

FCE 4.2

In the second part of chapter 4, we will look at the differences between the words **like** and **as**, learn about compound adjectives and, review words related to animals and expressions with the word *time*.

like and as

These words are used to make comparisons—both in English and Spanish—but they are difficult for Spanish-speakers because both words translate to “como”. Here are the differences in use and form:

LIKE ...	AS ...
... can be used as a preposition for comparison or similarity: <i>My bed is so hard it's like sleeping on the ground.</i>	... can be used as a preposition to tell you what job or function a person or thing has: <i>Juli works as a mining engineer. / I used the tin as a cup to drink from.</i>
... is followed by a noun (or a word that functions like a noun—a pronoun or a gerund): <i>like a house / like him / like swimming.</i>	... can be a conjunction and is followed by a subject and verb: <i>You should do as I did and take an umbrella.</i> (OJO: In British English it is becoming more common to hear <i>like</i> followed by a subject and verb. <i>Like</i> followed by a subject and verb is acceptable in American English: <i>I don't speak like he does.</i>
can be used to mean “for example”: <i>Different animals, like gorillas...</i> (See the starred point below.)	Some verbs can be followed by an object + <i>as</i>: <i>regarded as, be known as, describe as, class as, accept as, used as, and treat as.</i>

★ The phrase **such as** can also be used to introduce examples: *Different animals, such as gorillas...*

Complete the following sentences using *as*, *like* or *nothing*, as appropriate.

- a) The large cat looked a cheetah.
- b) I know it sounds foolish, but I want to buy a tiger.
- c) You can work full-time in the zoo souvenir shop.
- d) The new penguin area is very big. It's an Olympic swimming pool.
- e) She could photograph the animals just a professional.
- f) He went to the fancy dress party dressed a gorilla.
- g) Pete regarded his cat a member of the family.

In the following exercise, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use 2-5 words, including the word given. (Consejo: Tacha las palabras que se repiten. Lo que te queda es la frase que debes sustituir. Fijate #1 como ejemplo.)

- 1) According to the brochure, ~~the zoo was~~ “a perfect place to spend the day”.

AS

The zoo was “a perfect place to spend the day”.

- 2) In my house, we store our bikes in the garage.

STORAGE

In my house, we for our bikes.

- 3) Sue taught small children in a school in Sydney before returning to the UK.

WORKING

Sue of small children in a school in Sydney before returning to the UK.

- 4) My friend, whose name is Edmund, is usually called Fuzz at college.

KNOWN

My friend Edmund Fuzz at college.

- 5) They heard what they thought was a dog barking.

SOUNDED

They heard a dog barking.

- 6) My uncle would call my dog 'the wolf' when he used to visit.

REFER

My uncle would 'the wolf' when he used to visit.

Compound adjectives

A compound adjective is an adjective which has two parts and is usually written with a hyphen. Many have a present (-ing) or past (-ed) participle in the second part of the compound, as in this example from chapter 4.1: *a thick-billed parrot*.

Here are more examples—note that the first uses the past participle and the second uses the present participle. (1) Who do you think our **four-legged** friends are? (2) What is a **man-eating** tiger?

How would you describe a cat that has blue eyes, **long hair** and a **bad temper**? “Has blue eyes” can be converted to the compound adjective “blue-eyed”. Now, you convert the other two details.

It is a blue-eyed, _____ cat.

Compound adjectives are very useful for describing people, both for character and physical characteristics. (And, as long as you follow the structural rules, you can invent new adjectives—a very useful tool for someone learning a language.) For example: *My mother's a brown-eyed, curly-haired woman. She's left-handed. She's a broadminded and self-confident person.*

Some compound adjectives have a preposition in the second part of the compound. For example: *Where would you sit at a **drive-in** movie?* / *How would you feel if you were **hard-up**?* / *How much money do you need to have to be **well-off**?* Can you think of some more examples?

Finally, the reading activity in the previous lesson included the phrase “20-minute journey”. Note that *minute* is singular not plural. Apply that rule in the exercise below. How would you describe:

- 1) a road which was fifty kilometers long? _____
- 2) a girl who is twelve years old? _____
- 3) a film which lasts 75 minutes? _____
- 4) a car which costs £35,000? _____
- 5) a pause which lasts ten seconds? _____

Vocabulary

Let's look at some other words related to animals. Decide which of the words below are used with each of these creatures. Tick all that apply. Some can be used more than once. Use an English-English dictionary to help you.

parrot	bear	tiger	rhino
☐ beak	☐ beak	☐ beak	☐ beak
☐ feathers	☐ feathers	☐ feathers	☐ feathers
☐ fur	☐ fur	☐ fur	☐ fur
☐ horn	☐ horn	☐ horn	☐ horn
☐ paw	☐ paw	☐ paw	☐ paw
☐ tail	☐ tail	☐ tail	☐ tail
☐ wing	☐ wing	☐ wing	☐ wing

Finally, let's look at several expressions with the word *time*. There are many common expressions with *time* in English, as in this example from the article about zoos: ... *we had a really good time*.

Complete sentences a-h with one of the expressions to the right.

- a) We all went into the aquarium through the automatic gate.
- b) I usually don't have enough, so I grab a sandwich on the way to work.
- c) He says he never puts on weight, but he eats three as I do.
- d) people will realize that not spending enough on education is very unwise.
- e) Although Peter decided not to come with us, he said he hoped we would

kill time	ten times three
have a good time	one at a time
tell the time	from time to time
spend time	a time when
pass the time	time for breakfast/lunch
take time off	in time
waste time	at times
	(four) times as much

- f) I always take a book to the doctor's surgery to while I'm waiting.
- g) She was given a watch as soon as she learnt to
- h) I really hate doing stupid exercises.

Let's end with some speaking practice. Record your answers to these questions.

- a) Can you think of three ways of wasting time?
- b) What's the best way of having a good time?
- c) What do you do when you have to kill time?