



So.....

So is an extremely common word in English, mainly because it has a lot of different uses. The three main uses of SO are as

- A modifier
- A linker
- A discourse marker

SO AS A MODIFIER

We use **so + adjective** to modify adjectives, and **so much/many + noun** to modify nouns.

the film was so boring that I fell asleep

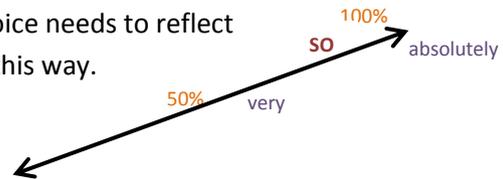
He has so much money he can buy anything

BE CAREFUL, SO is a very strong modifier. It's closer to a word like **ABSOLUTELY** than **VERY**

Pronunciation – because it's a strong modifier, your voice needs to reflect this. Make sure that you stress SO when you use it in this way.

"I'm **SO** tired!"

"We had **SO** much fun!"



SO AS A LINKER - When SO is a linker, it has two uses

- To show a result or effect - I was tired so I went to bed
- To show a reason or an intention - I moved to London so that I can be closer to my family

Pronunciation – here, we don't stress SO as much, make it softer.

SO AS A DISCOURSE MARKER - A discourse marker is a word we use to organise our speech. It doesn't have any real meaning, but it gives shape to what you're saying. These exist in all languages. In Spanish for example there are words like "bueno" o "pues". In English, when we use **SO** in this way, it is at the start of a sentence to **INTRODUCE INFORMATION**.

"So, today we're going to talk about modifiers" "So, what do you think about the Olympics?"

The discourse marker we normally use to answer **SO**, is **WELL**

"So, what do you want to do?"

"Well, we could go to the cinema?"

Pronunciation – Here, pronunciation is different. We use a higher intonation when SO is a discourse marker

 So, what's your name?

EXPRESSIONS WITH SO

There are a number of common expressions that use SO. Do you know what they mean? Match them to the options

- The meal was so-so
 - Even so, I think we should do it
 - I go to the theatre every so often
 - It cost £5 or so
 - He has a so-called qualification
 - So long, see you soon!
 - I should be so lucky!
 - I'm at work so as to get a promotion
 - I told you so!
 - So what if I don't want to go?!
- In order to
 - Occasionally
 - Who cares
 - Bye!
 - Something is extremely unlikely to happen
 - Used after something bad happened and the person had predicted what would happen
 - Despite what has been said
 - Approximately
 - Between average and low quality
 - used for showing that you think a word used for describing someone or something is not suitable

ANSWERS

- **The meal was so-so** - Between average and low quality
- **Even so, I think we should do it** - Despite what has been said
- **I go to the theatre every so often** - Occasionally
- **It cost £5 or so** - Approximately
- **He has a so-called qualification** – used for showing that you think a word used for describing someone or something is not suitable
- **So long, see you soon!** - Bye!
- **I should be so lucky!** - Something is extremely unlikely to happen
- **I'm at work so as to get a promotion** - In order to
- **I told you so!** - Used after something bad happened and the person had predicted what would happen
- **So what if I don't want to go?!** - Who cares