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English In A Minute

As if vs As though



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This is not a word-for-word transcript

Hi, I'm Georgina from BBC Learning English. Have you ever wondered about the difference between 'as if' and 'as though'?

We use 'as if' and 'as though' to make comparisons about an imaginary situation or a possible situation that **might be true**.

To make comparisons about an **imaginary** situation, we use the past tense for the verb following 'as if' or 'as though'.

He acted **as if** he **didn't hear** anything, but he did.

They feel **as though** they **weren't** appreciated, but they were.

To make comparisons about a **possible** situation that **might be true**, we use the present tense for the verb following 'as if' or 'as though'.

He speaks **as if** he **knows** a lot about cooking. He must love it!

Let's ask her for directions. She looks **as though** she **lives** here.

My stomach is rumbling **as if** I didn't eat breakfast, but I did!

Bye