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What is the difference between die *off*/from and die *by*? I know "die *off*/from" is used when death occurs because of disease or injury, but I don't know when to use "die *by*". Or someone could be sentenced to die by hanging.Or there is an old expression 'Live by the sword, die by the sword.' Context matters.Cross-posted. Or someone could be sentenced to die by hanging.Or there is an old expression 'Live by the sword, die by the sword.' Context matters.Cross-posted. I don't think it is cross posted. Other threads are only about "die *off*/from", not "die *by*". He died by a car crash. ==> He died by car crash.He died by a sword. ==> He died by the sword.He died by a gunshot. ==> He died by bullet. "By" is followed by the method. What was the method of dying? Car crash; the sword; bullets. Or someone could be sentenced to die by hanging.Live by the sword, die by the sword. He died by a car crash. ==> He died by car crash.He died by a sword. ==> He died by the sword.He died by a gunshot. ==> He died by bullet."By" is followed by the method. What was the method of dying? Car crash; the sword; bullets. This is correct, as far as it goes, but I can't say that the first and third right-hand versions sound at all natural. I suspect that "died by the sword" only sounds okay because of familiarity with the saying "Live by the sword, die by the sword" (or "he lived by the sword and he died by the sword"), which probably dates back to the days when swords were used in battle, and soldiers might die of sword wounds (its modern use is metaphorical). What is the difference between die *off*/from and die *by*? He died *off*/from loss of blood/rabies = Loss of blood/rabies was the interior cause of his death. *Off*/from describes the direct cause that the subject experienced himself.To die by X = X was the exterior implement/method/event that resulted in his death.He died by hanging / falling off a cliff / driving a car too fast/the sword, etc.