

103 "So" and "such"

"So" and "such" are adverbs which can be used with certain words to add emphasis. They are similar in meaning, but they are used in different structures.

See also:

Adjectives **92** Comparative adjectives **94** Adverbs of manner **98** Comparative and superlative adverbs **99**

103.1 "SO" AND "SUCH"

Unlike most adverbs, "such" can be used before a noun to add emphasis. It can also be used before an adjective and noun combination.

"SUCH" + "A / AN" + NOUN

The trial was **such** a success.



TIP
"Such" + "a / an" is more common with extreme nouns rather than neutral ones.

"SUCH" + "A / AN" + ADJECTIVE + NOUN

It was **such** an important experiment.



"So" can be used before an adjective or an adverb to add emphasis.

"SO" + ADJECTIVE

The reaction is **so** dangerous.



"SO" + ADVERB

The surgery went **so** well!



TIP
"So" is never used on its own before comparative words.

"So much" is used before a comparative adjective or a comparative adverb to add stronger emphasis.

"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE

This hospital is **so much** cleaner than that other one.



"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADVERB

Diseases spread **so much** faster as a result of air travel.



103.2 "SO" AND "SUCH" WITH "THAT"

"That" can be used with "so" and "such" to introduce a particular result caused by the fact being emphasized.

"SUCH" + "A/AN" + NOUN + "THAT"



The disease is **such** a mystery **that** it doesn't even have a name yet.

"SUCH" + "A/AN" + ADJECTIVE + NOUN + "THAT"



This is **such** a strange injury **that** it is hard to diagnose.

"SO" + ADJECTIVE + "THAT"



Medical research is **so** expensive **that** drugs are often costly.

"SO" + ADVERB + "THAT"



He recovered **so** quickly **that** he was able to go home the next day.

"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVE + "THAT"



The new treatment was **so much** more effective **that** he felt better the same day.

"SO MUCH" + COMPARATIVE ADVERB + "THAT"



Hospitals are now being built **so much** more quickly **that** more people can be treated.