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CAUSE-AND-EFFECT STRUCTURES

SO + ADJECTIVE + THAT

SO + ADJECTIVE + AS TO

These two structures establish a cause-and-effect relationship between the clauses—in other words, what the first clause describes causes what the second clause describes to happen.

I'm not so old that I don't remember what it was like to be 17!!



Examples:

The difference in price is **so** small **that** it's not worth bothering about.

The difference in price is **so** small **as to** not be worth bothering about.

Cause : the difference in price is very small.

Effect : it's not worth bothering about.

The difference between the two constructions is one of formality.

SO + ADJ + AS TO is more formal than **SO + ADJ + THAT**.

More examples:

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INFORMAL : SO + ADJ + THAT

This word is **so** rare **that** it's almost obsolete.

I'm not **so** old **that** I don't remember what it was like to be 17.

He was **so** nice **that** he gave me a lift to the airport.

FORMAL : SO + ADJ + AS TO INFINITIVE

This word is **so** rare **as to** be almost obsolete.

I'm not **so** old **as to** not remember what it was like to be 17.

He was **so** nice **as to** give me a lift to the airport.