

as¹

S1 W1

/əz; strong æz/

preposition, adverb

1 used when you are comparing two people, things, situations etc:

as... as

Tom's not as old as you, is he?

an old woman with hair as white as snow

Some of the doctors are paid almost twice as much as the nurses.

We work as hard as any other team in England.

*Please let me know your decision **as soon as possible** (= as soon as you can).*

*His last album sold half a million copies and we hope this one will be **just as** (= equally) popular.*

2 used to say what job, duty, use, or appearance someone or something has:

As a parent, I feel that more should be done to protect our children.

A flat stone was used as a table.

Dad dressed up as Santa Claus.

3 used to say what someone thinks or says a person or thing is:

The problem is regarded as serious.

The result of last week's election will be seen as a victory for the right-wing government.

He's described as being in his late teens, tall, and of slim build.

4 when someone was in a particular age group:

As a young man, Eliot had studied art in Paris.

I'll take you to all the places I loved as a girl.

→ **such as** AT SUCH (2) ,

→ **as one** AT ONE² (16)

Grammar

as, like, as if/though

Use **as** in comparisons in the expression **as ... as**, with an adjective or adverb in between:

Basketball is as popular as football here.
He can't sing as well as his brother.

As is also used after **be the same** (age/colour etc):

He is the same age as me.

⚠ Do not use **as** on its own before a noun or pronoun in comparisons. Use **like**:

A movie is not like a book (NOT not as a book).
Like other people (NOT as other people), he values his privacy.

Use **as if/as though** followed by a clause to compare a real situation to an imaginary situation:

He talked to them as if they were children.

⚠ Some people use **like** in this sort of comparison:

They act like they own the place.

However, some people think this is incorrect.

⚠ **as if/as though** cannot be followed directly by a noun:

You treat them as if they were your parents (NOT as if your parents).

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *eallswa*; → ALSO