

"So" introducing a sentence or independent clause. Blue highlights counts of **So-space** conjunctions. Yellow highlights counts of **So-comma** conjunctions.

So-comma constructs of *any kind*, not merely conjunctions, seem to be vanishingly rare in professionally edited fiction published by major houses.

The sole type of exception is exemplified in this sentence: *Later in the day we did so, not wanting to offend our host.*

Title	So ₋ ¹		So, ¹		;_so ₋		;_so,		,_so ₋		,_so,	
	+ic	(n/a)	+ic	(n/a)	+ic	(n/a)	+ic	(n/a)	+ic	(n/a)	+ic	(n/a)
The Prince of Tides	28	12	2	3	0	0	0	0	26	14	0	0
War and Remembrance	117	84	2	2	11	11	0	1	131	91	0	0
Sophie's Choice	54	30	0	3	0	0	0	0	43	119	0	0
Light in August	73	13	0	0	1	1	0	0	9	26	0	0
Portnoy's Complaint	34	11	4	1	0	0	0	0	18	30	0	0
The Bluest Eye	21	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	7	0	0
Alias Grace	49	4	1	0	32	1	0	0	58	30	0	0
The Magus	53	24	0	0	6	11	0	0	28	74	0	1
The French Lieutenant's Woman	17	13	0	0	1	5	0	0	7	85	0	0
Atonement	19	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	31	0	0
Totals	465	206	9	9	51	29	0	1	355	507	0	1

¹ Capitalized at start of sentence or paragraph

The **+ic** columns count instances where "so" introduces an independent clause with no intervening subordinate clause, comma-parenthetical, or such.

(Margaret Atwood often borrows the subject of something preceding a semicolon for an otherwise independent clause, and I counted those for her.)

The **(n/a)** columns count instances like the following, that lie outside the class "So *independent clause*" ("So we marched", not "So, we marched"):

(Thus / to such an extent; e.g., "so avidly"... "so far"... "so much" ... "so cool" ... "so as" ... "so that" ... "so be it" ... "so did the others"... "so he says"... "so is" ...)

As the romance of paper is central to the story of the American dream, **so** is the name Kimberly-Clark central to the story of paper.

(Sophie's Choice)

(**So**, *subordinate clause, independent clause*.) also other comma-parenthetical interjections.

Most often the authors omitted the first parenthetical comma, but I counted such sentences as n/a regardless, to be on the conservative side.

So, John, it appears you've...

So, *lingering there together in the heat of our charm-bound affinity*, we spent another hour or so tying up the loose ends of our conversation, both of us very much aware that we had taken this afternoon the first step of what had to be a journey together into wild and uncharted territory. (Sophie's Choice)

(**So that** *independent clause*)

You have to use your *ear*, **so that** it finally becomes instinct. (Sophie's Choice)