



## Video 9 – Real Grammar: can I use *like* as a conjunction?

Have you ever been told that you can't use the word *like* as a conjunction?

A conjunction is a word that introduces a clause. For example if you say 'I didn't go to school because I was feeling ill', *because* is a conjunction introducing the last part of the sentence.

Let's look at a couple of examples:

"We cook our porridge *as* the people in Scotland do."

"We cook our porridge *like* the people in Scotland do."

Traditional grammar books will tell you that the correct answer is *as*, and that *like* should never be used as a conjunction. According to this view, *like* should only be used as a preposition, for example in a sentence such as "She's a teacher, *like* me".

However, there is plenty of corpus evidence showing that *like* is quite often used as a conjunction, in sentences such as 'I wish I could play the piano *like* she does'.

So both sentences are correct, **like** and **as** can both be used as conjunctions, but **like** is a little more informal.

If you'd like to know more about this topic or other real grammar questions, have a look at the Macmillan Dictionary Blog.