

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8UTJ\\_xuw74](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8UTJ_xuw74) The Great 1967 Chicago Blizzard

I really can't stay. But baby, it's cold outside. I've got to go away. But baby it's cold outside. This evening has been. I've been hoping you'd drop in. I'll hold your hand. In 1967 I was teaching school in Lemont, Illinois. I was stuck downtown at the time. First time most any of us had ever seen or could relate to that kind of snow. I was working and all day long. We kept looking outside and saying, wow, this is kind of looking kind of vicious here. I was trying to cross the Michigan Avenue bridge from Wacker to the other side and it was almost impossible. And I encountered a woman who was lying in a snow drift and I talked to her and she was responsive but she said, "I can't go any farther". And I dragged her, literally dragged her, to the lobby of the Sheraton hotel. I was at home and we couldn't believe it. It started off slowly and before you knew it there was snow up to the cars' windshields. Yeah, there was that much snow. I ran out and we ended (?) the bus stop and we got the bus. Oh, brother, what a trip that was! By the time we got to Irving Park there were buses, cars, everything all over the place. Nobody was moving, everybody was stuck. Nothing was rolling, nothing was rolling in Chicago. So I'm like, no again you know, I'm only five feet tall and my boots were that, long. I got out of the bus, and oh, my lord, the snow was up to my knees. I had one heck of a time getting home. When they plowed the snow it came up to our second floor window in the convent. It was the first time any of the schools closed. Schools never closed. They just never closed no matter how bad things were. Schools, you were expected to get there. And I opened that window and in full habit, I slid down all the way to the first floor like it was a toboggan slide. It was fabulous. Snow, I want to wash my hands, my face, my hair with snow. My youngest brother worked out at O'Hare and he had driven to work. Well, it was five days later when he found out where the car was. 67 blizzard just shut down the city, shut down the schools. Snow was everywhere. Kids were making money shoveling snow. It was as tall as we were. My mom said we needed to go to the store to get things like bread and milk. So my brother and I walked down Paulina street because the A&P was still there, and the National, but we actually discovered we were walking on top of a fence. That's how deep it was. And of course, we were young and so you know what? It was kind of fun. It was very different and we never experienced anything like it. It was quite a storm. Baby, it cold, cold, outside.

blizzard → this wasn't really a blizzard, but people say it was anyway because it was a really bad storm

Drop in → come to my house to see me (also drop by); unplanned visit

stuck downtown → unable to leave downtown

could relate to → to understand all the consequences of that much snow, a new world you had to learn about  
looking kind of vicious here → normally vicious is used to describe, wild, dangerous animals

I encountered a woman → found by chance, not planned  
snow drift → the wind makes piles of snow in some places and lower in others  
she was responsive → she could respond (talk back to you) when you talked to her  
one heck of a time → a very difficult time, “heck” is the mild version of “hell” (hell is a swear word)  
So I’m like → in informal talking, especially among young people, they insert “like” all over the place  
convent → house for nuns  
habit → the uniform nuns wear; nuns don’t wear habits anymore, they wear normal clothes

### **Bad/Informal Use of the word “like”**

<https://www.sankinspeechimprovement.com/the-like-epidemic-using-word-like-excessively/>

“So, I was *like* at this film screening, *like* the other night, and *like* the moderator used the word “*like*” *like* so many times that it was *like* so distracting.”

Entonces, yo estaba, así como no se en este film, este como la otra noche, y como que el moderador uso la palabra LIKE tantas veces que era como toda una distracción.

To spice things up a bit, he tossed “*you know*” and “*really*” into the mixture. These alternative fillers did not help at all.

### **Normal Uses of “like”**

As a verb, *like* expresses pleasure (I like ceviche).

As a preposition, *like* indicates resembling closely or similar to (That tastes just like a real orange.)

As an adverb *like* can mean “as if” (He ran like crazy.)

As a noun *like* means similar to (corn flakes, cheerios and the like)

As an adjective like can mean “such as” (saved things like old newspapers)

*Like* can signify “in the same way” (To play the piano like she does takes practice).

### **Idiomatic Uses of “like”**

Bob stood there in his rented tuxedo, looking like a fish out of water.

Trying to find a white glove in a snowstorm is like looking for a needle in a haystack.

It hit me like a ton of bricks.

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