

Emphasis

English Grammar · B2

Emphasis with so and such

Emphasis: so / such / do

so + adj	such + noun	do + verb
so cold	such a day	emphasis
<i>so cold that ...</i>	<i>such a good film</i>	<i>I do like it!</i>

Emphasis: so / such / do: reference card grid

so and **such** are used to intensify meaning ('so...that' or 'such...that'), often followed by **that** to introduce a result.

- **so** + **adjective** / **adverb** (+ that ...).
- **such** + (**a/an**) + **adjective** + **noun** (+ that ...).

It was so cold that the lake froze.

It is so cold that the lake has frozen over.

It was such a good film that I cried.

That movie was so good that I cried.

Note: Follow **so** with an **adjective** (so cold); follow **such** with a **noun phrase** (such a good film).

So do I, Neither do I

To express "Me too" or "Me neither," English uses a short inverted structure where the auxiliary verb must **match** the previous sentence:

- Affirmative agreement: **So** + **auxiliary verb** + **subject** (So do I / So am I / So can I).

- Negative agreement: **Neither + auxiliary verb + subject** (Neither do I / Neither am I).

“I like tea.” — So do I.

“I like tea.” — “Me too.”

“I can’t swim.” — Neither can I.

“I can’t swim.” — “Neither can I.”

Note: The auxiliary verb must match the tense/verb of the previous sentence: if the previous sentence uses *are* → So **are** they; if it uses *don’t* → Neither **do** I.

Common Errors

- × “I love this song.” — ~~So am I.~~ → ✓ So **do** I. — The agreeing auxiliary must match the previous sentence: main verbs → do / does / did; be → am / is; can → can.
- × “I don’t like it.” — ~~Me too.~~ → ✓ **Me neither.** / **Neither do I.** — Do not use too for negative agreements.
- × “I can’t swim.” — ~~So can’t I.~~ → ✓ **Neither can I.** — Negative inversion begins with neither / nor, never so + negative.
- To emphasize “really,” avoid using very + verb: × ~~I very like it.~~ → ✓ I **do** like it. / I **really** like it. — Placing the auxiliary do before the verb creates emphasis.