

Understanding Like

The word "like" is often used to express similarity or comparison between two things. It can be utilized as a preposition or a conjunction. When used as a preposition, "like" is followed by a noun or a pronoun. For instance, "He looks like his father" or "She sings like an angel." In these examples, "like" is used to draw a comparison between the subject and another entity.

Usage of Like

- Comparisons: "Like" is commonly employed to draw comparisons between two or more objects or individuals. For example, "She runs like the wind," indicating that the person runs with a similar speed or grace as the wind.
- Similes: Similes are figures of speech that use "like" to compare two unlike things using the words "like" or "as." An example would be, "Her eyes sparkle like diamonds," emphasizing the brilliance and shine of her eyes.

Understanding As

The word "as" also serves a comparative function, but it functions differently from "like." It can be used as a conjunction, a preposition, or an adverb. When used as a conjunction, "as" is used to introduce a clause that provides an explanation or justification. For instance, "As it was raining, I carried an umbrella."

Usage of As

- Similes: Similar to "like," "as" is used in similes to draw comparisons. For example, "She was as brave as a lion," highlighting the bravery of an individual by comparing them to a lion.
- Function as prepositions: "As" can also function as a preposition, often indicating the role or capacity of someone or something. For instance, "He works as a teacher" or "She serves as the director of the company."

Like	As
Used to show similarity or comparison	Used to show similarity or comparison
Often used to compare nouns or pronouns	Often used to introduce clauses or phrases
Can be followed by a noun, pronoun, or gerund (-ing form of a verb)	Can be followed by a subject and verb

Can be used as a preposition or a conjunction	Primarily used as a conjunction
Example: "She runs like a cheetah."	Example: "She runs as if she is being chased."
Example: "He sings like a professional."	Example: "He sings as if he were on stage."
Example: "She looks like her mother."	Example: "She looks as she is tired."
Indicates a resemblance or similarity between two things	Indicates a manner or way in which something is done
Focuses on comparing qualities, characteristics, or appearances	Focuses on describing actions or behaviours
Can be used to create similes or metaphors	Not typically used to create similes or metaphors
Example: "Her smile is like sunshine."	Example: "She spoke as if she were a wise old sage."
Example: "He fought like a lion."	Example: "She ran as she could."
Example: "She is strong like her mother."	Example: "He slept as if he hadn't slept in days."
Can be used to express preferences or indicate preferences	Not typically used to express preferences
Example: "I like chocolate ice cream."	Example: "As an artist, I appreciate the beauty of this painting."
Example: "He enjoys activities like swimming and hiking."	Example: "As a teacher, she is patient and understanding."
Example: "I feel like going for a walk."	Example: "As a parent, she worries about her children's safety."
Can be used to indicate approximate quantities or measurements	Not typically used to indicate approximate quantities or measurements
Example: "There were like a hundred people at the party."	Example: "As much as I love desserts, I can only eat a small portion."

The main difference between '**as**' and '**like**' is that '**as**' is used to talk about the role of someone or something while '**like**' talks about similarities.

Similarities and Differences

Parts of Speech

'**As**' and '**like**' can be used as **conjunctions**, **prepositions**, or **adverbs**.

As it is late, we need to leave.

Here, 'as' is a conjunction.

She is tall as her mother was.

Here, 'as' is an adverb.

Like my mother used to say, you should try for happiness.

Here, 'like' is a conjunction.

I have a car just like yours.

Here, 'like' is a preposition.

Usage

The Same Way

'**As**' and '**like**' as conjunctions can be used to express an action or event that has happened in the same way that something else has happened. Have a look:

No one understands me like she does.

No one understands me as she does.

Tip!

Remember that in this context, using '**like**' will make your sentences *informal* and we advise you to use 'as' instead in formal contexts.

Comparison

'**Like**' is used to compare two things. For instance, we want to compare two students and show that they both have issues with a specific course. Watch:

Harry, like Tom, has difficulty with learning Maths.

Note that we cannot use '**as**' in this context.

The Role of

We use '**as**' to show that someone or something plays a specific role. This can be expressing a job. Have a look:

He works as a caretaker.

Note that if we use '**like**,' it would express a different meaning. '**Like**' would suggest that someone or something has a similar role to another.