

## Like and as

A

**Like** = 'similar to', 'the same as'. You cannot use **as** in this way:

- ☐ What a beautiful house! It's **like a palace**. (*not as a palace*)
- ☐ 'What does Sandra do?' 'She's a teacher, **like me**.' (*not as me*)
- ☐ 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*)

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

You can also say '... **like** (somebody/something) **doing** something':

- ☐ 'What's that noise?' 'It sounds **like a baby crying**.'

Sometimes **like** = for example:

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

You can also use **such as** (= for example):

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

B

**As** = in the same way as, or in the same condition as. We use **as** before *subject + verb*:

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

We also use **like** in this way:

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

Compare **as** and **like**:

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

Note that we say **as usual** / **as always**:

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

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*, but the meaning is different from **like**.

Compare:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>As a taxi driver</b> , I spend most of my working life in a car.<br>(I am a taxi driver, that is my job) | <input type="checkbox"/> Everyone wants me to drive them to places. I'm <b>like a taxi driver</b> .<br>(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**. (*not like 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**.