 L298 is dual full-H driver.

 in L298, a half H driver cannot be used independently, full H driver has to be used.

Output current per channel 2A for L298. Hence, the reason for heat sink in case of L298

Protective Diodes against back EMF are provided internally in L293D but must be provided externally in L298/L293.

L298 has two H-bridge drivers which means you can drive two motors simultaneously .

Furthermore L298 is configured by default so you only have to change your bits and get it to work .

In addition I would say you can even control 4 motors by connection 2 motors in parallel.

You can control all 4 independent lines according to your need/requirement .

L298 operates up to 46V.