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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## 6 Minute Grammar

### 'Like' as a verb and preposition



*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Finn**

Hello. Welcome to 6 Minute Grammar with me, Finn.

**Sophie**

And me, Sophie. Hello. Today, we're talking about the word **like**.

**Finn**

Yes, the word **like**. We'll be looking at two different ways to use it.

**Sophie**

We'll also give you a useful tip about time expressions.

**Finn**

And there'll be a quiz to practice what we've studied...

**Sophie**

And we'll even get to find out a bit of personal information about Finn!

**Finn**

Oh no, not too personal I hope!

**Sophie**

Let's wait and see shall we? Now - the word **like**.

**Finn**

**Like**. It's an interesting word in English, because when it comes to grammar, we can use it as a verb and we can also use **like** as a preposition.

**Sophie**

So let's start with **like** as a verb. And here's Neil with our first example:

**Neil**

*James likes playing football.*

**Finn**

Thank you Neil. So we have the subject 'James', the verb **likes**, and the object **playing football**. Let's hear it again – this time, Neil, as a question.

**Neil**

Does James like playing football?

**Sophie**

This question is made with **does** plus the subject, plus the base form of the verb **like**.

**Finn**

And the verb **like** is asking about preference – things you enjoy.

**Sophie**

Yes exactly. For example, I can find out about Finn's sporting preferences by asking: **Do you like playing football?** Do you like playing football, Finn?

**Finn**

I love playing football! But sadly, I'm not very good. Now, the second way we can use **like** is when we ask for a description, like this:

**Neil**

What's your house like?

**Sophie**

So here, **like** is a preposition, not a verb, and it goes at the end of the question.

**Finn**

This time, we don't use **do** or **does**. The question is made of **what** plus the verb **to be**, plus the subject plus **like**. What's your house like, Sophie?

**Sophie**

My house Finn? It's very beautiful actually! Let's have another example:

**Neil**

*What was your weekend like?*

**Finn**

So – thank you Neil – it's **what** plus **to be**, plus a subject, plus **like**, to ask for a description. And as for the answer – remember to use adjectives in your descriptions. What was your weekend like, Sophie?

**Sophie**

It was lovely, thank you Finn. Very relaxing! I had coffee with friends, and then we went for a long walk! What was your weekend like?

**Finn**

It was very very busy. I spent the whole weekend tidying my flat.

**Sophie**

You poor thing! Now, you can also use **like** to ask someone to describe a person. Finn, what's your dad like?

**Finn**

My Dad, my Dad's great. He's very clever.

**Sophie**

Clever, eh?

**Finn**

Yep. And he's tall... and he's a little bit bald. And he likes writing, too!

**IDENT**

You're listening to [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com).

**Sophie**

And in this programme we're finding out a bit about Finn...

**Finn**

And we're talking about using **like** in two different ways.

**Sophie**

We can use **like** as a verb to show preference, for example: 'My mother likes Italian food' or 'Does your father like reading?'

**Finn**

And we can use **like** as a preposition with the verb **to be** to ask for descriptions, starting with **what** and ending with **like**.

**Sophie**

Finn, what's your girlfriend like?

**Finn**

A good example but I think that's enough personal questions for one programme! It's time for a quiz. I'm going to ask three questions. For each question, first: can you decide whether I'm asking for preference or for a description. Then - answer the question! Here's the first one: *Do you like Chinese food?*

**Sophie**

Right, well the question starts with **does**, and **like** isn't at the end, so you're asking for preference. Actually, I really like Chinese food.

**Finn**

Me too! Now, the next one. *What's the new shopping centre like?*

**Sophie**

This question starts with **what**, ends in **like**, and there's no **do**, **does** or **did**, so you're asking for a description. The new shopping centre is usually very busy!

**Finn**

Is it indeed! Now, here's the last question. *What movies do you like?*

**Sophie**

This is an interesting one: the question starts with **what**, and ends with **like**, but it has **do**, so **like** is a verb, and you're asking for preference. What movies do I like? I like comedies.

**Finn**

Me too. Well done if you got those right.

**Sophie**

So, that's **like** as a verb to talk about preference, and **like** as a preposition to ask for a description. Remember to use **do** or **does** for preference and **to be** for a description.

**Finn**

Now, there's lots more about this on our website at [www.bbclearningenglish.com](http://www.bbclearningenglish.com). Do join us again for more 6 Minute Grammar.

**All**

Bye.