

# So and Too

The words 'so' and 'too' are often used interchangeably, whereas really, they mean different things. Read further; uncover the difference between these adverbs, intensifiers and emphasisers and learn how to use them correctly.

**"She's so tall" VS "She's too tall".**

*So* is used as an *emphasiser* or *intensifier* (to make the statement stronger).

**"She's so tall"** - but it doesn't bother her or anyone else.

## so + adjective

"The soup so hot" → The soup is very hot

"You are so young" → You are very young

*So* has a similar meaning to 'very' (but it's a little stronger, or more intense).

## note:

'So' cannot be used before a noun.

E.g. We cannot say "He is so nice man". Instead, we use *such* (He is such a nice man).

Look for 'such', 'so', and 'too' in early posts.

## so + many/much + noun

"He has so many friends". → He knows a lot of people and is very popular.

"There isn't so much water left". → We should get some soon, but it is not a problem, yet.

When *so many* or *so much* are used before a noun, it means *a lot*.

(Remember: *many* is used before plural countable nouns (e.g. friends, people); *much* is used before uncountable nouns (e.g. money, water, sugar).

*Too* is used as an *emphasiser* or *intensifier*, but often for *negative things*

**"She's so tall"** - she has a hard time dealing with things in her daily life.

## too + adjective/adverb

"The soup too hot" → The soup is that hot that I cannot eat it.

"You are too young" → You are that young, you are not allowed to do certain things.

*Too* means *too much* or *too little* of something; more than a desired quantity/level.

## too + adjective/adverb + infinitive

"I was too tired to do my homework". → I didn't do my homework, as I was extremely tired.

"She ran too slowly to win the race". → Her speed was that slow; she could not beat the rest)

She speaks too poorly to get a job. → Her language skills are that poor that she will not be able to find a job.

## similar meanings

"It's so hot today, let's stay inside". → It's very hot, but it does not necessarily bother me.

It's too hot today, let's stay inside". → It's that hot, I cannot bear the heat.

Both of these sentences are correct and work well in this situation. In many situations though, one word is more suitable than the other.

What the difference between these examples?

1. The camera was \_\_\_ expensive, but I bought it anyway.
2. The camera was \_\_\_ expensive, that I could not afford it.



# So and Too



## 1. Practice 'too' or 'so'

Complete the following sentences using 'so' or 'too'.  
Where you find both apply, please describe why.

1. I was ..... weak that I couldn't even sit up. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The coffee was ..... hot to drink. \_\_\_\_\_
3. As the bus was ..... crowded, we got off. \_\_\_\_\_
4. There were far ..... many people in the auditorium. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The news is ..... good to be true. \_\_\_\_\_
6. That car cost ..... much. \_\_\_\_\_
7. It was ..... cold that we stopped playing. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Would you be ..... kind as to tell me the time? \_\_\_\_\_
9. He was ..... rude that I felt like giving him a tight slap. \_\_\_\_\_
10. This orange juice is ..... refreshing. a) so b) too \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Practice - 'too', 'so', 'very'

1. The food was \_\_\_\_\_ bad that everyone complained.  
a. too b. so c. very
2. They had \_\_\_\_\_ much to drink to remember how they got home.  
a. too b. so c. very
3. The train was \_\_\_\_\_ crowded that we couldn't get on.  
a. too b. so c. very
4. \_\_\_\_\_ many of us are selfish and never give a second thought about the needy.  
a. too b. so c. very
5. I felt \_\_\_\_\_ good in her company that I asked to see her again.  
a. too b. so c. very
6. The car they bought cost \_\_\_\_\_ much money that I couldn't believe it.  
a. too b. so c. very
7. \_\_\_\_\_ many people think that the world's population is growing too fast! It is impressive.  
a. too b. so c. very
8. He was \_\_\_\_\_ rude to his teacher that the principal suspended him for a month.  
a. too b. so c. very
9. \_\_\_\_\_ many of the patients thought that the new doctor would make miracles.  
a. too b. so c. very
10. Tahiti was \_\_\_\_\_ hot and humid for my liking.  
a. too b. so c. very