

"As" or "Like"?

Both "as" and "like" can be used to describe similarities. When used in this way, "like" is a preposition that means '*similar to*' and is followed by a noun or a noun phrase:

"Biology is like ^{noun} chemistry in many important respects."

"Like all the politicians in the election, he was determined to win votes."

noun phrase



When "as" is used for comparison, it is followed by a verb phrase or a prepositional phrase:

"As ^{verb phrase} I mentioned earlier, the result of the election was far from certain."

"There was dissent, as in the last meeting, about the need for industrial action."

prepositional phrase

Its meaning here is closer to '*the same as*'.



"As" can also be used as a preposition to talk about the jobs, roles or functions people or things perform. In such cases it means '*in this way*':

"I worked as a waitress to help pay my tuition fees."

"The strike acted as a catalyst for revolution."

"Peter used his poor eyesight as an excuse to avoid doing his homework."

"The judge regarded his plea as being equivalent to contempt of court."

"The customers used the ground as an ashtray."



Now try the exercises, good luck!