

# Grammar Reference

## Intensifiers: so, such, enough, too

### Meaning and use

We use **so**, **such**, **enough** and **too** to indicate degree. **So** and **such** give emphasis and mean 'very'. **Too** means more than necessary, and **enough** indicates the right amount of something.

*It's **so cold** today!*

*That's **such a pretty dress**!*

*£150! That's much **too expensive** for a pair of shoes.*

*We'll have to buy a bigger car. This one's not **big enough** for all of us.*

We can also use **so** and **too** with **much** and **many** to talk about the amount of something. **So much/many** means a lot of something. **Too much/many** means more than we want or need of something.

*I've got **so much** work to do tonight.*

*There are just **too many cars** on the roads these days.*

### Form

#### So

For degree, it's **so + adjective**:

*I love watching Mr Bean. He's so funny!*

or **so + adverb**:

*He plays the piano so well!*

For amount, it's **so + much/many + noun** to say we have a lot of something. Use **so much** with **uncountable nouns** and **so many** with **countable nouns**.

*What a great party! We had **so much fun**!* (fun = uncountable)

*We visited **so many places**.* (place = countable)

You can also use **so much** after a **verb**.

*I **like** his music **so much**.*

#### Take note: so + noun or verb

In modern spoken English, **so** is increasingly being used before nouns and verbs.

*That dress is **so last year**!* (= That dress is last year's fashion.)

*I'm **so going to shout** at him when I see him!* (so = really)

#### Such

We use **such** before an **adjective and noun**. If the noun is countable and singular, you need to put 'a' or 'an' after **such**.

*That's **such a cute dog**!* (dog = countable noun)

*We had **such nice weather** on holiday!* (weather = uncountable noun)

#### Remember

Make sure you put **a/ an** after **such**, not before.

~~That's a such pretty dress.~~ => That's **such a** pretty dress!

#### Take note: so/such + that for cause and effect

**So** and **such** can be used with a **that** clause to express cause and effect, or reason and result.

*She felt **so upset that** she started to cry.*

*They had **such an awful time that** they said they'd never go again.*

**That** introduces the result. But in informal English, we sometimes leave it out.

*It was **such a bad film** he left before the end.*

*There were **so many restaurants** they didn't know which one to choose.*

#### Too

To indicate degree, it's **too + adjective**:

*This restaurant's **too crowded**. Let's go somewhere else.*

Or **too + adverb**:

*You're walking **too fast**! Slow down!*

To talk about an **amount** or **number** of something which is **more** than what we want or need, it's **too much** or **too many + noun**. Use **too much** before **uncountable** nouns and **too many** before **countable** nouns.

*Ugh! You've put **too much sugar** in my tea!* (sugar = uncountable)

*I ate **too many biscuits**.* (biscuit = countable)

You can also use **too much** on its own after a verb.

*Sarah drinks **too much**.*

#### Take note: too with negative

If we say a sentence with **too** in the **negative form**, then we mean it isn't a problem. The form is **not + too + adjective**.

*It's **not too late** to buy tickets for the final. There are still some on sale.*

#### Enough

We use **enough** to express that something is or isn't the right degree or amount. We put it after an **adjective** or **verb**.

It's **adjective + enough** in positive sentences and questions or **not + adjective + enough** in negative sentences.

*Is it **warm enough** for you in here?*

*He doesn't **sleep enough**. That's why he's always tired.*

We put **enough** before a **noun**.

It's **enough + noun** in positive sentences and questions or **not + enough + noun** in negative sentences.

*Do we have **enough money** to go abroad this year?*

*There **aren't enough knives and forks** for all the guests.*

Sentences with **enough** are sometimes followed by **to + verb infinitive**.

*She's definitely **smart enough to become** director.*

*There aren't **enough players** to make a team.*