

## 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. | A She is a photographer.             |
| 1 That picture is of Karen, when she was at college. | B She walks to work.                 |
| 2 Karen usually goes to work on foot.                | C She is in the picture.             |
| 3 Karen catches the bus if she's late.               | D She painted the picture.           |
| 4 Karen works as a photographer.                     | E She isn't a photographer.          |
| 5 Karen looks like 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  | <del>H with Justin</del> |

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

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

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

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