

**The *Odyssey*, Part 1** by Homer

**Build Grammar Skills: Usage: *Like* and *As If***

The words **like** and **as if** are not interchangeable. *Like* is a preposition meaning “similar to” or “such as.”

Odysseus looks and acts *like* a hero.

The term *as if* is a subordinating conjunction. Subordinating conjunctions connect two complete ideas by making one of the ideas subordinate to, or dependent upon, the other.

The Lotus-Eaters ate the flowers *as if* they were harmless.

The word *as* is also a subordinating conjunction that should not be confused with the preposition *like*.

Odysseus acts *as* he speaks—forcefully.

**A. Practice:** Rewrite each sentence, correctly using *like*, *as*, or *as if*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ he traveled home, Odysseus learned a lot about himself.
2. The Cyclopes were \_\_\_\_\_ uncivilized beasts.
3. Cyclops crushed the men \_\_\_\_\_ they were puppies.
4. Odysseus plunged the burning spike \_\_\_\_\_ a dagger into Cyclops’ eye.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ the Sirens sang, Odysseus and his crew passed by unharmed.
6. Odysseus and his men would experience great anguish, \_\_\_\_\_ Tiresias warned.
7. Odysseus and his men encountered Scylla and Charybdis \_\_\_\_\_ the island of the sirens faded into the distance.

**B. Writing Application:** Write three sentences describing your reaction to the *Odyssey* so far. Use *like*, *as*, and *as if* at least once.