

Like ili as

The word *like* can be, in some cases, replaced by the word *as* or a phrase containing the word *as*. This may be one of the reasons why Croatian learners of English occasionally mix up the words *like* and *as*, although the confusion may also be due to the fact that both words are sometimes translated into Croatian as “kao”.

Sometimes Croatian students translate phrases like “Radim kao tajnica.” as “~~I work like a secretary.~~” This is wrong because when we want to say that someone is “in the position of” or that something is “in the form of”, we need to use the preposition *as*.

- Prior to this job she worked *as* a financial adviser.
- If you have rented an apartment for residential use, you must not use it *as* an office for a company.

Let us now look at the different meanings of the word *like* and the words or expressions that have the same meaning.

	Meaning	Synonym	Example with <i>like</i>	Synonymous example
like	similar to	the same as	Here’s all you need to know in order to make a product just <i>like</i> ours.	Here’s all you need to know in order to make <i>the same</i> product <i>as</i> ours.
	for example	such as	There are some ways that high earners can avoid some taxes, <i>like</i> Stamp Duty.	There are some ways that high earners can avoid some taxes, <i>such as</i> Stamp Duty.
	in the same way as; in the same conditions as	as (formal)	<i>Like</i> I said at the meeting last week, I think we should revise our sales forecasts.	<i>As</i> I said at the meeting last week, I think we should revise our sales forecasts.

To check that you have understood the difference between *like* and *as* or phrases containing *as*, do the following exercise. Underline the word(s) that best complete the following sentences.

1. I’m attending the meeting *as/like* an observer.
2. We need a strong leader *as/like* Peter for our team.
3. *As/Such as* a company manager, I have a lot of meetings every day.
4. *As/Like* any company manager, I am barraged with one meeting after another.
5. After a devastating storm *as/like* the one we saw with Sandy, those recovery efforts take some time and they take significant resources.
6. Planning for your financial future is *such as/like* planning any journey.
7. I’m your friend and, *as/like* a friend, I advise you to think again.
8. I don’t know you as well as he does but, *as/like* your friend, I advise you to think again.
9. *As/Like* Mr Jenkins said, it will be a challenging time for British business.
10. The figures are exactly *the same as/such as* their last poll, conducted a month ago for the Sunday Times.
11. The shopping centre is nothing *like/as* the old market.
12. We wouldn’t be in this situation if you had done *as/such as* I said.
13. Current ownership rules are insufficient to cope with the rise of online news providers *like/such as* Facebook and Google News.

14. Qantas is the only full service airline with a subsidiary *as/like* this.

15. The shopping centre is nothing *like/as* the old market.

Key: 1. as, 2. like (or such as), 3. as, 4. like (or the same as), 5. like (or such as), 6. like (or the same as), 7. as, 8. like (or the same as your friend, i.e. we both advise you) 9. both are correct, but like is informal, 10. the same as, 11. like, 12. as, 13. both are correct. 14. like, 15. like