

a·live

S2 W3

/ə'laɪv/

adjective [not before noun]

1 **not dead** still living and not dead:

It was a bad accident – they're lucky to be alive.

*My grandparents are **still alive**.*

*We **stayed alive** by eating berries.*

*He was **kept alive** on a life-support machine.*

*Apparently he's **alive and well** and living in Brazil.*

2 **still existing** continuing to exist:

Ancient traditions are very much alive in rural areas.

*Christianity is **alive and well** in Asia.*

*The sport is still very much **alive and kicking** in this country.*

3 ENERGETIC **cheerful** full of energy, happiness, activity etc:

*It was the kind of morning when you wake up and **feel** really **alive**.*

alive with

Her face was alive with excitement.

The whole house was alive with activity.

4 **come alive**

a) INTERESTING

if a subject or event comes alive, it becomes interesting and seems real:

Hopefully, we can make history come alive for the children.

b) HAPPYINTERESTED

if someone comes alive, they suddenly become happy and interested in what is happening:

She only came alive when she sat down at the piano.

c) BUSY PLACE

if a town, city etc comes alive, it becomes busy:

seaside resorts that come alive in the summer

5 be alive to a fact/possibility/danger etc NOTICE

to know that a particular fact etc exists and that it is important:

The company is alive to the threat posed by foreign imports.

6 be alive with something BUSY/HAVE A LOT TO DO

to be full of living things that are moving:

The pond was alive with fish.

7 bring something alive INTERESTING

to make something interesting and real:

The way he describes his characters really brings them alive.

→ **skin somebody alive** AT SKIN² (3)

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *on life* 'in life'

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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