

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)
- ☐ Mike 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 use **my/your/his/her/its/our/their** before **own**:

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've got 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

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

For example:

- ☐ Brian usually cuts **his own hair**.
(= he cuts it himself; he doesn't go to a barber)
- ☐ I'd like to have a garden so that I could grow **my own vegetables**.
(= grow them myself instead of buying them from shops)



D

On my own / by myself

On my own and **by myself** both mean 'alone'. We say:

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

=

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

- ☐ I like living **on my own / by myself**.
- ☐ 'Did you go on holiday **on your own / by yourself**?' 'No, with a friend.'
- ☐ Jack was sitting **on his own / by himself** in a corner of the café.
- ☐ Learner drivers are not allowed to drive **on their own / by themselves**.

83.1 Write new sentences with the same meaning. Change the underlined words and use the structure in **Section A (a friend of mine etc.)**.

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|--|--|
| 1 I am meeting <u>one of my friends</u> tonight. | <u>I'm meeting a friend of mine</u> tonight. |
| 2 We met <u>one of your relatives</u> . | We met a |
| 3 Jason borrowed <u>one of my books</u> . | Jason |
| 4 Lisa invited <u>some of her friends</u> to her flat. | Lisa to her flat. |
| 5 We had dinner with <u>one of our neighbours</u> . | |
| 6 I went on holiday with <u>two of my friends</u> . | |
| 7 Is that man <u>one of your friends</u> ? | |
| 8 I met <u>one of Jane's friends</u> at the party. | at the party. |
| 9 It's always been <u>one of my ambitions</u> to travel round the world. | to travel round the world. |

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

~~bedroom~~ business opinions private beach words

- I share a kitchen and bathroom, but I have my own bedroom.
- Gary doesn't think the same as me. He's got
- Julia is fed up with working 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 want 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. You've got
- I can't make his decisions for him. He must make

83.4 Complete the sentences using **my own / your own** etc. Use the following verbs:

bake clean ~~cut~~ make write

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

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

- Did you go on holiday on your own?
- I'm glad I live with other people. I wouldn't like to live on
- The box was too heavy for me to lift by
- 'Who was Tom with when you saw him?' 'Nobody. He was by
- Very young children should not go swimming by
- I don't think she knows many people. When I see her, she is always 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 ..?
- We had no help decorating the flat. We did it completely on
- I went out with Sally because she didn't want to go out on