

A

A friend of mine / a friend of Tom's, etc.

We say "a friend of mine/yours/his/hers/ours/theirs":

- I'm going to a wedding on Saturday. A friend of mine is getting married. (*not* a friend of me)
- We went on a trip with some friends of ours. (*not* some friends of us)
- Michael had an argument with a neighbor of his.
- That was a good idea of yours to go swimming this afternoon.

In the same way, we say "a friend of Tom's / of my sister's," etc.:

- It was a good idea of Tom's to go swimming.
- That woman over there is a friend of my sister's.

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, etc., not shared or borrowed:

- I don't want to share a room with anybody. I want **my own room**.
- Vicky and George would like to have **their own house**. (*not* an own house)
- It's a shame that the apartment doesn't have **its own parking space**.
- It's **my own fault** that I don't have any 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 use . . . *own* . . . to say that you do something yourself instead of somebody else doing it for you. For example:

- Bill 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 in stores)



Bill usually cuts his own hair.

On my own / on your own, etc. means independently:

- Are your children living **on their own**? (= living in their own place and supporting themselves)
- Michelle traveled around Japan **on her own**. (= nobody helped her)
- I can do that job **on my own**. (= I don't need anyone's help)

C

By myself / by yourself, etc.

By myself / by yourself / by themselves, etc. = alone, without other people:

- "Did you go to Hawaii **by yourself**?" "No, I went with a friend."
- Jack was sitting **by himself** in a corner of the cafe.
- Student drivers are not allowed to drive **by themselves**.

By myself is not exactly the same as *on my own*:

- I live **by myself**. (= I live alone.)
- He lives **on his own** with a roommate. (= independently, but not alone)

Exercises

80.1 Rewrite these sentences using the structure in Section A (a friend of mine, etc.).

1. I am writing to one of my friends. I'm writing to a friend of mine.
2. We met one of your relatives. We met a _____.
3. Jason borrowed one of my books. Jason _____.
4. Ann invited some of her friends to her place. Ann _____.
5. We had dinner with one of our neighbors. _____.
6. I took a trip with two of my friends. _____.
7. Is that man one of your friends? _____.
8. I met one of Amy's friends at the party. _____.

80.2 Complete the sentences using *my own / your own*, etc. + one of the following:

business government ideas money private jet ~~room~~ TV

1. I don't want to share a room. I want my own room.
2. I don't watch TV with the rest of the family. I have _____ in my room.
3. Sue doesn't need to borrow money from me. She has _____.
4. Julia is fed up with working for other people. She wants to start _____.
5. Jason is extremely rich. He has _____.
6. You can give him advice, but he won't listen. He's got _____.
7. The U.S. Virgin Islands is a group of islands in the Caribbean Sea. It is a United States territory, but it has _____.

80.3 Complete the sentences using *my own / your own*, etc.

1. Why do you want to borrow my car? Why don't you use your own car ?
2. How can you blame me? It's not my fault. It's _____.
3. He's always using my ideas. Why can't he use _____ ?
4. Please don't worry about my problems. You've got _____.
5. I can't make her decisions for her. She has to make _____.

80.4 Complete the sentences using *my own / your own*, etc. Choose one of these verbs:

bake ~~cut~~ make write

1. Brian never goes to the barber. He usually cuts his own hair.
2. Mary doesn't buy many clothes. She usually _____.
3. Paul is a singer. He sings songs written by other people, but he also _____.
4. We don't often buy bread from a bakery. We _____.

80.5 Complete the sentences using *by myself / by himself*, etc.

1. Did you go to Hawaii by yourself ?
2. The box was too heavy for me to lift _____.
3. "Who was Tom with when you saw him?" "Nobody. He was _____."
4. Very young children should not go swimming _____.
5. I don't think she knows many people. When I see her, she is always _____.
6. Do you like working with other people, or do you prefer working _____ ?
7. We had no help painting the apartment. We did it completely _____.