

USING **SO** AND **SUCH** TO EXPRESS CAUSE AND EFFECT

USING **SO**

Example

The deal was **so good that** we couldn't pass it up.

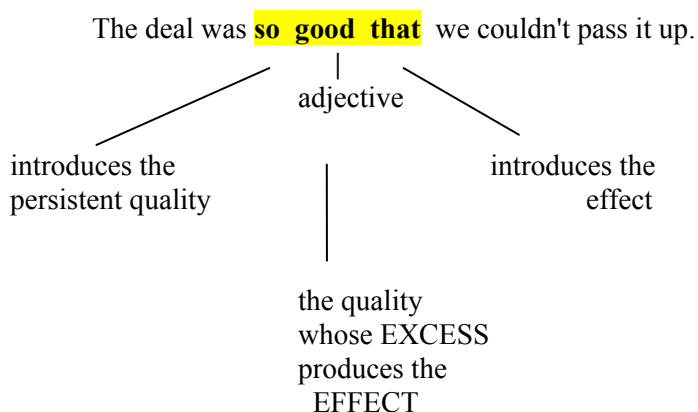
The deal was very good. For this reason, we couldn't pass it up.

- **So** introduces a *persistent quality*. This quality is expressed in the form of an *adjective* or an *adverb*.

The deal was **so good**

- The *quality*, **good**, causes an effect. *Effect* means *result*.
- **That** introduces *the effect*.

- . . .**that** we couldn't pass it up.



Note that **so** indicates *persistence* or *excess*. It is *not* merely the goodness of the deal that caused us to take it. There are a lot of good deals. We could not pass up that deal because it was **too good**. The **excess** of this characteristic/quality **resulted in** our not being able to pass it up.

Another way to express this idea is as follows:

- The deal was **too good to** pass up.

Note that **so** can also be followed by an *adverb*. For example:

- They spoke **so quickly that** we couldn't understand them.

USING *SUCH*

Example

It was **such a good deal that** we couldn't pass it up.

- **Such** introduces a *persistent quality*.
This *persistent quality* is expressed in the form of an *adjective + noun* (adjective phrase).

such a good deal

- **That** introduces *the effect*:

...**that** we couldn't pass it up.



DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN *SO* AND *SUCH*

The **only distinction** between *so* and *such* is a **structural** one.

So is followed by an *adjective* or *adverb*; *such* is followed by an *adjective phrase*:

- **so egregious that**
- **such egregious conduct that**

NOTE that *such* will be followed by one of the following three adjective phrases:

1. **such + a/an + adjective + singular countable noun**
 - such an important client
 - such a flagrant violation
 - such a good deal

2. **such + adjective + plural countable noun**

- such important clients
- such flagrant violations
- such good deals

3. **such + adjective + uncountable noun**

- such timely advice
- such terrible coffee
- such egregious conduct
- such relevant evidence
- such useful information

GRAMMAR EXERCISE
USING *SO* TO EXPRESS CAUSE AND EFFECT

Directions: **Combine** each of the following pairs of sentences into one sentence, maintaining the cause and effect relationship of the two actions. Use **so + quality + that**, like in the example. Some sentences may be re-phrased using **such + adjective phrase + that**, as well.

Example:

They speak very quickly. As a result of their quick speech, I cannot always understand them.
They speak so quickly that I cannot always understand them.

1. The library was very noisy. Because of the loud noise, she couldn't keep her mind on her work.
2. Bob is extremely task oriented. For this reason, he doesn't always see the big picture.
3. Damages awarded by American courts are very high. That's why no countries have enforcement treaties with the U.S.
4. The industry outlook is changing very quickly. That's why only experts can keep up with it.
5. The defendant's conduct was absolutely egregious. Thus, the judge refused to consider mitigating factors.
6. Benny has great selling skills. That's why he'll pull this deal off in the end.
7. I cannot grasp the Bluebook citation rules. They're too arcane.
8. He turned down the new job offer. It involved too much traveling.
9. That's a good idea. It's sure to catch on.
10. The EU was extremely put out by the extraterritorial assertions of the (U.S.) Helms-Burton Act. As a result, it enacted countermeasures in a blocking statute a few years later.

ANSWERS TO GRAMMAR EXERCISE
USING SO TO EXPRESS CAUSE AND EFFECT

1. The library was very noisy. Because of the loud noise, she couldn't keep her mind on her work.

The library was so noisy that she couldn't keep her mind on her work.

2. Bob is extremely task oriented. For this reason he doesn't always see the big picture.

Bob is so task oriented that he doesn't always see the big picture. – or –

Bob is such a task oriented person that he doesn't always see the big picture.

3. Damages awarded by American courts are very high. That's why no countries have enforcement treaties with the U.S.¹

Damages awarded by American courts are so high that no countries have enforcement treaties with the U.S. – or –

American courts award such high damages that no countries have enforcement treaties with the U.S.

4. The industry outlook is changing very quickly. That's why only experts can keep up with it.

The industry outlook is changing so quickly that only experts can keep up with it.

5. The defendant's conduct was absolutely egregious. Thus, the judge refused to consider mitigating factors.

The defendant's conduct was so egregious that the judge refused to consider mitigating factors.

6. Benny has great selling skills. That's why he'll pull this deal off in the end.

Benny's selling skills are so great that he'll pull this deal off in the end.

7. I cannot grasp the Bluebook citation rules. They're too arcane.

The Bluebook citation rules are so arcane that I cannot grasp them.

¹ *Note*, however, that the U.S. is one of over 120 countries that have ratified the U.N. Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitration Awards (a/k/a the N.Y. CONVENTION).

8. He turned down the new job offer. It involved too much traveling.

The new job involved so much traveling that he turned down the offer.

9. That's a good idea. It's sure to catch on.

**That idea is so good that it's sure to catch on. – or –
It's such a good idea that it's sure to catch on.**

10. The EU was extremely put out by the extraterritorial assertions of the (U.S.) Helms-Burton Act.² As a result, it enacted countermeasures in a blocking statute a few years later.³

The EU was so put out by the extraterritorial assertions of the (U.S.) Helms-Burton Act that it enacted countermeasures in a blocking statute a few years later.

² Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-114, 110 Stat. 785 (1996) (codified at 22 U.S.C. §6021-6091 (Supp. II 1996)).

³ Council Regulation (EC) No 2271/96 of 22 November 1996 Protecting Against the Effects of the Extra-Territorial Application of Legislation Adopted by a Third Country, and Actions Based Thereon or Resulting Therefrom, 1996 O.J. (L 309) 1.