



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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## **Banta Learning Preposition 4 by K S Sandhu**

### **Ali's Gap Year Adventure**

Ali was a young student from Manchester who had just finished his A-levels. He dreamed of a meaningful gap year before starting university. Instead of relaxing at home, he decided to go to Bangladesh for a few months to do voluntary work.

"I'm going to Bangladesh by plane," he told his best friend Tom excitedly. "I'll work as a builder with a charity that builds schools in rural villages. It's not just about travelling – I want to help people and make a difference."

Tom was impressed. "That sounds rewarding! How are you going to pay for everything?"

"By working extra hours in the family shop at weekends," Ali replied. "I'll work every weekend except for the one of Sufeena's wedding. After the volunteering, I'm going trekking in the Himalayas on foot – no horse-riding, just walking through beautiful mountains!"

Tom laughed. "Won't it be freezing in the Himalayas?"

"Yes, probably," Ali admitted. "But I've bought a warm, light coat made of wool. It feels like real sheepskin but it's synthetic and eco-friendly."

Ali planned to travel alone. "I'm going on my own," he said. "I prefer to explore independently. During the volunteering, I'll live with a local family in a simple house near the construction site. We'll eat traditional food like rice and curry every day."

Before leaving, Ali packed carefully. He took a small backpack for the volunteering and a bigger one for the trekking. "I hate travelling by plane because of the long flights," he confessed, "but it's the fastest way to get there."

On the day of departure, his family drove him to the airport. "See you in six months!" he waved from the check-in desk.

In Bangladesh, Ali arrived at Dhaka airport in the early morning. A volunteer coordinator met him at arrivals and drove him to the village by minibus. For the next three months, he worked hard under the hot sun, mixing cement, carrying bricks, and building walls alongside local workers. He learned about Bangladeshi culture through conversations with his hosts.

After finishing the project, Ali felt proud and tired. He travelled by train to India, then continued by bus towards the Himalayas. The trekking was challenging: he walked up steep paths, crossed rivers on rope bridges, and camped under starry skies. The views of snow-capped peaks were breathtaking.

Throughout his adventure, Ali kept a journal. He wrote about the kindness of strangers, the satisfaction of voluntary work, and the thrill of new experiences. "This trip changed me," he noted one evening by a campfire.

Eventually, Ali flew back to the UK in time for university. He returned with unforgettable memories, new friends, and a stronger sense of purpose. His gap year wasn't just a holiday – it was a real adventure full of growth and discovery.

### **Questions:**

Question 1: Why did Ali decide to go to Bangladesh before starting university?

Question 2: How is Ali planning to travel to Bangladesh and back to the UK?

Question 3: What job will Ali do during his time in Bangladesh?

Question 4: How will Ali pay for his gap year adventure?

Question 5: Why did Ali choose a synthetic coat for the Himalayas?

### **Answers:**

Answer 1: Ali decided to go to Bangladesh to do voluntary work as a builder and help people (instead of just relaxing or only travelling).

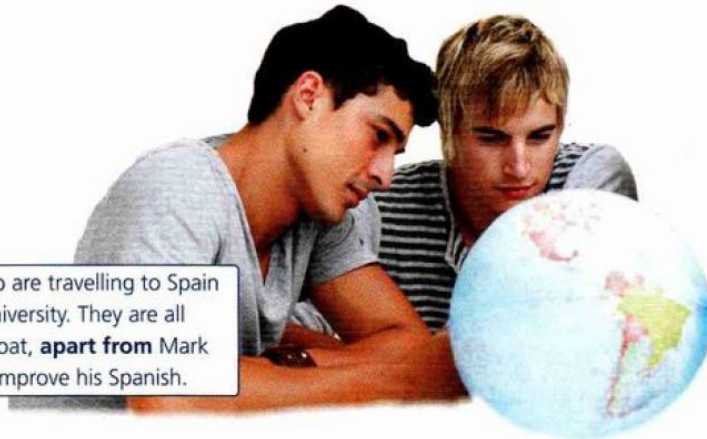
Answer 2: He is going to Bangladesh by plane, and he will travel back to the UK by train (after trekking in the Himalayas).

Answer 3: He will work as a builder with a charity that builds schools in rural villages.

Answer 4: He will pay for it mainly by working extra hours in the family shop at weekends (except for the weekend of Safeena's wedding).

Answer 5: He chose a synthetic coat because it is warm and light, feels like real sheepskin, but is eco-friendly.

# 17 Prepositions with other meanings



This summer, Mark and Leo are travelling to Spain **with** some friends from university. They are all going on to Morocco **by** boat, **apart from** Mark who is staying in Spain to improve his Spanish.

## 1 *by, with, for*

We use *by*

- to talk about how we do something:

*She makes extra money **by** cleaning houses. We pay for everything **by** credit card.*  
(BUT *We pay for everything **in/by** cash.*)

- to show how we communicate or travel: *Hardly anyone communicates **by** letter these days. I get the sports results **by** text message. They're going to Morocco **by** boat.*

⚠ We say *by car, by plane, by bus*, etc. but we say *on foot* (= walking):  
*We can get to the town centre either **by** bus or **on** foot.*

We use *with*

- to mean 'in the company of': *Are you going **with** your friends from university?*
- to show the instrument we use to do something: *Fill in the form **with** a black pen. We held the door open **with** a book.*

⚠ We don't use *by* to say what instrument we use to do something:  
*✗ I washed the car **by** an old T-shirt. ✓ I washed the car **with** an old T-shirt.*

We use *for* to indicate the purpose of something: *We use this cloth **for** cleaning the tables.*

See also infinitive of purpose ► Unit 76.3

## 2 *as or like?*

We use *as*

- for a person's job or role: *I'm working **as** a tour guide this summer.*
- to describe what something can be used for: *Here – use this cushion **as** a pillow.*

We use *like* when we mean 'similar to' – it makes a comparison:

*Matt looks **like** a film star.* (He isn't a film star.)

*Your perfume smells **like** roses.* (It isn't roses.)

⚠ We don't use *like* when we talk about someone's job. We use *as*:  
*✗ Tony works **like** a taxi driver. ✓ Tony works **as** a taxi driver.* (= He is a taxi driver.)

## 3 *besides, except (for), apart from*

*Besides* means 'in addition to': *I want to learn other languages **besides** my own.*

⚠ Do not confuse *besides* and *beside* (preposition of place) (► Unit 14.5).

*Except (for)* means 'but not': *The shop is open every day **except (for)** Sunday.*

*We've invited everyone **except (for)** Nikki – so don't tell her about it!*

*Apart from* can mean

- 'besides': *I want to learn other languages **apart from** my own.*
- 'except': *All my friends are going **apart from** Mark.* (Mark isn't going.)

## 4 *from, of*

We use both *from* and *of* to show the material used in a product:

*My coat is made **of** leather. Our orange juice is made **from** special Brazilian oranges.*

There is very little difference, although we often use *from* when the material has been changed in some way: *Believe it or not, those shoes are made **from** old car tyres.*

## Practice

- 1** **GRAMMAR IN USE** Read the conversation and choose the correct words in *italics*.  
 2.33 Listen and check.

RYAN I've decided to go to Bangladesh for a few months before university.  
 TOM Wow! What are you going to do there?  
 RYAN I'm going to do voluntary work (0) as / *like* a builder. You know, I want to do something (1) *apart* / *besides* travel – something to help people. But I'm going to travel, too. I'm going there (2) *on* / *by* plane, then after I finish the work, I'm going trekking in the Himalayas –  
 TOM Horse-riding?  
 RYAN No, trekking (3) *on* / *by* foot, then I'm going to travel back (4) *in* / *by* train.  
 TOM It sounds amazing. How are you going to pay for it?  
 RYAN Mainly (5) *for* / *by* doing lots of extra hours in the shop at weekends! I'm working every weekend before I go (6) *except* / *apart* from the weekend of Natalie's wedding.  
 TOM Won't it be cold in the Himalayas?  
 RYAN Yes, I think so. But I've got a really warm, light coat made (7) *of* / *with* wool.  
 TOM Are you going (8) *from* / *with* anyone?  
 RYAN No, on my own.

- 2** Write the words in the correct order to make sentences. Add a suitable preposition.

0 most older people read only glasses can *Most older people can only read with glasses.*  
 1 people plane travelling hate a lot of .....  
 2 worked for twenty years my a teacher uncle .....  
 3 mobile phone an iPod looks my .....  
 4 this computer you a DVD player use can .....  
 5 every day is the centre New Year's Day open .....

- 3** Find and correct the mistake in each sentence. 2.34 Listen and check.

0 'Are these shoes leather?' 'I'm not sure. They feel <sup>like</sup> ~~as~~ leather.'  
 1 In those days, there were few planes, and most people travelled on ship.  
 2 Don't clean the screen by detergent – you need a special fluid.  
 3 Everyone has completed the questionnaire apart for the head teacher.  
 4 Have you seen this handbag? It's made with crocodile skin!  
 5 It's getting very difficult to pay with cheque in shops and restaurants.  
 6 'What's this?' 'It's a garlic press. It's used to crushing garlic.'

- 4** Complete the sentences below with a preposition. Then change them to make them true for you. (Or write *So do I*.)

0 I always write my homework *with* ..... a black pen.  
*I always write my homework with a blue pen.*  
 1 I prefer to keep in touch with my friends ..... email.  
 .....  
 2 I usually go on holiday ..... my husband.  
 .....  
 3 I don't often pay for things ..... credit card.

## Answers

### UNIT 17

- 1** 1 besides 2 by 3 on 4 by 5 by 6 apart  
7 of 8 with
- 2** 1 A lot of people hate travelling by plane.  
2 My uncle worked as a teacher for twenty years.  
3 My mobile phone looks like an iPod.  
4 You can use this computer as a DVD player.  
5 The centre is open every day except (for)/apart  
from New Year's Day.
- 3** 1 ~~on ship~~ by ship  
2 ~~by detergent~~ with detergent  
3 ~~apart for~~ apart from  
4 ~~with crocodile skin~~ from/of crocodile skin  
5 ~~with cheque~~ by cheque  
6 ~~to crushing~~ for crushing
- 4 + Model answers**
- 1 by email *I prefer to keep in touch with my friends  
by phone.*
- 2 with my husband *I usually go on holiday with  
my parents.*
- 3 by credit card *I usually pay for things by credit card.*