

Note:

1. It is not always an *either/or* relationship between *as* and *like*. There are instances when both *like* and *as* (when *as* is used as a *conjunction*) can be correct.

For example:

In the late fifteenth century, Leonardo da Vinci studied birds, to design the flapping-wing ornithopter that could fly like birds.

In the late fifteenth century, Leonardo da Vinci studied birds, to design the flapping-wing ornithopter that could fly as birds do.

The first sentence uses *like* with the second sentence uses *as* (notice that in the portion of the sentence that has *as*, *as* is followed by: *birds do*, a *clause*, and hence, *as* is *grammatically* used as a *conjunction* here). Both the sentences are correct *meaning-wise* as well. The first one uses *like* and correctly depicts *similar* characteristic (in this case, the ability to fly) between *different* entities (*flapping-wing ornithopter* and *birds* are obviously *different* entities). On the other hand, the second sentence uses *as* and correctly depicts *in the same way* (in other words, Leonardo da Vinci designed the flapping-wing ornithopter that could fly *in the same way* as birds fly). Hence, the usage of *as* is also appropriate here.