

# 23 Prepositions with other meanings



Last year I went to the Hay-on-Wye book festival. I went **with** my two best friends, and we went **by** bus. It was great – we went to a really funny and interesting talk **by** Charlie Higson. He wrote the *Young James Bond* books.

## 1 *by*

We use *by* to talk about

- a way of travelling:  
*We went to Hay **by bus**.*  
*Dave goes to work **by bike**.*
- a way of communicating:  
*I keep in touch with all my friends **by email**.*
- a way of paying for something:  
*I pay for my shopping **by credit card**.*  
(But we pay for something **in cash** or **by cash**.)



**X** *Amanda goes to work **by foot**.* ✓ *Amanda goes to work **on foot**.*

We also use *by* to say who wrote or produced something:

*The 'Young James Bond' books are **by Charlie Higson**.*  
*'Guernica' is a famous painting **by Pablo Picasso**.*  
*The play 'Macbeth' was written **by Shakespeare**.*

*by* with passive form of verb ➤ Unit 96.3

## 2 *with*

We use *with* to mean 'together':

*I went to Hay **with my two best friends**.*  
*My parents are on holiday **with my brother** at the moment.*

We can also use *with* to say what we use to do something:

*He pushed the door open **with his foot**.*

## 3 *as, like*

We use *as* for a person's job, or to say what something is used for:

*Martin works **as a waiter** in the evenings.*  
*You can use the side of a book **as a ruler**.*

We use *like* when we mean 'similar to':

*Debbie's very beautiful – she looks **like a model**. (She isn't a model.)*  
*This tastes **like** chocolate. (It isn't chocolate.)*



We don't use *like* when we talk about someone's job. We use *as*:

**X** *Alex works **like a builder**.* ✓ *Alex works **as a builder**. (This is his job.)*

## Practice

### 1 Match the sentences 1–5 with the meanings A–F.

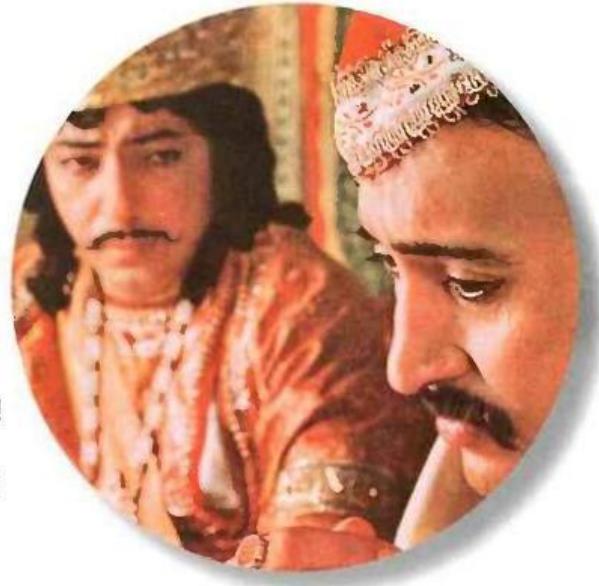
- 0 That picture is by Karen, when she was at college.
- 1 That picture is of Karen, when she was at college.
- 2 Karen usually goes to work on foot.
- 3 Karen catches the bus if she's late.
- 4 Karen works as a photographer.
- 5 Karen looks like a photographer.

- A She is a photographer.
- B She walks to work.
- C She is in the picture.
- D She painted the picture.
- E She isn't a photographer.
- F She sometimes goes to work by bus.

### 2 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation with the phrases A–H below.

SUE Did you go to any festivals last year?  
AMY Yes, we went to one – a film festival in Liverpool.  
SUE Really? Did you go (0) ...? *H* ...?  
AMY Yes. We went to a wonderful talk (1) ..... about Indian films.  
SUE How did you go – (2) .....?  
AMY No, we didn't drive. We went (3) ..... But it was quite expensive – we had to pay for the train fares (4) .....  
SUE Mmm, but did you enjoy the festival?  
AMY Yes, it was great – but Justin fell and hurt his foot and he had to walk (5) ..... for weeks afterwards!  
SUE Oh, no! Is he OK now?  
AMY Yes. He got a book (6) ..... with exercises in, and he did those. He's fine now.  
SUE Good. Oh, I nearly forgot. When is the Ely festival this year?  
AMY Mmm, I've got the information at home. I'll send it to you (7) .....  
SUE Great. Thanks.

A by email    C by car    E by a famous fitness teacher    G with a stick  
B by train    D by credit card    F by an Indian film director    H with Justin



### 3 Complete the sentences with *as* or *like*.

- 0 Robert spent years ... *as* ... a carpenter before he became a teacher.
- 1 Your brother really looks ..... that footballer in Real Madrid.
- 2 Marina loves going to parties, ..... most girls of her age.
- 3 You can use this sofa ..... a bed. It's really comfortable.
- 4 Mmm, your perfume smells ..... roses. It's lovely.
- 5 The TV chef Gordon Ramsay trained ..... a footballer when he was young.

### 4 Change the sentences so they are true for you.

- 0 I pay for most things by cheque. *I pay for most things in cash.*
- 1 I look like my father. ....
- 2 I live with two other students. ....
- 3 I love music by Mozart. ....
- 4 I always go to work by car. ....