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6 Minute Grammar

So, such, enough, too



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NB This is not a word-for-word transcript

Finn

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Grammar with me, Finn.

Rob

Sorry I'm so late, Finn.

Finn

Oh Rob... OK.

Rob

There was such a long queue at the coffee machine.

Finn

Ah **so late...such a long queue** – great examples for today's topic, Rob.

Rob

Yes. Thank you very much. Yes, we're talking about **so, such, too** and **enough**.

Finn

When Rob said he was **so late**, he meant he was very late. Now Helen has some more examples using **so**.

Helen

This coffee is so good.

Finn speaks English so well.

Finn

So it's **so** before an adjective – This coffee is **so good... so strong... so hot...**

Rob

Sounds good. Or before an **adverb**: He speaks English **so well... so fluently... so fast**.

Finn

And we use **such** with a noun. Rob said there was **such a long queue**, meaning the queue was very long. Here are more examples.

Helen

My holiday was such fun!
My holiday was such a disaster!

Rob

We say **such fun** without the indefinite article **a** because fun is uncountable.

Finn

But it's **such a disaster** with the article because **disaster** is countable.

Rob

Now we often use **such** with an adjective and a noun together. Listen to this.

Helen

Adele has such an amazing voice.
We had such good weather in Greece.

Rob

So it's **such** good weather... **such** an amazing voice. Remember: with countable nouns put the **a** or **an** after 'such' not before.

Finn

Nowadays, you sometimes hear people use **so** with a **noun** or **verb** for emphasis. Like this.

Helen

That dress is so last year.
I'm so going to hug her when I see her.

Finn

So if you say '**so last year**' it means really not fashionable any more. **So going to hug her** means really going to give her a really good hug.

Rob

We can use **so** and **such** with a **that clause** to describe cause and effect. Like this.

Helen

It was so hot that they had to go indoors.
It was such a hot day that they had to stay indoors.

Finn

And we can leave **that** out, so we could say: **It was so hot they had to go indoors.**

Rob

We also use **so** with **many** or **much** and a noun to describe a lot of something. It's

so much with **uncountable nouns** and **so many** with **countable nouns**.

Helen

What a great party! I had **so much fun**.
We visited **so many places**.

Finn

So that's **so** and **such**. Now for **too** and **enough**.

Rob

Yes. Now we use **enough** with an adjective or adverb to say something is or isn't the right degree. So, if I ask Finn: **Are you warm enough, Finn?**

Finn

I am, thanks.

Rob

I'm asking if it's the right temperature for you.

Finn

Notice **enough** comes after the adjective or adverb. We can also use **enough** after a verb.

Helen

He doesn't **sleep enough**. He's always tired.

Rob

When we use **enough** with a noun, it goes before the noun. We have **enough food, enough time**.

Finn

And sentences with **enough** are sometimes followed by **to** and a **verb**.

Helen

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

Finn

You know Rob, I think that's enough about enough!

Rob

Indeed. Now to say there's more than necessary, we use **too** with an adjective or adverb. So we could say this office is **too crowded, too noisy, too busy**.

Finn

And I could say Rob that you're working **too hard**.

Rob

Thank you very much.

Finn

You work very hard.

Rob

We can use **too much** or **too many** with a **noun** to say we have more than we need.

Helen

Ugh! You've put **too much sugar** in my tea!

I ate **too many biscuits**.

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Finn

And I think we have just enough time for a quiz. OK so which is correct, a or b? Are you ready Rob?

Rob

I am.

Finn

OK. Number one. a) That's a so cute dog! b) That's such a cute dog.

Rob

Well it's b) because it's **such** with an adjective and noun and the indefinite article comes after not before.

Finn

That's correct. Number 2. a) Is there money enough? Or b) Is there enough money?

Rob

Well, that's b) again because enough goes before a noun.

Finn

Correct. And finally, number 3. a) I can't afford it. It's too expensive. Or b) I can't afford it. It's so expensive.

Rob

You're trying to trick me. Both are correct.

Finn

Of course. That's right. Well done if you got them all right at home. And there's lots more about this on our website at bbclearningenglish.com. Join us again for more 6 Minute Grammar.

Both

Bye.