✓ **As, As If, As Though, Like:** Use *as* in a comparison (not *like*) when there is an equality intended or when the meaning is "in the function of."

Celia acted as (not *like*) the leader when the group was getting organized.
[Celia = leader]

Use *as if* or *as though* for the subjunctive.

He spent his money **as if** [or **as though**] he were rich.

Use *like* in a comparison (not *as*) when the meaning is "in the manner of" or "to the same degree as."

The boy swam like a fish.

Don't use *like* as the opening word in a clause in formal writing.

Informal: **Like** I thought, he was unable to predict the weather.
Formal: **As** I thought, he was unable to predict the weather.