

A

Like = similar to, the same as:

- ☐ What a beautiful house! It's **like a palace**. (*not as a palace*)
- ☐ Be careful! The floor has been polished. It's **like walking on ice**. (*not as walking*)
- ☐ It's raining again. I hate weather **like this**. (*not as this*)
- ☐ 'What's that noise?' 'It sounds **like a baby crying**.' (*not as a baby crying*)

In these examples, **like** is a *preposition*. So it is followed by a *noun* (like **a palace**), a *pronoun* (like **this**) or **-ing** (like walking).

Sometimes **like** = for example. You can also use **such as**:

- ☐ I enjoy water sports, **like** surfing, scuba diving and water-skiing. *or*
I enjoy water sports, **such as** surfing ...

B

As = in the same way as, in the same condition as.

We use **as** with *subject (S) + verb (V)*:

- ☐ I didn't move anything. I left everything **as it was**.
- ☐ You should have done it **as I showed** you.

S + V	
as it	was
as I	showed

We also use **like** in this way (+ *subject + verb*):

- ☐ I left everything **like it was**.

Compare **as** and **like**. You can say:

- ☐ You should have done it **as I showed you**. *or* ... **like I showed you**.
- but* You should have done it **like this**. (*not as this*)

We say **as usual** / **as always**:

- ☐ You're late **as usual**.
- ☐ **As always**, Nick was the first to complain.

We say **the same as** ... :

- ☐ Your phone is **the same as** mine. (*not the same like*)

C

Sometimes **as** (+ *subject + verb*) has other meanings. For example, after **do**:

- ☐ You can do **as you like**. (= do what you like)
- ☐ They did **as they promised**. (= They did what they promised.)

We also say **as you know** / **as I said** / **as she expected** / **as I thought** etc. :

- ☐ **As you know**, it's Emma's birthday next week. (= you know this already)
- ☐ Andy failed his driving test, **as he expected**. (= he expected this before)

Like is not usual in these expressions, except with **say** (*like I said*):

- ☐ **As I said** yesterday, I'm sure we can solve the problem. *or* **Like I said** yesterday ...

D

As can also be a *preposition* (**as** + *noun*), but the meaning is different from **like**.

Compare:

- ☐ **As a taxi driver**, I spend most of my working life in a car.
(I am a taxi driver, it's my job.)

- ☐ Everyone in the family wants me to drive them to places. I'm **like a taxi driver**.
(I'm not a taxi driver, but I'm like one.)

As (*preposition*) = in the position of, in the form of etc. :

- ☐ Many years ago I worked **as a photographer**. (I was a photographer)
- ☐ Many words, for example 'work' and 'rain', can be used **as verbs or nouns**.
- ☐ London is fine **as a place to visit**, but I wouldn't like to live there.
- ☐ The news of the tragedy came **as a great shock**.

Exercises

117.1 In some of these sentences, you need **like** (not **as**). Correct the sentences where necessary. Write 'OK' if the sentence is correct.

- It's raining again. I hate weather as this.
- You should have done it as I showed you.
- Do you think James looks as his father?
- He gets on my nerves. I can't stand people as him.
- Why didn't you do it as I told you to do it?
- As her mother, Katherine has a very good voice.
- You never listen. Talking to you is as talking to the wall.
- I prefer the room as it was, before we decorated it.
- I'll phone you tomorrow as usual, OK?
- She's a very good swimmer. She swims as a fish.

I hate weather like this.
OK

117.2 Which goes with which?

- I won't be able to come to the party.
- I like Tom's idea.
- I'm fed up with my job.
- You drive too fast.
- You don't have to take my advice.
- I couldn't get a seat on the train.

- It was full, as I expected.
- As I've told you before, it's boring.
- ~~As you know, I'll be away.~~
- You can do as you like.
- Let's do as he suggests.
- You should take more care, as I keep telling you.

- c
-
-
-
-
-

117.3 Complete the sentences using **like** or **as** + the following:

a beginner blocks of ice a palace a birthday present
a child a theatre winter a tour guide

- This house is beautiful. It's like a palace.
- My feet are really cold. They're
- I've been playing tennis for years, but I still play
- Marion once had a part-time job
- I wonder what that building is. It looks
- My brother gave me this watch a long time ago.
- It's very cold for the middle of summer. It's
- He's 22 years old, but he sometimes behaves

117.4 Put in **like** or **as**. Sometimes either word is possible.

- We heard a noise like a baby crying.
- I wish I had a car yours.
- Hannah has been working a waitress for the last two months.
- We saw Kevin last night. He was very cheerful, always.
- You waste a lot of time doing things sitting in cafes all day.
- you can imagine, we were very tired after such a long journey.
- Tom showed me some photos of the city it was thirty years ago.
- My neighbour's house is full of interesting things. It's a museum.
- In some countries in Asia, Japan, Indonesia and Thailand, traffic drives on the left.
- The weather hasn't changed. It's the same yesterday.
- You're different from the other people I know. I don't know anyone else you.
- The news that they are getting married came a complete surprise to me.
- This tea is awful. It tastes water.
- Suddenly there was a terrible noise. It was a bomb exploding.
- Right now I'm working in a shop. It's not great, but it's OK a temporary job.
- Brian is a student, most of his friends.