

Unit 112

Like and as

a **Like** = similar to / the same as / for example:

- What a beautiful house! It's **like a palace**. (*not* 'as a palace')
- 'What does George do?' 'He's teacher, **like me**.' (*not* 'as me')
- Why do you always talk about boring things **like your job**?
- Be careful! The floor has been polished. It's **like walking** on ice.
- It's raining again. I hate weather **like this**.

Like is a *preposition*. So it is followed by a *noun* ('like **a palace** / like **your job**'), a *pronoun* ('like **me** / like **this**') or *-ing* ('like **walking**'). You can also say '**like** (someone/something) *-ing*':

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

b We use **as** (not 'like') before a *subject + verb*:

- Don't move anything. Leave everything **as it is**.

Compare **like** and **as** in these sentences:

- You should have done it **like this**. (*like + pronoun*)
- You should have done it **as I showed** you. (*as + subject + verb*)

But we use **such as** (= for example) without a verb:

- Some sports, **such as motor-racing**, can be dangerous.

Note that we say **as usual**:

- You're late **as usual**.

c **As + subject + verb** can have other meanings. For example:

- Do **as you are told**! (= Do what you are told.)
- They did **as they promised**. (= They did what they promised.)

You can also say **as you know** / **as we expected** / **as I said** etc.:

- **As you know**, it's Tom's birthday next week. (= you know this already)
- Ann failed her driving test, **as we expected**.

d **As** can also be a *preposition* (which means you can use it with a noun), but the meaning is different from **like**.

We use **like** when we *compare* things:

- She looks beautiful - **like a princess**. (she isn't really a princess)
- Everyone is ill at home. Our house is **like a hospital**. (it isn't really a hospital)

We use **as + noun** to say what something *really is or was* (especially when we talk about someone's job or how we use something):

- A few years ago I worked **as a bus driver**. (I really was a bus driver)
- Sue has just found a job **as a shop assistant**.
- During the war this hotel was used **as a hospital**. (so it really was a hospital)
- We haven't got a car, so we use the garage **as a workshop**.
- The news of her death came **as a great shock**. (it really was a shock)

