



Nine bucks a gallon? That's highway robbery!

Lesson 18

RENTING A CAR

Peter talks to Sam at the rental car counter about renting a car. Sam tells Peter about a special offer they're having and helps him understand how the rental fees work.

Sam: Hello. How can I help you?

Peter: I'd like to rent a car for the weekend.

Sam: What size did you **have in mind**?

Peter: I'd like your cheapest car, so I guess that would be a *compact*.

Sam: We're **running a special** right now. You can rent a mid-size car for the same price as a compact. It's \$55 a day **inclusive of tax**, plus insurance. It's such a great deal!

Peter: Okay, I'll take it.

Sam: All right. Let me just print out the agreement ... Here you go, **read that over**, please.

Peter: I **can't make heads or tails of** this information. Do I really need insurance? I already have a good auto insurance plan.

Sam: Then you're probably **all set**. I do recommend the collision damage waiver.* It's only \$10 a day. That way, if you **bang up** the car, you won't owe us anything.

Peter: I'm sure I won't have an accident, but I'll take it **just in case**.

Sam: Very good. If you don't return the car with a full tank of gas, we charge \$9 a gallon to refill it.

Peter: Nine bucks a gallon? That's so expensive. It's **highway robbery!**

Sam: Be sure to return the car by 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Peter: Five? That's going to be **cutting it close**. The conference I'm attending ends at 4:30. What if I get it here at 6 on Sunday?

Sam: It'll be another \$65.

Peter: There's no **grace period**?

Sam: There's a 29 minute **grace period**. So you could return the car at 5:29 and still be okay.

Peter: Okay, thanks. You've been such a big help.

Sam: You're very welcome. Here's the key. The car is in space A4. You're **good to go**.

* collision damage waiver – with this optional coverage, the car rental company cannot hold the customer responsible for any damage to the car

IDIOMS & EXPRESSIONS

all set – see Lesson 6

(to) bang up – (to) damage

- Right after Tyler got his driver's license, he borrowed his mother's car and **banged it up**.

(to) cut it close – (to) not leave enough time to get somewhere or to do something

- The play starts at 8:00, and you're planning to leave the house at 7:30? That's **cutting it close**.

good to go – ready to go; taken care of; prepared

- We've got our tents, our flashlights, and our food. We're **good to go!**

grace period – a period after a deadline in which additional fees are not charged

- My credit card payment is due by the 15th of the month. But there's a 2-day **grace period**.

(to) have in mind – to be thinking about as a possibility

- “You're offering me \$2,500 for the car? That's so little!” — “What did you **have in mind**?”

highway robbery – very overpriced; a fee that is too high

- I really wanted a cup of coffee at the airport, but the coffee shop was charging \$4 a cup. That's **highway robbery**!

inclusive of – including; already included in the amount

- The cost of the car repairs is going to be \$350, **inclusive of** parts and labor.

just in case – if something happens; because there is a small chance that (something could happen)

- I don't think it'll rain today, but you should take your umbrella **just in case**.

(to) not be able to make heads or tails of – to be unable to interpret

- This apartment rental contract is so confusing. I **can't make heads or tails of** it.

(to) read over – to review; to take a look at, often with the goal of making edits or making sure everything is okay

- I'd appreciate it if you'd **read over** my résumé.

(to) run a special – to offer lower prices on something, for a certain period of time

- The clothing store is **running a special** this week. Buy one shirt and get the second at half price.

Practice the Expressions

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) The weather forecast calls for sunny skies for the entire week we're in Italy. But I'm bringing along a raincoat just in _____.
a) case b) cause c) careful
- 2) You want a new job title? What did you have in _____?
a) head b) ideas c) mind
- 3) Fifteen dollars for a sandwich? That's _____ robbery!
a) roadside b) motorway c) highway
- 4) You're leaving your house at 5:30 for a 7 o'clock flight? That's cutting it _____.
a) sharp b) close c) near
- 5) Would you mind reading _____ my business school essays?
a) over b) on c) upon
- 6) Sorry, the grace _____ is over. We're going to have to charge you interest on your account.
a) phase b) time c) period
- 7) Tom wrote me a note, but I can't make heads or _____ of it. His handwriting is so messy!
a) tails b) feet c) sense
- 8) We got our visas for Brazil. We're good to _____.
a) leave b) go c) be
- 9) The airfare to Seoul is \$1500, inclusive _____ taxes.
a) with b) of c) by
- 10) How did you bang _____ your car?
a) up b) down c) on



Language Lens: So and Such

So and **such** are both used to express extremes. They are often used in exclamations (and they are *so* useful!).

So

⇒ Use “so” before an adjective (without a noun)

⇒ Use “so” before an adverb

Examples with so:

- Andy is so good at tennis! NOT: ~~Andy is so good tennis player!~~
- Angela’s baby is so cute!
- Jay’s new painting is so beautiful. He’s so talented!
- Your house is so beautiful.
- That was so kind of you!
- John works so hard.
- Kristen looked so lovely in her wedding dress.

Such

⇒ Use “such” before an adjective + noun

⇒ Use “such” before a noun

Note that when the noun is singular, “a” or “an” comes after “such.”

Examples with such:

- That was such a scary movie! NOT: ~~That was so scary movie!~~
- That’s such a cute baby!
- You are such a good friend.
- Phil is such a hard worker.
- You prepared such a delicious meal.
- This project is such a headache!
- Why do you carry such heavy bags?

Quick Quiz

Fill in the blank with the missing word:

- 1) Emily is ____ a nice girl. I love babysitting for her.
a) so b) such
- 2) The movie was ____ boring that I could barely stay awake.
a) so b) such
- 3) The flight was ____ long that I thought we'd never get there.
a) so b) such
- 4) If you study for it, the TOEFL is not ____ a difficult exam.
a) so b) such
- 5) People in our office leave leftovers in the refrigerator for months. It's ____ gross!
a) so b) such
- 6) Nora hasn't been to the dentist in ____ a long time.
a) so b) such
- 7) Canyon Ranch is a great spa, but it's ____ expensive!
a) so b) such
- 8) You did ____ a great job on your presentation!
a) so b) such
- 9) Tina's boss keeps criticizing her. Why is he being ____ nasty?
a) so b) such
- 10) You got promoted? That's ____ good news!
a) so b) such