

AS IF / AS THOUGH

We'll learn how to...

- Recognize when to use *as if* or *as though*.
- Choose the right tense depending on what you want to express.
- Make comparisons without a full clause, using an infinitive or prepositional phrase.
- Sound natural in conversation by using *like* instead of *as if/as though* in informal speech.
- Avoid common mistakes.



1. Basic Use

- Used to compare or describe how something appears, feels, or seems.
- Used after verbs like *act, be, feel, look, seem, sound, taste*.
- Followed by a clause to show how something appears, feels, seems, etc.

Examples:

“You look as if you’ve been studying all night.”

“It’s as though she’s lost her keys.”

“I felt as if I hadn’t eaten for a week!”



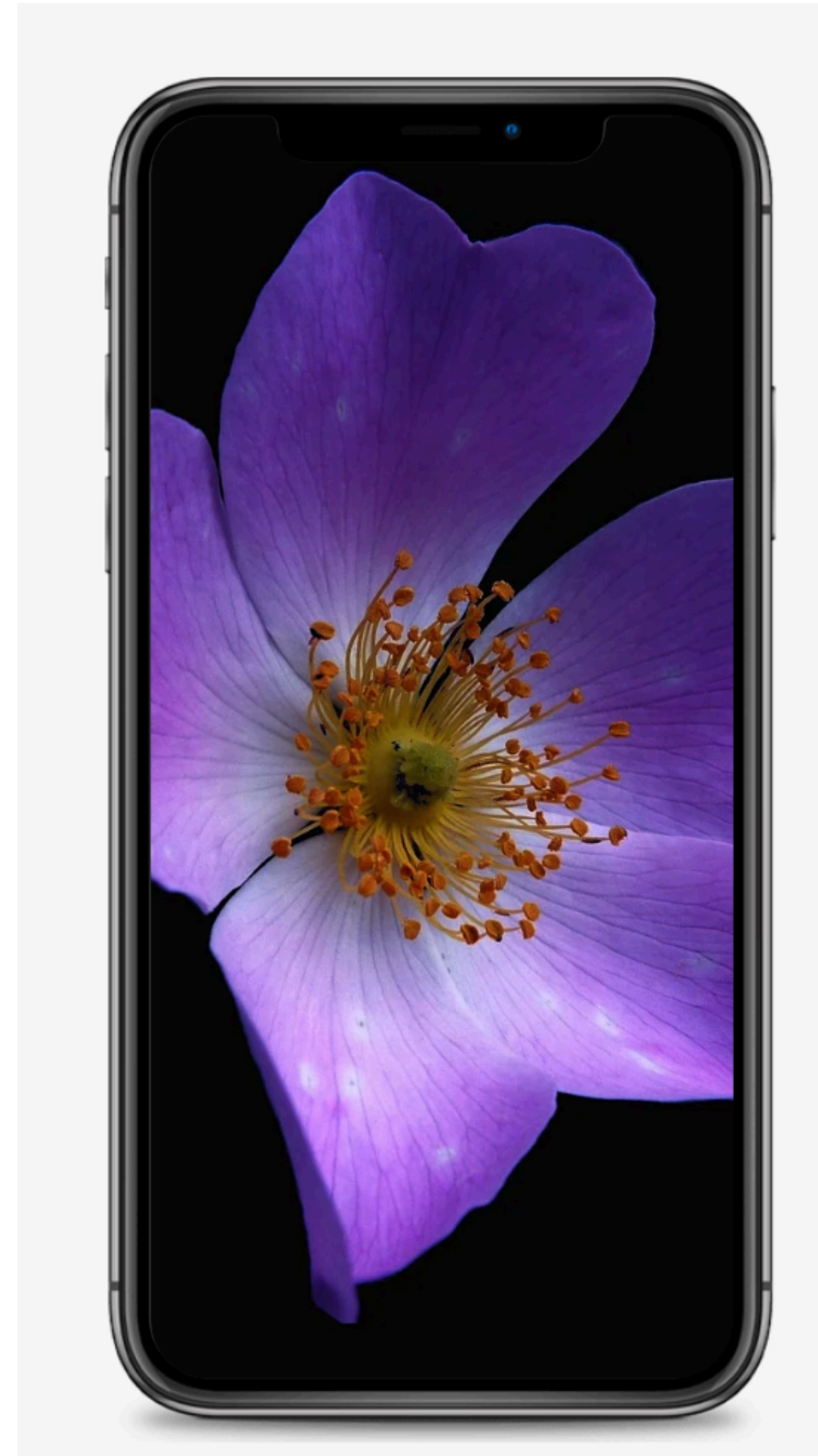
2. Simple Present Tense After As If / As Though

- Comparison is real or probable.

Examples:

“He behaves as if he is the boss.” → (He probably is the boss.)

“They smile as though they enjoy the party.” → (They do enjoy the party.)



3. Simple Past Tense After As If / As Though

- Comparison is **unreal or improbable**.

Examples:

“He acts as if he were a famous singer.” → (He is not a famous singer.)

“She talks as if she knew the secret formula.” → (She probably doesn’t know.)

“They left the restaurant as though they liked the food.” → (But they didn’t like it.)

Tip: We often use ‘were’ in formal English for unreal situations, even with I/he/she/it.



4. Past Perfect After As If / As Though

- For **past** comparisons - real or imaginary.

Examples:

“I felt as if I had seen that movie before.” → (I probably had seen it.)

“She talked about the trip as though she had visited every country in Europe.” → (She didn’t visit every country.)

“It seemed as if he had forgotten our appointment.” → (He probably had forgotten.)



5. Infinitives After As If / As Though

- Shows purpose or intention.
- Structure: verb + as if/as though + to + verb

Examples:

“She tiptoed as though to avoid waking the baby.”

“He hesitated as if to ask a question.”



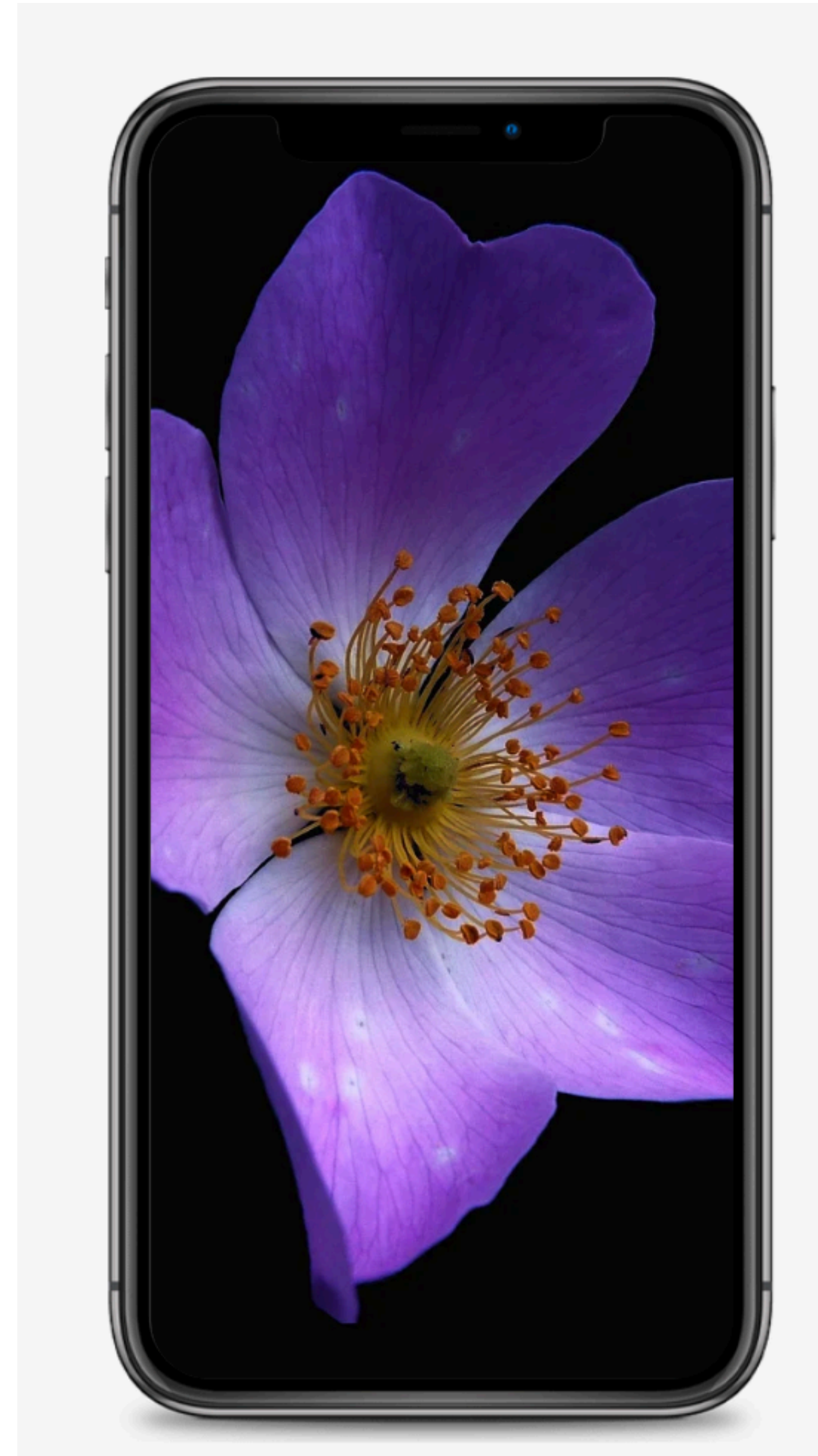
6. Prepositional Phrase After As If / As Though

- Shows manner, feeling, or appearance.
- Structure: verb + as if/as though + prepositional phrase

Examples:

*“He screamed as if **in pain**, but he was just frightened.”*

*“She laughed as if **in disbelief**.”*



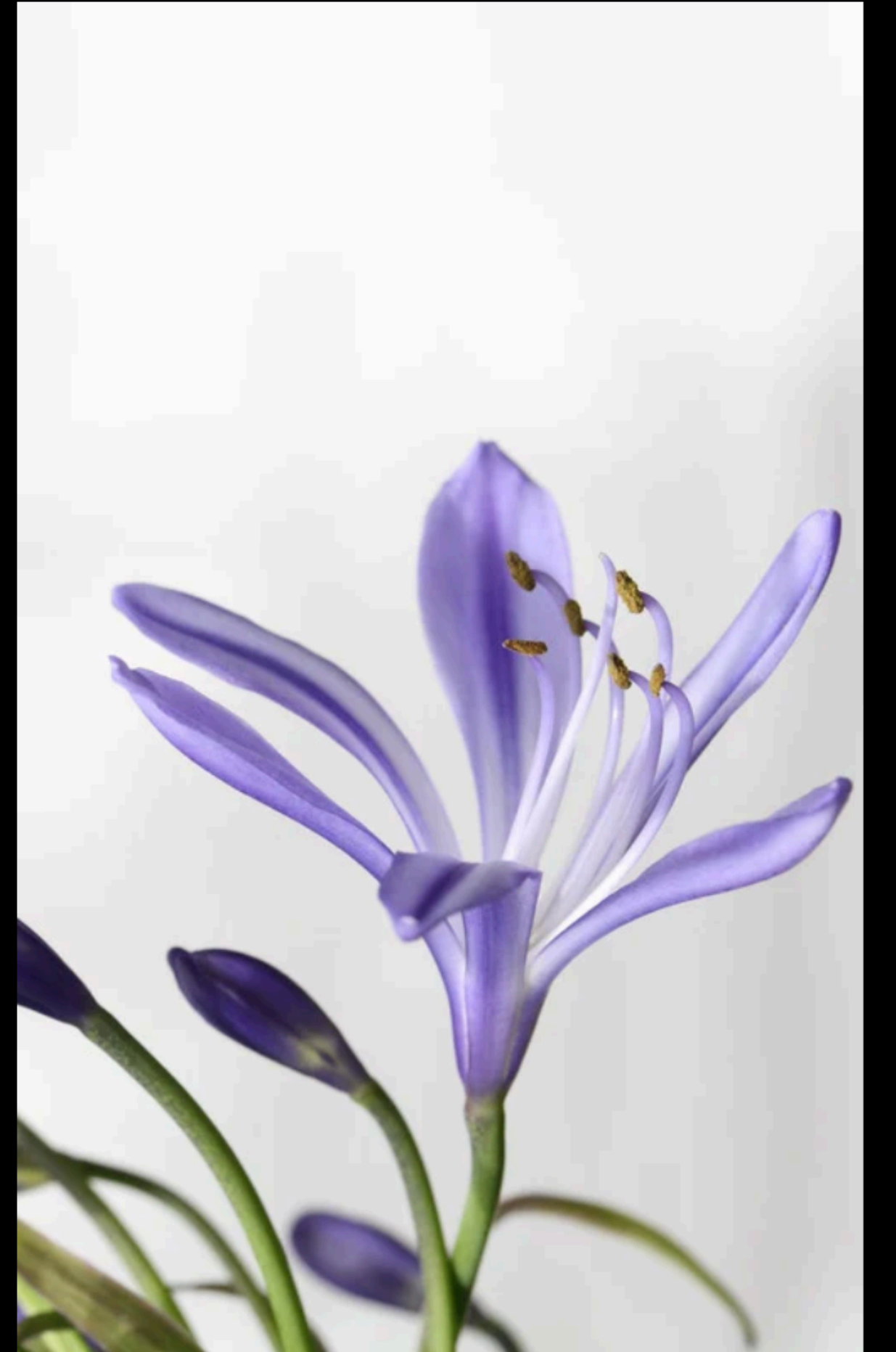
7. Informal Use: Like

- In casual English, like can replace as if/as though.

Examples:

“You look like you’ve been swimming.”

“They seem like they’re excited about the trip.”



8. Summing up

- Used to compare or describe how something appears, feels, or seems.
- Used after verbs like *act*, *be*, *feel*, *look*, *seem*, *sound*, *taste*.
- Present tense → real/probable
- Past tense → unreal/improbable
- Past perfect → comparison in the past
- Infinitive → purpose
- Prepositional phrase → manner, feeling, or appearance.
- Like → Informal style

