

Unit 6

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 father? asks about health. It doesn't ask for a description.

'How's your father?' 'He's very well, thank you.'

6.2 Comparative and superlative adjectives

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.

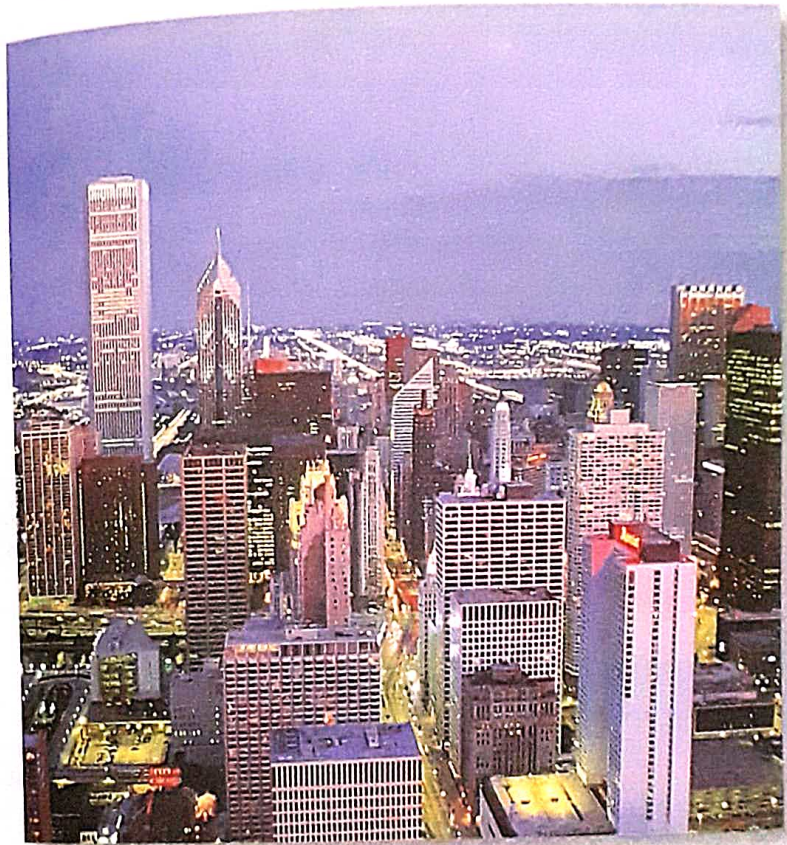
She **isn't as tall as** her mother.

My car **wasn't so expensive as** yours.

PRACTICE

What's Chicago like?

- 1 You are asking Todd about Chicago. Complete the questions with *is* or *are* and the correct words from the box.



the restaurants the people the night-life the buildings

- 1 **You** What 's the weather like?
Todd Well, Chicago's called 'the windy city' and it really can be windy!
- 2 **You** What are the people like?
Todd They're very interesting. You meet people from all over the world.
- 3 **You** What are the buildings like?
Todd A lot of them are very, very tall. The Sears Tower is 110 storeys high.
- 4 **You** What are the restaurants like?
Todd They're very good. You can find food from every country in the world.
- 5 **You** What 's the night-life like?
Todd Oh, it's wonderful. There's lots to do in Chicago.
- 2 **T 6.2** Listen and check. Practise with a partner.
- 3 Ask and answer the same questions about the city you are in now.

GRAMMAR SPOT

1 What are the comparative and superlative forms of the following adjectives? What are the rules?

a small
cold
near

c busy
noisy
dry

b big
hot
wet

d beautiful
interesting
exciting

2 These adjectives are irregular. What are the comparative and superlative forms?

far good bad

3 Adjectives also combine with *as . . . as*.
Melbourne isn't *as cosmopolitan as* Chicago.

▶▶ **Grammar Reference 6.2 p135**

2 **T 6.4** Listen and repeat the sentences.

/hɒtə ðæn/

This summer's hotter than last.

/əz hɒt əz/

It wasn't as hot as this last year.

3 Practise these sentences with a partner.

It isn't as cold today as it was yesterday.

But it's colder than it was last week.

I'm not as tall as you, but I'm taller than Anna.

This car's more expensive than John's.

But it isn't as expensive as Anna's.

T 6.5 Listen and check.

Check it

6 Correct these sentences.

- 1 He's more older than he looks.
- 2 Jessica's as tall than her mother.
- 3 'What does Hong Kong like?' 'It's really exciting!'
- 4 Trains in India are more crowded that in Europe.
- 5 Al-Azhar University in Cairo is oldest university in the world.
- 6 He isn't as intelligent than his sister.
- 7 This is more hard than I expected.
- 8 Who is the most rich man in the world?
- 9 Everything is more cheap in my country.
- 10 Rome was hotter that I expected.

READING AND SPEAKING

A tale of two millionaires

- 1 Do you prefer to spend money or to save it?
- 2 Match the verbs and nouns. Many of them are to do with money.

	Verbs		Nouns
1	buy	4	a bank account
2	spoil	5	poverty
3	wear	8	a thief
4	open	7	a will
5	live in	1	stocks and shares
6	inherit	2	a child
7	make	10	a leg
8	arrest	3	ragged clothes
9	invest	6	a lot of money from someone
10	amputate	9	a lot of money in something

VOCABULARY AND PRONUNCIATION

Synonyms

- 1 We often use synonyms in conversation because we don't want to repeat words.



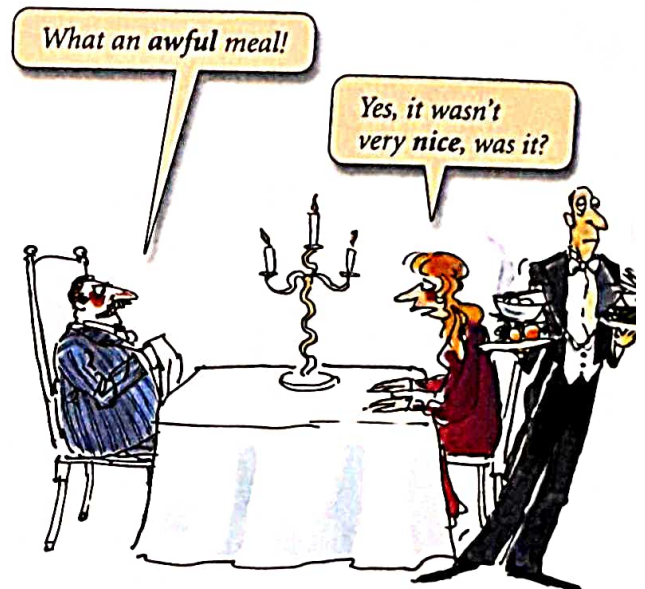
Complete the conversations, using an adjective of similar meaning from the box.

fed up generous brilliant messy modern wealthy

- 1 'Mary's family is very rich.'
'Well, I knew her uncle was very wealthy.'
 - 2 'Look at all these new buildings!'
'Yes. Paris is much more modern than I expected.'
 - 3 'Wasn't that film wonderful?'
'Yes, it was brilliant.'
 - 4 'George doesn't earn much money, but he's so kind.'
'He is, isn't he? He's one of the most generous people I know.'
 - 5 'Ann's bedroom's really untidy again!'
'Is it? I told her it was messy yesterday, and she promised to clean it.'
 - 6 'I'm bored with this lesson!'
'I know, I'm really fed up with it, too!'
- 2 **T 6.8** Listen and check. Listen again, paying particular attention to the stress and intonation. Practise the conversations with a partner.

Antonyms

- 3 We can also use antonyms in conversation to avoid repeating words.



Match the following adjectives with their *two* opposites in exercise 1.

interested	<u>bored</u>	<u>fed up</u>
horrible	<u>wonderful</u>	<u>brilliant</u>
mean	<u>kind</u>	<u>generous</u>
old	<u>new</u>	<u>modern</u>
poor	<u>rich</u>	<u>wealthy</u>
tidy	<u>untidy</u>	<u>messy</u>

- 4 Sometimes it is more polite to use *not very* and an opposite adjective.
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Tom's so short. | Well, he's <u>not very tall</u> . |
| He always wears such dirty clothes. | They certainly <u>aren't very clean</u> . |

Reply to these sentences. Be more polite.

- 1 London's such an expensive city.
 - 2 Paul and Sue are so mean.
 - 3 Their house is always so messy.
 - 4 Their children are so noisy.
 - 5 John looks so miserable.
 - 6 His sister's so stupid.
- 5 **T 6.9** Listen and check. Pay particular attention to the stress and intonation. Practise the conversations with your partner.