

The background features a gradient from dark purple at the top to deep blue at the bottom. Overlaid on this are several faint, white circular patterns. A large circular scale on the left side has markings from 140 to 260 in increments of 10. Other smaller circles with arrows indicating clockwise or counter-clockwise rotation are scattered across the image.

SUCH VS SO

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SUCH

Such is used with nouns and noun phrases. It comes before a/an:

Such people

Such interesting ideas

Such a decision (not ~~a such decision~~)

SUCH

Such can mean “like this\that”, “of this\that kind”. This is most common in a formal style, with abstract nouns:

The committee wishes to raise fees. I would oppose such a decision.

There are various forms of secret writing. Such systems are called ‘codes’.

In an informal style, and with concrete nouns, we prefer like this\that or this\that kind of:

...systems like this are called...

He’s got an old Rolls-Royce. I’d like a car like that. (not ~~I’d like such a car.~~)

SUCH

Such is used to talk about a high degree of some quality. In this sense, such is common before adjective + noun.

I'm sorry you had such a bad journey.

It was a pleasure to meet such interesting people.

Such is also possible with this meaning before a noun alone, when the noun has an emphatic descriptive meaning:

I'm glad your concert was such a success.

Why did she make such a fuss about the dates?

SUCH VS VERY, GREAT ETC.

Very, great and similar words are also used to talk about a high degree of some quality. The difference is that they give new information; such (like this\that) normally refers to information that is already known:

I've had a very bad day. (giving information)

Why did you have such a bad day? (the information is already known)

The weather was very cold. (giving information)

I wasn't expecting such cold weather. (the information is already known)

There was great confusion. (giving information)

Why was there such confusion? (the information is already known)

However, in a very informal style such also can be used to mean “very” or “great”, especially, in exclamations:

She has such a marvelous voice! He's such an idiot!

SUCH VS VERY, GREAT, ETC.

Structures with *very* cannot be followed directly by *that*-clauses. Instead, we can use *such....that*.

It was such a cold afternoon that we stopped playing. (not ~~it was a very cold afternoon that...~~)

There is also a structure with *such* followed by + *as to* + infinitive.

This is formal and not very common:

It was such a loud noise as to wake everybody in the house.

Less formal – (... *such a loud voice that it woke....*)

SUCH AS

Such as is used to introduce examples:

My doctor told me to avoid fatty foods such as bacon or hamburgers.

SUCH – AND- SUCH

There is an informal expression: such-and-such

She's always telling you that she's met such-and-such a famous person. (=one or other famous person)

SUCH BEFORE (ADJECTIVE+) NOUN

We use *such* before a noun (with or without an adjective):

They're such fools. (NOT: ~~They're so fools.~~)

It was such good milk that we couldn't stop drinking it. (NOT: ~~It was so good milk that...~~)

Such comes before a/an:

She's such a baby.

I've never met such a nice person. (NOT....a such\so nice person).

SO BEFORE ADJECTIVES, ADVERBS, ETC.

We use so before an adjective alone (without a noun) or an adverb:

She's so babyish. (NOT ~~She's such babyish.~~)

The milk was so good that we couldn't stop drinking it.

Why do you talk so slowly?

We can also use so before much, many, few and little:

We've got so much to do, and so little time.

We use so much, not so, before comparatives:

I'm glad you're feeling so much better. (NOT...~~so better~~).

SO BEFORE AN ADJECTIVE AND AN NOUN

After *as*, *how*, *so*, *too* and *this\that* meaning *so*, adjectives go before *a\an*. This structure is common in a formal style:

It was so warm a day that I could hardly walk.

I have as good a voice as you.

How good a pianist is he?

She is too polite a person to refuse.

I couldn't afford that big a car.