember that singular countable nouns like guy and driver can't be used by themselves.

~~"He is such busy guy."~~ Is incorrect. The article a is needed here.

"He is such a busy guy."

The article will come after SUCH. He is such an angry driver.

## English Expression

### "No such thing."





# SO and SUCH

Expression “No such thing.”

This is used to say that something does not exist.

A: “I just saw a ghost!”

B: “There are **no such things** as ghosts, I think you made a mistake.”

Another expression that uses this phrase is “**There ain't no such thing as a free lunch.**” This comes from bars in America in the 19th century offering free lunch for people who come in and order a drink. From Wikipedia:

Many foods on offer were high in salt (e.g., ham, cheese, and salted crackers), so those who ate them ended up buying a lot of beer.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/There\\_ain%27t\\_no\\_such\\_thing\\_as\\_a\\_free\\_lunch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/There_ain%27t_no_such_thing_as_a_free_lunch)

So even though the lunch was “free” you are paying lots of money for beer because the salty food makes you thirsty. You think you are getting free food but you are still giving lots of money to the bar!



# SO and SUCH

## There's No Such Thing as an Accident

This expression can be used to mean that any accident can be prevented if we take enough care and time to be careful.

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/224348>

A: "I had an accident last weekend, my car hit a tree."

B: "**There is no such thing as an accident.** How fast were you going? Were you looking at your phone while you were driving?"





# SO and SUCH

## SO with Determiners

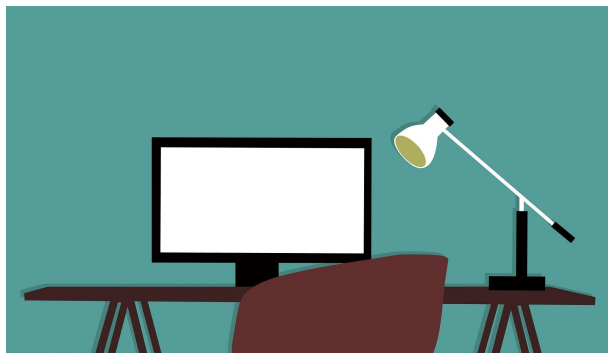
**SO** can be used with the determiners much, many, little, and few to make them stronger. In English grammar a determiner is a word that comes before a noun to show how the noun is being used.

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/determiner?q=determiner>

Greg has **so much** responsibility at work, he works overtime every day. I feel bad for him. He has **so little** free time.

\*We don't use SUCH this way.

~~Greg has such much responsibility at work.~~



So much to do, so little time.





# SO and SUCH

## Compare SO and SUCH

“I just learned that my neighbor is 89. I didn’t know he was **SO** old, he looks much younger!” (Old is an adjective.)

“I just learned that my neighbor is 89. I didn’t know he was **SUCH** an old man! I thought he was much younger.” (An old man is an adjective phrase.)

“I love living in Japan. It’s **so** interesting! I find cool new things everyday.”

“I love living in Japan. It’s **such** an interesting place! I find cool new things everyday.”





# SO and SUCH quiz

## Fill in the blanks using SO or SUCH

Write the sentences in a notebook or on your computer or mobile device.  
Then check your answers at the bottom of this PDF.

- I need to improve my listening skills. At company meetings the native English speakers talk \_\_\_\_ quickly.
- It's \_\_\_\_ a nice day! Don't waste it in front of the TV.
- I want to get an iPhone X but they are \_\_\_\_ expensive.
- I read Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in one day. It was \_\_\_\_ an interesting book I couldn't put it down.
- I read Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in one day. It was \_\_\_\_ interesting I couldn't put it down.

\*I couldn't put it down = I could not take the book off my hands because the story was very good. I didn't want to stop reading.

- Carl and Michelle are \_\_\_\_ nice people. In always happy to spend time with them.



# SO and SUCH quiz

→ 2 staff members at my office have the flu. We were short staffed yesterday so I was pulling double duty all day. I was \_\_\_ tired after work.

\*Pulling double duty - double means two times (X 2) so we can imagine double duty means doing two jobs or twice as much work. (as usual)

→ I sat underneath the air conditioner at the cafe. I was comfortable but my coffee got cold \_\_\_ fast.

→ Wow it's already 11:00! I didn't realize it was \_\_\_ late.

→ The concert was so amazing! It's \_\_\_ a pity Oliver couldn't come, he would have loved it!

→ I have so much work to do this week. The year end is always busy, everyone at the office is \_\_\_ stressed.

→ I love LA! It's such an exciting city. In my hometown the people are \_\_\_ jerks.



# SO and SUCH quiz

## Quiz Answers

I need to improve my listening skills. In the meetings at work native speakers talk **so** quickly.

It's **such** a nice day! Don't waste it in front of the TV.

I want to get an iPhone X but they are **so** expensive.

I read Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in one day. It was **such** an interesting book I couldn't put it down.

I read Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in one day. It was **so** interesting I couldn't put it down.

Carl and Michelle are **such** nice people. In always happy to spend time with them.

2 staff members at my office have the flu. We were short staffed yesterday so I was pulling double duty all day. I was **so** tired after work.

I sat underneath the air conditioner at the cafe. I was comfortable but my coffee got cold **so** fast.

Wow it's already 11:00! I didn't realize it was **so** late.



# SO and SUCH quiz

The concert was so amazing! It's **such** a pity Oliver couldn't come, he would have loved it!

I have so much work to do this week. The year end is always busy, everyone at the office is **so** stressed.

I love LA! It's such an exciting city. In my hometown the people are **such** jerks.

Did you get the last sentence correct? We sometimes use **SUCH** with *plural nouns* that already have a negative (or positive) feeling without an adjective. - The **noun**  *jerk* has a negative feeling already.

Below are 2 more examples with plural nouns.

The staff at city hall are **such** *idiots*!

I will babysit for you anytime, your children are **such** *angels*!





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