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GRAMMAR: LIKE

An essential part of giving our opinion about something is to express what you like or dislike. In this post we are going to discuss the grammar behind the use of like and some of its synonyms.

In the affirmative we use **like**:

SUBJECT	VERB	EXAMPLE
I	LIKE	<i>I like watching TV.</i>
YOU	LIKE	<i>You like reading books.</i>
HE/SHE/IT	LIKES	<i>The dog likes playing fetch.</i>
WE	LIKE	<i>We like listening to music.</i>
THEY	LIKE	<i>They like playing the guitar.</i>
YOU (ALL)	LIKE	<i>You like passing exams.</i>

Careful: We almost always use like + ing in modern English.

In the negative we use **do not/don't like**:

SUBJECT	AUXILIARY + VERB	EXAMPLE
I	DON'T LIKE	<i>I don't like singing.</i>
YOU	DON'T LIKE	<i>You don't like video games.</i>
HE/SHE/IT	DOESN'T LIKE	<i>He doesn't like fish.</i>
WE	DON'T LIKE	<i>We don't like jogging.</i>
THEY	DON'T LIKE	<i>They don't like working hard.</i>
YOU (ALL)	DON'T LIKE	<i>You don't like swimming.</i>

In the negative we can also use **dislike**:

SUBJECT	VERB	EXAMPLE
I	DISLIKE	<i>I dislike watching TV.</i>
YOU	DISLIKE	<i>You dislike reading books.</i>
HE/SHE/IT	DISLIKES	<i>The dog dislikes playing fetch.</i>
WE	DISLIKE	<i>We dislike listening to music.</i>
THEY	DISLIKE	<i>They dislike playing the guitar.</i>
YOU (ALL)	DISLIKE	<i>You dislike passing exams.</i>

In a question we use **Do/Does + subject + like ...?**

AUXILIARY	SUBJECT	VERB	EXAMPLE
DO	I	LIKE	<i>Do I like surfing the net?</i>
DO	YOU	LIKE	<i>Do you like eating cheese?</i>
DOES	HE/SHE/IT	LIKE	<i>Does he like running?</i>
DO	WE	LIKE	<i>Do we like studying English?</i>
DO	THEY	LIKE	<i>Do they like laughing?</i>
DO	YOU (ALL)	LIKE	<i>Do you like chatting online?</i>

Careful: when forming questions, do not forget the auxiliary Do/Does

We also have other forms of expressing likes, using the verb **to be + adjectives + preposition**: we will use **be keen on** as an example

In the affirmative we use **be + keen + on**:

SUBJECT	VERB	EXAMPLE
<i>I</i>	<i>AM</i>	<i>I am keen on swimming.</i>
<i>YOU</i>	<i>ARE</i>	<i>You are keen on reading.</i>
<i>HE/SHE/IT</i>	<i>IS</i>	<i>He is keen on eating ham.</i>
<i>WE</i>	<i>ARE</i>	<i>We are keen on playing games.</i>
<i>THEY</i>	<i>ARE</i>	<i>they are keen on sleeping.</i>
<i>YOU (ALL)</i>	<i>ARE</i>	<i>You are keen on listening to music.</i>

In the negative we use **be + keen + on**:

SUBJECT	VERB	EXAMPLE
<i>I</i>	<i>AM NOT</i>	<i>I am not keen on singing.</i>
<i>YOU</i>	<i>AREN'T/ARE NOT</i>	<i>You aren't keen on walking.</i>
<i>HE/SHE/IT</i>	<i>IS NOT/ISN'T</i>	<i>She isn't keen on flying by plane.</i>
<i>WE</i>	<i>AREN'T/ARE NOT</i>	<i>We aren't keen on writing.</i>
<i>THEY</i>	<i>AREN'T/ARE NOT</i>	<i>They aren't keen on working.</i>
<i>YOU (ALL)</i>	<i>AREN'T/ARE NOT</i>	<i>You aren't keen on lying.</i>

In the interrogative we use **be + keen + on**:

AUXILIARY	SUBJECT	EXAMPLE
AM	I	<i>Am I keen on doing sport?</i>
ARE	YOU	<i>Are you keen on gardening?</i>
IS	HE/SHE/IT	<i>Is she keen on cleaning?</i>
ARE	WE	<i>Are we keen on travelling?</i>
ARE	THEY	<i>Are they keen on talking?</i>
ARE	YOU (ALL)	<i>Are you keen on learning German?</i>

Grammar exercises: Fill in the gaps with the correct auxiliary verb

1. _____ you like listening to music?
2. _____ you like speaking English?
3. _____ you keen on playing football?
4. Where _____ you like meeting friends?
5. _____ you fond of playing board games?
6. _____ you keen on using computers?
7. _____ you like talking on the phone?
8. What _____ you keen on doing on weekends?
9. What _____ you like doing in your free time?
10. Where _____ you keen on going on holiday?

Try speaking with them and answer with the auxiliary verb:

Yes, I do.

No, I don't.

Answers:

1. **Do** you like listening to music?
2. **Do** you like speaking English?
3. **Are** you keen on playing football?
4. Where **do** you like meeting friends?
5. **Are** you fond of playing board games?
6. **Are** you keen on using computers?
7. **Do** you like talking on the phone?
8. What **are** you keen on doing on weekends?
9. What **do** you like doing in your free time?
10. Where **are** you keen on going on holiday?