

Structures with so

So means to such an extent. So is often used when we are talking about a very high degree of some quality. So can be used in most situations where very is also possible.

Why are you so unkind?

He is so stupid.

So is not used with adjective + noun.

She is such a beautiful girl. (NOT She is a so beautiful girl.)

So can be followed directly by that-clauses. Structures with very are not possible in this case.

He was so ill that we had to call a doctor. (NOT He was very ill that we had to call a doctor.)

So far means as far as this.

Now that we have come so far, we may as well go all the way. (= Now that we have come as far as this, we may as well go all the way.)

So long as means on condition that

You may borrow the book, so long as you keep it clean.

So far from means instead of

So far from helping us, he hindered our progress. (= Instead of helping us, he hindered our progress.)

So as to means in order to.

I will hurry, so as to not delay you.

So can be used instead of a word or phrase.

I told you so! (= That is what I told you.)

In constructions like the following so can mean also.

He is learning English and so am I. (Note the inverted word order after so.)

So can also mean therefore.

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She asked me to go, so I went.