

Like as a preposition and conjunction

The word like exhibits several different grammatical properties. It can be used as a preposition, a conjunction, an adjective or an adverb.

Like as a preposition

When used as a preposition, like is followed by a noun.

She looks like her mother.

He walks like his dad.

Like as a conjunction

In informal English, like is sometimes used as a conjunction instead of as. This is very common in American English.

Nobody understands her like I do. (Informal)

Nobody understands her as I do. (Formal)

Like

If you are like somebody you are similar to him or her.

She is like her mother.

It was a small bird like a sparrow. (= The bird was similar to a sparrow.)

She was like her brother. They were both excellent writers.

No one can play the piano like he does.

Like can be used with the modifiers just and very.

My neighbour has bought a new car just like mine.

He is very like his brother in many ways.

We can use like after the copular verbs seem, look, sound, smell, taste and feel. As is not usually possible in this case.

She seems like a good candidate for the job. (NOT She seems as a good candidate for the job.)

He looks like his brother. (NOT He looks as his brother.)

Feel like

Like as a preposition and conjunction

Feel can be followed by *like* or *as if / though*.

She felt like she was in a dream. (= She felt as if she was in a dream.)

Feel like can also mean 'want' or 'would like'.

I feel like singing. (= I want to sing.)

Like new

If something is like new, it looks like it is new.

They just applied a coat of paint and the house was like new.