

Common Usage Problems: Practice

Note: If you missed the assessment day you MUST come in for the assessment. It will only take you between 5-10 minutes.

Read the background: When it is not used as a verb (I like ice cream.), the word *like* is a preposition meaning “similar to” or “such as.” Prepositions precede nouns. The word *like* should not be used in place of *as*, *as if*, or *as though*, which are conjunctions that introduce clauses.

Incorrect: The sand felt like it was a warm slipper. (before a clause)

Correct: The sand felt like a warm slipper. (before a noun)

Correct: The sand felt as if it were a warm slipper.

Use *between* to compare two things. Use *among* to compare three or more things.

Incorrect: The argument was among John and me.

Correct: The argument was between John and me.

Incorrect: Katie was between many students auditioning for the part in the play.

Correct: Katie was among many students auditioning for the part in the play.

Complete each sentence correctly by inserting *between* or *among*.

1. Sam and his friends were deciding going to the movies or eating out.
2. They talked themselves and ended up going out for pizza.
3. It was hard to decide onions, peppers, and mushrooms for the topping.
4. Billy and Steve had just enough money them to pay for it.

Complete each sentence by correctly inserting *like*, *as*, or *as if*.

1. It looks a new delicatessen is opening in the neighborhood.
2. I wonder if it will offer the same kind of food the old delicatessen did.
3. Jack always says that there’s nothing home cooking.
4. Matt acts he could not survive without a good delicatessen nearby.