

Changing Versions Answer Key

Sample Responses

1. a. Opened **by** the janitor. b. Opened **with** a key. The first shows *who* performed the action, and the second shows *what* was used.
2. a. Hit **by** another student. b. Hit **with** a ball. The first shows *who caused* the action, and the second shows *what caused* it.
3. a. Drawn **by** an artist. b. Drawn **with** a pencil. The first shows the *creator*, the second shows the *tool*.
4. a. Cleaned **by** the custodian. b. Cleaned **with** a mop. The first shows *who did the cleaning*, and the second shows *what was used*.
5. a. Destroyed **by** the explosion. b. Destroyed **with** explosives. The first shows *the cause*, the second shows *the means*.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Students examine **semantic ambiguity** caused by preposition choice. They learn that **by** identifies *agent or cause* while **with** identifies *instrument or means*.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - Have struggling learners focus on concrete actions and draw quick sketches of "who did it" vs. "what was used."
 - Encourage advanced learners to test sentences where both options seem correct and discuss subtle meaning shifts.
- **Engagement Idea:** Turn the exercise into a "Grammar Court" where students debate which meaning fits better in specific contexts.
- **Extension:** Ask students to find real-life examples in news headlines or academic articles where **by** and **with** could change interpretation and discuss how clarity affects tone or accuracy.