**Present Perfect with *been* and *gone***

Since the two English verb forms **been** and **gone** often cause problems in their use for English language learners, the ambiguities are discussed in detail here. In fact, both words are the **participles** (in particular, [past participles](https://www.usinggrammar.com/english-grammar/past-participle.php) or, '**third** verb forms) of ‘to be’ (which is ‘**been**’) and ‘to go’ (which is ‘**gone**’) respectively. Being a participle means that they mainly occur as part of the compound tenses (such as present perfect and past perfect) in most cases. Now, consider the following points: Usually, ‘**been**’ is used in conjunction with all perfect tenses to indicate that the speaker or another person **has been** somewhere and is **back** now or that the person is **no longer** there (absent). Examples:

*→“Sam****has been****to Madrid over ten times. He knows the city very well.”* **Meaning**: Sam is **not** in Madrid at the moment. *→“We****had****already****been****to London once before we moved in 2003.”* **Meaning**: The y were already **back** from London at the time of the move.

In contrast, ‘**gone**’ is utilised to show that a person is **not** present at the moment of speaking but **absent**. Then, in most cases, it also appears with all perfect tenses: *“Where is Sally? I haven’t seen her for a while. – She is not here. She****has gone****to Canada.”* **Meaning**: Sally is **not** present at the questioner’s location right now. She is in Canada. *“When I arrived home, the kids were sleeping. They****had******gone****to bed.”* **Meaning**: The children were **no** longer in the living room or entrance area at the time but already in bed in the children’s room.

Watch out: The participle ‘**been**’ is a **full verb** in all the above examples. However, it may also occur as an **auxiliary verb** constructing the [present perfect continuous](https://www.usinggrammar.com/english-grammar/use-present-perfect-continuous.php). In that case, it must **not be confused** in its meaning. Consider the illustration:  *“The two friends****have been travelling****around the world.”* Here, ‘**have been’** are two auxiliary verbs that are combined with the main verb ‘travelling’ in the *ing*-form.

**So VS. Such**

We often use 'so' and 'such' to mean 'very' or 'really'. It makes the sentence stronger and shows that there is a high level of something.  
 We use 'so' before an adjective or adverb (without a noun).

* She was so beautiful (= she was very beautiful).
* He ran so quickly (= he ran very quickly).
* The food was so delicious (= the food was really delicious).
* The children spoke French so well (= the children spoke French very well).

We use 'such' before a noun or an adjective + a noun. If there is 'a' or 'an', it goes after 'such'.

* She was such a beautiful woman (= she was a very beautiful woman).
* He got such a good time in the race (= he got a very good time in the race).
* It was such delicious food (= it was really delicious food).
* The children spoke such good French (= the children spoke really good French).

When we use 'such' directly with a noun, it's often a noun that shows our opinion.

* He's such a genius! (= he's a real genius / he's very clever).
* You're such a teacher! (= you act in a typical way for a teacher).

We don't use a word like 'this' or 'those' or 'your' or 'his' before 'so' and 'such'. 'So' and 'such' come directly after the verb.

We use 'so' before 'much / many / little / few' with and without a noun. This shows that the amount is really a lot or really little. As usual, we use a plural noun after 'many' and 'few' and an uncountable noun after 'much' and 'little'.

* I ate so much.
* I ate so much cake.
* He had so many.
* He had so many books.
* Why did you eat so little?
* He had so few friends that he was very lonely.

**So...That**

It expresses a cause and effect. **So + adjective/adverb + that**

**Cause**: It was too windy. **Effect**: We couldn't go sailing.  
It was **so** windy **that** we couldn't go sailing. (**windy**- **adjective**)  
The dress was **so** wonderfully designed **that** I couldn't stop looking at it.

(**wonderfully- adverb**)

**Such...That**

Also expresses a cause and effect.  
  **such + (adjective) + NOUN + that**  
**Cause**: It was a great movie. **Effect**: I watched it several times.  
It's **such** a great movie **that** I've watched it several times.  
 (great-adjective, movie-noun)  
She lives in  **such** a charming  house **that** everybody stares at it.  
 (charming-adjective, house-noun)  
**Note:** ~~such a very charming~~... "very" is dropped.

**Exercise**

**Put “been” or “gone” into the gaps.**

(1)  Robert is not here. He has **..........** to work.

(2)  The office is empty. Everybody has **…….**home.

(3)  It is good to see you again. Where have you **……..**?

(4)  My brother has**……** to America four times.

(5)   Sorry, you can’t speak to Anna. She has **……..**to a party.

(6)   Mary’s hair looks nice. She has just **…….**to the hairdresser’s.

(7)  Peter has **……** to New Zealand and he is staying there.

(8) Have you ever **……** to Mount Aoraki? It's breathtaking!

(9)  I have **……**to Rio three times.

(10) My sister is not at home at the moment. She has **……** shopping.

(11)  Can you tell me the way to Nelson?  I have never **……** there before.

(12)  You are late. Where have you**…….**?

(13) You look well. Have you **……** on holiday somewhere?

(14) Mum will be home soon. She has **……** to the supermarket.

(15) They have **……**in London for ten days, but now have returned home.

(16)  Gerard won't come to the party. He has **…….** to Paris for the weekend.

(17) This is the first time I have ever **…….** aboard a ship. It is exciting.

(18) I know Paris very well.   I have **…..** there many times.

(19)  They have **…….** to Rome. They will return next week.

(20) Where have you **…….**? I have **……**looking for you everywhere.

**Q: Put in** "**so**" **or** "**such**".

1. They were ….. happy that they started dancing.

2. He speaks Chinese ……well!

3. Julie is ……a good writer.

4. She swims…….quickly!

5. It was…… late we missed the last train.

6. They have ……a big house that I got lost!

7. She has …..a sweet puppy.

8. That was…….an interesting book.

9. The weather was …… hot I stayed inside.

10. He’s …… a teenager!

11. He was …… handsome.

12. It was … a beautiful day that we took a picnic to the park.

13. You’re not usually …….tired! Is everything okay? 14. He doesn’t often work …… a lot.

15. The children have ……many toys.

16. She’s ….. a bookworm!

17. I had….. a lot of work I couldn’t go out.

18. You shouldn’t drink ….. little in this weather.

19. She has … much money that she doesn’t need to work.

20. The shops had…. few vegetables at that time that we grew our own.