

# Grammar Reference

## 'Like' for preference and description

### Meaning and use

The word **like** can be used in a number of different ways. In this unit we look at two of these:

1. **Like** can be used as a **verb** to express a preference or interest in a person, place or thing.

*I like your earrings. Where did you get them?*

2. **Like** can also be used as a **preposition** to ask for a description of a person, place or thing.

*Emily: What's your English teacher like?*

*Bob: She's kind and intelligent.*

### Form (as verb)

We use **like** as a verb in this way: **subject + like + object**

*Emily: I like sports. Do you like playing football?*

*Bob: Yes, I do. I also like fishing. Do you like fishing?*

*Emily: No, I don't.*

#### Positive

*I like shopping.*

*Bob likes playing football.*

#### Negative

*I don't like sports.*

*Emily doesn't like reading.*

#### Question

*Do you like horror movies?*

*Does Bob like cartoons?*

### Form (as preposition)

We use **like** as a preposition in this set phrase:

**what + to be + noun/noun phrase + like?**

*Andrea: What's California like?*

*Jamie: It's hot and sunny.*

### Take note: Is the question asking for preference or description?

When asking for preference, we use **like** with **do** or **does** in the question.

*Do you like playing tennis?*

*What sports do you like?*

We don't use **do** or **does** when asking for a description. Instead, we start the question with **what** and end with **like**.

*What is she like?*

*What's London like?*

*What was your weekend like?*

### Take note: Time and place

We can specify time and place when asking for a description by using a phrase at the end of the question.

*What will the weather be like **next weekend**?*

*What are the beaches like **in Barcelona**?*

## Spoken English

In formal speech (or writing), each word in a question usually appears separately.

**What is your new house like?**

However, we usually use contractions in informal speech (and writing).

**What's your new house like?**

## Practice

**Match questions 1-8 with answers a-h.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. What's your new music teacher like? | a. No, I don't. They're so scary!              |
| 2. What was your weekend like?         | b. They're really friendly. I like them a lot. |
| 3. Do you like watching horror movies? | c. Yes, I do. I like them a lot!               |
| 4. What are your new neighbours like?  | d. It's sunny and warm.                        |
| 5. What movies do you like?            | e. He likes football and baseball.             |
| 6. What sports does your brother like? | f. Horrible! He's so strict.                   |
| 7. Do you like your new shoes?         | g. I like action movies. They're exciting!     |
| 8. What's the weather like?            | h. It was fun! We went swimming.               |

## Answers

1. What's your new music teacher like? (f) Horrible! He's so strict.

[This question is asking for a description (of a person). You can tell because it begins with 'What' and ends with 'like'.]

2. What was your weekend like? (h) It was fun! We went swimming.

[This question is asking for a description (of a time). You can tell because it begins with 'What' and ends with 'like'.]

3. Do you like watching horror movies? (a) No, I don't. They're so scary!

[This question is asking about preference (of a thing). You can tell because it begins with 'Do'.]

4. What are your new neighbours like? (b) They're really friendly. I like them a lot.

[This question is asking for a description (of people). You can tell because it begins with 'What' and ends with 'like'.]

5. What movies do you like? (g) I like action movies. They're exciting!

[This question is asking about preference (of thing). as it begins with 'Do']

6. What sports does your brother like? (e) He likes football and baseball.

[This question is asking about preference (of thing). You can tell because it has 'does' in the question.]

7. Do you like your new shoes? (c) Yes, I do. I like them a lot!

[This question is asking about preference (of thing). You can tell because it begins with 'Do'.]

8. What's the weather like? (d) It's sunny and warm.

[This question is asking for a description (of thing). You can tell because it begins with 'What' and ends with 'like'.]

