

# What ... like?

## 1 Look at this question and answer:

A: *What's Julie like?*

B: *She's very pretty and she's very kind, but she's not very clever.*

We use **What ... like?** to ask about a person's physical appearance (tall, short, pretty, etc.) or character (interesting, boring, friendly, unfriendly, etc.).

We can also use **What ... like?** to ask about places, books, films and events (e.g. a party, a football match):

A: *What's Rio de Janeiro like?*

B: *Well, the beaches are wonderful but the traffic is awful.*

A: *What's Spielberg's latest film like?*

B: *It's excellent.*

## 2 We use **look like?** to talk about someone's appearance:

A: *What does Julie look like?*

B: *She's tall with brown hair.*

We can also use **like** with taste, feel, sound, and smell:

A: *What does that taste like?*

B: *It tastes like cheese.*

A: *What is this material?*

B: *I don't know. It looks like wool but it feels like cotton.*

## 3 We can also use **like**, with the question word **Who** and in statements, to mean 'similar to':

A: *Who's Julie like – her father or her mother?*

B: *She's like her mother.* (= She is similar to her mother.)

*Rio de Janeiro is like Buenos Aires.* (= Rio is similar to Buenos Aires.)

## 4 The word **like** in **What's she like?** is a preposition; it is not the verb **like**. Here is an example of **like** used as a verb:

A: *What music does Julie like?*

B: *She likes rock music.*

## 5 We usually use **How?**, not **What ... like?**, when we ask about someone's health or temporary state:

A: *How's your brother today?*

B: *He's feeling much better.*

A: *How was your boss today?*

B: *He was very friendly today!*

## Practice

### A Use the words in brackets ( ) to make a question that goes with the answer.

Use **is/are** or **look**. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

► (What/Sally/like)

A: *What is Sally like.....?* ~ B: She's clever, but she's a bit boring.

► (What/Jane/like)

A: *What does Jane look like.....?* ~ B: She's quite short and has dark hair.

1 (What/Peter/like)

A: .....? ~ B: He's not a very interesting person.

2 (What/Anna's parents/like)

A: .....? ~ B: They're very generous.

3 (What/Tom/like)

A: .....? ~ B: He's very tall, and he has blond hair.

4 (What/Eva/like)

A: .....? ~ B: She's tall and strong.

5 (What/Bob and Tom/like)

A: .....? ~ B: They're very amusing.

6 (What/Susan/like)

A: .....? ~ B: She's tall and slim, and she wears glasses.

**B** Read the following descriptions.

Kiwis are a round, brown fruit with a rough skin. They have almost no smell, but they are sweet, with a flavour similar to strawberries.

A double bass is a musical instrument. It is the largest member of the violin family. It has a deep sound.

Now for each of the answers, write a question about kiwis or a double bass, using *look/sound/taste/smell/feel + like*.

QUESTION

- What do kiwis look like ..... ?
- 1 ..... ?
- 2 ..... ?
- 3 ..... ?
- 4 ..... ?
- 5 ..... ?

ANSWER

- ~ They're round and brown.
- ~ It has a deep sound.
- ~ They don't really have a smell.
- ~ They have a flavour like strawberries.
- ~ Like a very big violin.
- ~ They are rough to the touch.

**C** Use the words in brackets ( ) to write a question with the preposition *like* or the verb *like*. Add any other necessary words.

- (What music/you/like)

A: What music do you like ..... ?

~ B: I like rock music.

- (What/Julie/like)

A: What is Julie like ..... ?

~ B: She is very amusing.

- 1 (Who/your sister/like)

A: ..... ?

~ B: She likes a boy in her class.

- 2 (What/Paul's brothers/like)

A: ..... ?

~ B: They think they're clever, but I don't.

- 3 (What/Jane/like/for breakfast)

A: ..... ?

~ B: She likes toast and marmalade.

- 4 (Who/you/like)

A: ..... ?

~ B: I'm like my mother.

- 5 (What/Mary's husband/like)

A: ..... ?

~ B: He is rather boring. He's not like her.

**D** Write questions with *What ... like?* (for things that are permanent) or *How ... ?* (for health or temporary situations). Use a form of *be* and the other words in brackets ( ).

- (be/Atlanta) What is Atlanta like ..... ?

~ It's a very modern city.

- (be/Mike/yesterday) How was Mike yesterday ..... ?

~ He felt a lot better.

- 1 (be/John's flat) ..... ?

~ It's very big, and it has a wonderful view over the city.

- 2 (be/your boss/yesterday) ..... ?

~ He was tired but friendly.

- 3 (be/a squash racquet) ..... ?

~ It's similar to a tennis racquet, but lighter.

- 4 (be/your sister) ..... ?

~ She's very well, thank you.

- 5 (be/Portugal) ..... ?

~ It's very interesting. There are lots of things to see.