

4 Result

The most common conjunction expressing result is *so*:

*The baby was crying for half of the night **so** I'm feeling exhausted today.*

Note the difference between *so* and *because*:

*Joe hated the new job, **so** he resigned last week.* (*so* + result of hating the job)

*Joe resigned last week **because** he hated the new job.* (*because* + reason for resigning)

We can describe the result of a particular quality or characteristic using these patterns:

<i>so</i> + adjective/adverb + (<i>that</i>) clause	<i>I'm afraid it was so dark (that) I couldn't see her face. Sally stayed with us so often that we invited her to move in.</i>
<i>such</i> + (adjective +) noun + (<i>that</i>) clause	<i>I'm afraid I can't identify her. It was such a dark night (that) I couldn't see her face.¹</i>
<i>too</i> + adjective (+ <i>for</i>) + infinitive clause	<i>It was too dark (for me) to see her face.</i>
(<i>not</i>) adjective + <i>enough</i> (+ <i>for</i>) + infinitive clause	<i>It wasn't light enough (for me) to see her face.²</i>

¹ Note the article after *such* with a singular noun:

✗ *It was such dark night.* ✓ *It was **such a** dark night.*

² *Enough* always follows the adjective:

✗ *It wasn't enough light.* ✓ *It wasn't **light enough**.*

We can use *so much ... that* after a verb to express the result of an action:

*Dave shouted **so much** at the football match **that** he had a sore throat the next day.*

We do not combine *so much* + adjective:

✗ *Sorry, I was ~~so much busy that~~ I forgot to call you.*

✓ *Sorry, I was **so busy that** I forgot to call you.*

FORMALITY CHECK A more formal alternative is *so* + adjective + *as* + infinitive clause:

*It was **so dark as to** make it impossible to see her face.*

5 Condition

The most common conjunctions expressing condition are *if* and *unless*:

*Emotions cannot be true **unless** they are spontaneous.*

Other conjunctions expressing condition are *as long as*, *providing*, and *in case* (► Unit 37.1):

*You can go to the party on Saturday **as long as** you book a taxi home. Take a couple of numbers of cab firms with you **in case** the usual one is booked up.*

FORMALITY CHECK More formal alternatives are *on (the) condition that* and *provided (that)*:

*A widow has left £135,000 to an animal charity **on (the) condition that** her cats are looked after for the rest of their lives.*

6 Other conjunctions

We can use the conjunctions *as if* and *as though* to say how someone behaves or does something:

*The Minister continues to act **as though** he's unaware of the serious complaints against him.*

Note the difference between present and past forms after these conjunctions (► Unit 40.5):

*She behaves **as if she can** afford expensive things.* (Maybe she can; we don't know.)

*She behaves **as if she could** afford expensive things.* (We know that she can't afford them.)

We use *except that/when/where/if* to express exception:

*What can I say **except that** I'm sorry? I didn't intend to offend you.*

(= The only thing I can say is ...)

*I keep my room locked **except if** I'm only away for a couple of minutes.*

(= The only time I don't lock it is when ...)

Preposition *except* ► Unit 11.5