

**but**<sup>2</sup> S2 W3  
preposition

**1** BUT apart from

**SYN** except

*I could come any day but Thursday.*

*There's no one here but me.*

*I could still see nothing but the spirals of desert dust.*

*He was unable to swallow anything but liquids.*

**2** the last but one/the next but two etc (*especially BrE*)<sup>BUT</sup>

the last or next thing or person except for one, two etc:

*Pauline and Derek live in the next house but one* (= they live two houses away from us) .

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Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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