

a friend of mine my own house on my own / by myself

A a friend of mine / a friend of yours etc.

We say '(a friend) **of mine/yours/his/hers/ours/theirs**'.

A friend of mine = one of my friends:

- ☐ I'm going to a wedding on Saturday. **A friend of mine** is getting married. (*not* a friend of me)
- ☐ We went on holiday with **some friends of ours**. (*not* some friends of us)
- ☐ Harry had an argument with **a neighbour of his**.
- ☐ It was **a good idea of yours** to go to the cinema.

In the same way we say '(a friend) **of my sister's**' / (a friend) **of Tom's**' etc. :

- ☐ That woman over there is **a friend of my sister's**. (= one of my sister's friends)
- ☐ It was **a good idea of Tom's** to go to the cinema.

B my own ... / your own ... etc.

We say **my own / your own / her own** ... etc. :

my own house **your own** car **her own** room
(*not* an own house, an own car etc.)

my own ... / your own ... etc. = something that is only mine/yours, not shared or borrowed:

- ☐ I don't want to share a room with anybody. I want **my own room**.
- ☐ Vicky and Gary would like to have **their own house**.
- ☐ It's a shame that the apartment hasn't got **its own parking space**.
- ☐ It's **my own fault** that I have no money. I buy too many things I don't need.
- ☐ Why do you want to borrow my car? Why don't you use **your own**? (= your own car)

You can also say 'a room **of my own**', 'a house **of your own**', 'problems **of his own**' etc. :

- ☐ I'd like to have a room **of my own**.
- ☐ He won't be able to help you with your problems. He has too many problems **of his own**.

C He cuts his own hair

We also use **own** to say that we do something ourselves instead of somebody else doing it for us. For example:

- ☐ Paul usually cuts **his own hair**.
(= he cuts it himself)
- ☐ I'd like to have a garden so that
I could grow **my own vegetables**.
(= grow them myself instead of
buying them from shops)



PAUL



D on my own / by myself

On my own and **by myself** both mean 'alone'. So you can say:

on { my / your
his / her / its
our / their } **own**

or

by { myself / yourself (*singular*)
himself / herself / itself
ourselves / yourselves (*plural*) / themselves

- ☐ I like living **on my own**. or I like living **by myself**.
- ☐ Some people prefer to live **on their own**. or ... live **by themselves**.
- ☐ Jack was sitting **on his own** in a corner of the cafe. or Jack was sitting **by himself** ...
- ☐ Did you go on holiday **on your own**? or Did you go on holiday **by yourself**?

Exercises

83.1 Change the underlined words and use the structure ... of mine/yours etc.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 I'm meeting <u>one of my friends</u> tonight. | I'm meeting a friend of mine tonight. |
| 2 We met <u>one of your relatives</u> . | We met a |
| 3 Jason borrowed <u>one of my books</u> . | Jason borrowed |
| 4 I met Lisa and <u>some of her friends</u> . | I met Lisa and |
| 5 We had dinner with <u>one of our neighbours</u> . | We had dinner with |
| 6 I went on holiday with <u>two of my friends</u> . | I went on holiday with |
| 7 I met <u>one of Amy's friends</u> at the party. | I met at the party. |
| 8 It's always been <u>one of my ambitions</u> to travel round the world. | It's always been to travel round the world. |

83.2 Complete the sentences using **my own** / **our own** etc. + the following:

bathroom business opinions private beach words

- I share a kitchen, but I have my own bathroom.
- Gary doesn't think like me. He has
- Julia doesn't want to work for other people. She wants to start
- In the test we had to read a story, and then write it in
- We stayed at a luxury hotel by the sea. The hotel had

83.3 Complete the sentences using **my own** / **your own** etc.

- Why do you need to borrow my car? Why don't you use your own car?
- How can you blame me? It's not my fault. It's
- She's always using my ideas. Why can't she use
- Please don't worry about my problems. I'm sure you have
- I can't make his decisions for him. He has to make

83.4 Complete the sentences using **my own** / **your own** etc. Use the verbs in brackets.

- Paul never goes to a barber. He cuts his own hair. (cut)
- Helen doesn't often buy clothes. She likes to (make)
- I'm not going to clean your shoes. You can (clean)
- We don't often buy bread. We usually (bake)
- Jack and Joe are singers. They sing songs written by other people, but they also (write)

83.5 Complete the sentences using **my own** / **your own** etc. or **myself/yourself** etc.

- Did you go on holiday on your own?
- The box was too heavy for me to lift by
- We had no help decorating the apartment. We did it completely on
- Very young children should not go swimming by
- 'Who was Tom with when you saw him?' 'Nobody. He was by
- I don't like strawberries with cream. I like them on
- Do you like working with other people or do you prefer working by?
- I went out with Sally because she didn't want to go out on

83.6 Are these sentences OK? Correct them where necessary.

- Katherine would like to have the own house. ... to have her own house.
- Sam and Chris are colleagues of me.
- I was scared. I didn't want to go out by my own.
- In my last job I had own office.
- He must be lonely. He's always with himself.
- My parents have gone away with some friends of them.
- Are there any countries that produce all own food?