

# 33 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	ANSWER
▶ <i>What do kiwis look like</i> ..... ?	~ They're round and brown.
1 ..... ?	~ It has a deep sound.
2 ..... ?	~ They don't really have a smell.
3 ..... ?	~ They have a flavour like strawberries.
4 ..... ?	~ Like a very big violin.
5 ..... ?	~ 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: <i>What music do you like</i> ..... ?	~ B: I like rock music.
▶ (What/Julie/like) A: <i>What is Julie like</i> ..... ?	~ 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) <i>What is Atlanta like</i> ..... ?	~ It's a very modern city.
▶ (be/Mike/yesterday) <i>How was Mike yesterday</i> .. ?	~ 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.