

처럼 / 같이

like, as — resemblance

Says one thing behaves or looks like another. The two forms mean the same; the trap is that 같이 has a second, unrelated job.

How it attaches

Use	Form	Example
Manner	처럼 + verb	가수처럼 노래해요
Appearance	처럼 + adjective	눈처럼 하얘요
Same, alternative form	같이	아이같이 웃어요
As a full predicate	같다 — no particle	가수 같아요 — not 가수처럼이에요
Together (different word)	하고 같이	친구하고 같이 갔어요
Any noun	no change	한국 사람처럼 말해요

Notes

처럼 draws a likeness: 가수처럼 노래해요 (sings like a singer), 눈처럼 하얗다 (white as snow). It modifies the verb or adjective that follows, so it sits just before it.

같이 does the same job and is fully interchangeable here. But 같이 is also the ordinary adverb meaning "together," and that meaning is far more frequent in daily speech: 친구하고 같이 갔어요. Because of that ambiguity, 처럼 is the safer choice when you mean "like."

Neither can end a sentence. To say "he looks like a singer" as a complete statement, Korean uses the adjective 같다: 가수 같아요. Note it takes no particle before it.

Examples

- 아이처럼 웃었어요.
She laughed like a child.
- 눈처럼 하얀 옷이에요.
It's a dress as white as snow.
- 저같이 한국어를 배우는 사람이 많아요.
There are many people learning Korean like me.
- 생각한 것처럼 쉽지 않았어요.
It wasn't as easy as I had thought.
- 형처럼 되고 싶어요.
I want to be like my older brother.
- 매일같이 운동해요.
I exercise almost every day.

Compared with

같다

처럼 is a particle that modifies what follows; 같다 is an adjective that ends the sentence. Learners often try to make 처럼 do both.

가수처럼 노래해요. (sings like one) / 가수 같아요. (seems to be one)

보다

처럼 says two things are alike; 보다 says one exceeds the other. Same slot in the sentence, opposite claims.

형처럼 커요. (as tall as my brother) / 형보다 커요. (taller than my brother)

같이 meaning together

Two different words share one spelling. If a person is named with 하고 or 와/과 before it, 같이 means "together"; if a noun stands alone before it, it means "like."

친구하고 같이 갔어요. (went with a friend) / 친구같이 착해요. (kind like a friend)

Watch out

✗ 그 사람은 가수처럼이에요.

○ 그 사람은 가수 같아요.

처럼 cannot close a sentence. Use the adjective 같다, and drop the particle before it.

✗ 친구처럼 영화를 봤어요. — meaning "with a friend"

○ 친구하고 같이 영화를 봤어요.

"With" needs 하고. 처럼 would mean you watched the film the way a friend does.

✗ 눈처럼 같이 하예요.

○ 눈처럼 하예요.

처럼 and 같이 are alternatives, not partners. Using both stacks the same meaning twice.