Difference Between By and Before

1. In Grammar, both terms are used as preposition and adverb. But ‘Before’ is also used as conjunction while ‘By’ is not.

2. The main difference between ‘By’ and ‘Before’ is that ‘By’ refers to a period of time that is supposed to be ‘before, until or at the endpoint of a particular time’. While ‘Before’ implies a time period that is ‘in advance or ahead of a particular time’.

3. In a sentence, when ‘By’ is used with reference to time, it is mainly followed by a named time or any day of a week. For example: ‘11:00 pm’ or ‘Friday’. If a specific time or day is not mentioned then it may simply be followed by words like ‘the time’.

4. On the other hand, when ‘Before’ is used with reference to time, it is followed by phrases like ‘before dinner’ or ‘before the football match’. However, it may also be followed by a named time or day of a week.

5. Some of the alternative phrases for ‘By’ are ‘no later than’ and ‘by close of’. While for ‘Before’, it is ‘prior to’, ‘in advance of’ and ‘ahead of’.

6. Other usages: With reference to a physical location, ‘By’ is used to refer to a person or an object that is beside or adjacent to another
object or person. While ‘Before’ is used to allude to a person or an object that is in front of another object or place.

Source and more details: https://askanydifference.com/difference-between-by-and-before/