

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.)*