How-questions are not so specific as questions beginning with when or who. How asks about the means or method by which something is done, or the manner in which it is done, or the instrument with which it is accomplished. How questions must be answered in many different ways.

Answers for how-questions

a. By + noun answers questions about transportation or communication. The noun is a simple form without any article or modifier.

| QUESTION | RESPONSE | STATEMENT |
|--|-------------------|--|
| How do they get here from New York? How do they contact their parents? | By bus. By cable. | They come by bus. They contact their parents by cable. |

b. By + ing-form answers questions about action.

| QUESTION | RESPONSE | STATEMENT |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| How do they respond? How do you show them the way? | By smiling. By pointing. | They respond by smiling. I show them by pointing. |

c. With + noun answers questions about instrument, equipment, or method used. The noun after with is clearly singular or plural and it may be modified (cf. a above).

| QUESTION | RESPONSE |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| How do they find their way around campus? How do you begin to teach them? | With a map. With sentence patterns. |