



Prepositions of Transport

On - In - By

The prepositions of transport (on - in - by) allow you to discuss the way you travel or have travelled from one place to another.

In general we use 'on' for public transport, 'in' for private transport and 'by' to explain a type of transport, transportation environment or the surface area.

ON - transportation on which you can move

We use *on* when you can **stand, walk** or **sit** on top of the vehicle. Most commonly we use *on* for **public transport**; transportation on which you can move even though the vehicle itself is in motion. In this case you can approach 'on' as a synonym of 'inside'

E.g. planes, trams, ferries, subways, trains, ships, bikes, skatesboards, skis, motorcycles, etc.

"I can't call right now, I'm **on** the bus".

"We were served a delicious meal **on** the ferry".

"Let me give you a ride - hop **on** the back of my bike".

IN - private transport

We use *in* when we are **inside** the vehicle and do not have much room to move. Most commonly *in* is used for **private transport** - when you don't share the vehicle with (unknown or) other passengers.

E.g. cars, taxis, trucks, vans, etc

"I can seat only 3 people **in** my car".

"The driver doesn't allow dogs **in** his taxi".

"We hardly had any space to move **in** the helicopter".

Note: we can use *in* with *public transport*, when we emphasise the space of the type of transport, not the journey - e.g. "It was very humid **in** the plane"

BY - ways and modes to travel

We use 'by' to describe the mode (or way) of travel. By is used either after a verb or a noun. E.g. journey, voyage, car, bus, plane, road, sea, air etc.

"I go to work **by** tram, every morning".

"To see more of the surroundings, we prefer to travel **by** sea".

"We got there **by** boat, but returned **by** plane".

BY - ON foot - the same rules applies

Generally you will hear and see 'on foot' is more common - you are literally *on top of your feet* moving from one place to another. However, 'by foot' equally makes sense, as you describe your way of travelling.

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1. Practise - choose 'in', 'on', or 'by'

1. They often travel _____ train.
2. I don't like to go _____ foot.
3. To save time buy a ticket and go _____ plane.
4. Most people go to work _____ tram.
5. I have never travelled _____ a plane.
6. She doesn't like to listen to music _____ the car.
7. She can't speak now, she's _____ the car.
8. They prefer to go _____ bike rather than _____ foot.
9. Have you ever gone _____ a train?
10. I always listen to a podcast _____ my way to work.
11. When they went to Mexico. They went _____ plane.
12. I am afraid of travelling _____ ferry.
13. Have you ever been _____ a cruise ship?
14. I was _____ the van when he texted me.
15. It is expensive to go _____ taxi.
16. He works _____ a yacht.
17. They first met _____ a train.
18. In ancient times people travelled _____ horses.
19. Going _____ foot is good for your health.
20. To avoid pollution we should go _____ bicycles more.
21. I can't stand traffic so I travel _____ train.

2. Practise - choose 'in', 'on', or 'by'

1. We can also go _____ a certain route or _____ a certain place:
2. We went _____ highway.
3. We can walk or go _____ foot.
4. We can walk or go _____ a bicycle or _____ uber.
5. We can ride or go _____ horse.
6. But we go _____ board a boat
7. We get _____ a horse, camel, bicycle.
8. We get _____ a public vehicle, a horse, bicycle, etc.
9. We get _____ a private vehicle, a truck, tractor, etc.
10. We go _____ a route, journey, type of transport, etc.

