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What... like? • Comparatives and superlatives • Synonyms  
and antonyms • Directions

6.1 What....Like

## 6.1 What ... like?

### Form

*what + to be + subject + like?*

What	's (is) your teacher are his parents was your holiday were the beaches	like?	She's very patient. They're very kind. Wonderful. We swam a lot. OK, but some were dirty.
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### Note

We don't use *like* in the answer.

She's patient. NOT ~~She's like patient.~~

### Use

*What ... like?* means 'Describe somebody or something. Tell me about them. I don't know anything about them.'

*Like* in this question is a preposition, not a verb:

'What's Jim **like**?' 'He's intelligent and kind, and he's got lovely blue eyes.'

In the following sentences *like* is a verb:

'What does Jim **like**?' 'He **likes** motorbikes and playing tennis.'

### Note

*How's your mother?* asks about health. It doesn't ask for a description.

'How's your mother?' 'She's very well, thank you.'

## 6.2. Comparative and superlative adjectives

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### Form

- 1 Look at the chart.

		Comparative	Superlative
Short adjectives	cheap small *big	cheaper smaller bigger	cheapest smallest biggest
Adjectives that end in -y	funny early heavy	funnier earlier heavier	funniest earliest heaviest
Adjectives with two syllables or more	careful boring expensive interesting	more careful more boring more expensive more interesting	most careful most boring most expensive most interesting
Irregular adjectives	far good bad	further better worse	furthest best worst

\* Short adjectives with one vowel + one consonant double the consonant:  
*hot/hotter/hottest, fat/fatter/fattest.*

- 2 *Than* is often used after a comparative adjective.

I'm **younger than** Barbara.

Barbara's **more intelligent than** Sarah.

*Much* can come before the comparative to give emphasis.

She's **much nicer than** her sister.

Is Tokyo **much more modern than** London?

- 3 *The* is used before superlative adjectives.

He's **the funniest** boy in the class.

Which is **the tallest** building in the world?

## Use

- 1 We use comparatives to compare one thing, person, or action with another.  
She's **taller** than me.  
London's **more expensive** than Rome.
- 2 We use superlatives to compare somebody or something with the whole group.  
She's the **tallest** in the class.  
It's the **most expensive** hotel in the world.
- 3 *As ... as* shows that something is the same or equal.  
Jim's **as tall as** Peter.  
I'm **as worried as** you are.
- 4 *Not as/so ... as* shows that something isn't the same or equal.  
She **isn't as tall as** her mother.  
My car **wasn't so expensive as** yours.

6.4.

**Synonyms**                      same meaning words. Not repeated

**Antonyms**                      opposite in meaning words

**1 Match the questions and answers.**

**1 What are her paintings like? \_\_e\_\_**

**2 Did you like the play? \_\_\_\_**

**3 What does your boyfriend like? \_\_\_\_**

**4 What was the play like? \_\_\_\_**

**5 What's your boyfriend like? \_\_\_\_**

**6 Does anyone like her paintings? \_\_\_\_**

**a Yes, they are very popular.**

**b It was OK but it was a bit sad.**

**c No, I didn't. It was boring.**

**d He's very kind and he's got a sense of humor.**

**e The ones in the National Gallery are interesting.**

**f Cars and motorbikes.**

**1e**

**2 c**

**3 f**

**4 b**

**5 d**

**6 a**

**2 Write the questions. Use *What ... like?* / *like*.**

**A (1) *Did* you *like* Amsterdam?**

**B Yes, we liked it very much.**

**A (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Amsterdam \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

**B It's smaller than London so it's easy to find places.**

**A (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the food?**

**B Yes, I did, but I like Spanish and Italian food more.**

**A (4) \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

**B It's a bit like British and German food – meat, potatoes, and vegetables. And lots of cheese!**

**A (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the countryside \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

**B It's flat! It's the flattest place I've ever been to.**

**A Where did you stay? (6) \_\_\_\_\_ your hotel \_\_\_\_\_ ?**

**B It was quite small but nice and very central.**

**2 What's ... like**

**4 What's ... like**

**6 What was ...like**

**3 Did you like**

**5 What's ... like**

**3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the adjectives in brackets.**

1 She is (heavy) heavier than her brother.

2 It's (beautiful) \_\_\_\_\_ building in Paris.

3 He's (good) \_\_\_\_\_ student in the class.

4 This is (bad) \_\_\_\_\_ meal I've ever had.

5 She was born in May and he was born in June 1988 so he's not (old) \_\_\_\_\_ her.

6 Of course £100 is (expensive) \_\_\_\_\_ \$100!

7 The girls are noisy, but the boys are (noisy) \_\_\_\_\_ .

8 It's 35°C in Milan and Athens. Milan is (hot) \_\_\_\_\_ Athens.

9 It's -15°C in Chicago and -20°C in Stockholm.

Chicago is not (cold) \_\_\_\_\_ Stockholm.

10 'How's your cold?' 'I'm (good) \_\_\_\_\_ now, thank you.'

11 His second wife is (bad) \_\_\_\_\_ than the first!

2 the most beautiful

7 noisier

3 the best

8 as hot as

4 the worst

9 as cold as

5 older than

10 better

6 more expensive than

11 worse



**4 Complete the verbs in the phrases.**

- 1 **buy**\_ stocks and shares
- 2 m\_\_\_\_\_ a will
- 3 in\_\_\_\_\_ a lot of money from someone
- 4 in\_\_\_\_\_ money in stocks and shares
- 5 ar\_\_\_\_\_ a thief
- 6 amp\_\_\_\_\_ a leg
- 7 li\_\_\_\_\_ in poverty
- 8 op\_\_\_\_\_ a bank account
- 9 sp\_\_\_\_\_ a child
- 10 we\_\_\_\_\_ ragged clothes

- |           |            |        |         |
|-----------|------------|--------|---------|
| 2 make    | 5 arrest   | 7 live | 9 spoil |
| 3 inherit | 6 amputate | 8 open | 10 wear |
| 4 invest  |            |        |         |

**5 Match the words in A with a synonym in B and an antonym in C.**

- | A           | B         | C          |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 fed up    | rich      | horrible   |
| 2 untidy    | wonderful | old        |
| 3 wealthy   | bored     | poor       |
| 4 brilliant | new       | tidy       |
| 5 modern    | messy     | interested |

- |               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 2 messy, tidy | 4 wonderful, horrible |
| 3 rich, poor  | 5 new, old            |

## 6 Correct the sentences.

- 1 She is more clever than her sister.   **cleverer**
- 2 It's the most good city in the world. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Bologna is the older university in Europe. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 A car is most expensive than a bicycle. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 London is more wet than Rome. \_\_\_\_\_

- 2 It's the best city                      4 is more expensive than  
3 is the oldest university            5 is wetter than

## 7 Write polite replies.

- 1 His wife is so boring! Yes,   **she's not very interesting**  .
- 2 That cat's stupid. Yes, \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Their house is dirty. Yes, \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 They are very mean. Yes, \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 It was a horrible present. Yes, \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 She's always rude. Yes, \_\_\_\_\_.

- 2 it's not very clever                      5 it wasn't very nice  
3 it's not very clean                      6 she's not very polite  
4 they aren't very generous

## 8 Join the sentences with *who*, *that*, or *which*.

1 I know a woman. She lives on a boat.  
  **I\_k\_n\_o\_w\_a\_w\_o\_m\_a\_n\_w\_h\_o\_l\_i\_v\_e\_s\_o\_n\_a\_b\_o\_a\_t.**  

2 I stayed in a hotel. It was in the centre of the city.

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3 Ken is a teacher.He lives in Barcelona.

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4 I bought some shoes. They were in a sale.

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5 Katy knows my sister.My sister works in a bank.

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2 I stayed in a hotel which/that was in ...

3 Ken is a teacher who lives ...

4 I bought some shoes which/that ...

5 Katy knows my sister, who works ...