

# a·lone S2 W1

/ə'ləʊn \$ ə'loʊn/

adjective [not before noun] , adv

1 ALONE if you are alone in a place, there is no one with you

**SYN** by yourself

*She **lives alone**.*

*You shouldn't **leave** a child **alone** in the house.*

*My wife and I like to spend time **alone together** away from the kids.*

In everyday English, people often say **by yourself** or **on your own** rather than **alone**:

*She lives **by herself/on her own**.*

2 ALONE without any friends or people you know:

*It was scary being **all alone** in a strange city.*

*She was **all alone in the world** (= she had no family or friends to help her or look after her).*

3 ALONE feeling unhappy and lonely:

*I cried like a child because I **felt so alone**.*

4 without any help from other people:

*He was left to raise their two children **alone**.*

5 EMPHASIZE without including anything else:

*The case will cost thousands of pounds in legal fees **alone**.*

6 **you/he etc alone** ONLY

used to emphasize that there is only one person who knows, can do something etc:

*Julie alone knew the truth.*

**7 go it alone** INDEPENDENT PERSON

to start working or living on your own, especially after working or living with other people:

*After years of working for a big company I decided to go it alone.*

**8 leave somebody alone** (also let somebody alone (old-fashioned))

INTERFERE

to stop annoying or interrupting someone:

*'Leave me alone!' she screamed.*

**9 leave something alone** (also let something alone (old-fashioned))

TOUCH

to stop touching an object or changing something:

*Leave those cakes alone. They're for the guests.*

**leave well (enough) alone** (= not change something that is satisfactory)

*In economic matters, they should leave well alone.*

**10 be yours/hers/his etc alone**

used to emphasize that something belongs to someone:

*The responsibility is yours and yours alone.*

**11 not be alone in (doing) something** ONLY

to not be the only person to do something:

*You're not alone in feeling upset, believe me.*

**12 stand alone** ALONE

a)

to be strong and independent:

*the courage to stand alone*

b)

to be at a distance from other objects or buildings:

*The house stood alone at the end of the road.*

# THESAURUS – Meaning 4

—

**on your own/by yourself** without help from anyone else: *I can't move the bed on my own.* | *See if you can work out the answer by yourself.* |

**all on your own/all by yourself** (= used when you feel impressed or feel sympathy for someone): *Did you paint this picture all on your own?* | *It's not fair that she does everything all by herself.*

**alone** without any help from anyone else. **Alone** is more formal and less common than **on your own** or **by yourself**: *Police believe the killer acted alone.*

**independently** without asking for help or advice from anyone: *Students are taught to work independently.* | *One day she will have to live independently without the support of her family.*

**unaided** without the help of anyone or anything – used especially about people who are very weak, ill etc: *He is unable to breathe unaided.* | *After treatment, he was able to go up and down stairs unaided.*

**single-handedly** doing something difficult or impressive without help from anyone else: *She single-handedly reformed the entire system.*

**solo** by one person, not a group: *Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean* | *She is planning to release a solo album.* | *He sang and played the song solo.*

**lone** **adjective** [only before noun] doing something alone. Used especially in the following phrases: **a lone gunman**: *Police say the attack was carried out by a lone gunman.* | *The government should do more to help lone parents* (= who raise a child alone).

**self-made** **adjective** someone who has become very rich or successful without help from anyone else: **a self-made man/millionaire/businessman** etc: *Like most self-made men,*

*he was extremely self-confident.*

**Word origin**

**Date:** 1200–1300

**Origin:** *all one* 'wholly one'

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

© Pearson Education Limited 2009, 2011, 2015