

A friend of mine my own house on my own / by myself

A

A friend of mine / a friend of yours etc.

We say '(a friend) **of mine/yours/his/hers/ours/theirs**'.

A friend of mine = one of my friends:

- ☐ I'm going to a wedding on Saturday. **A friend of mine** is getting married. (*not* a friend of me)
- ☐ We went on holiday with **some friends of ours**. (*not* some friends of us)
- ☐ Mike had an argument with **a neighbour of his**.
- ☐ It was **a good idea of yours** to go to the cinema.

In the same way we say '(a friend) **of my sister's** / (a friend) **of Tom's**' etc. :

- ☐ That woman over there is **a friend of my sister's**. (= one of my sister's friends)
- ☐ It was **a good idea of Tom's** to go to the cinema.

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, not shared or borrowed:

- ☐ I don't want to share a room with anybody. I want **my own room**.
- ☐ Vicky and Gary would like to have **their own house**.
- ☐ It's a shame that the apartment hasn't got **its own parking space**.
- ☐ It's **my own fault** that I've got no 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 say 'a room **of my own**', 'a house **of your own**', 'problems **of his own**' etc. :

- ☐ I'd like to have a room **of my own**.
- ☐ He won't be able to help you with your problems. He has too many problems **of his own**.

C

We also use **own** to say that we do something ourselves instead of somebody else doing it for us. For example:

- ☐ Brian 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 from shops)



D

On my own / by myself

On my own and **by myself** both mean 'alone'. We say:

on { my / your
his / her / its
our / their } **own**

=

by { myself / yourself (*singular*)
himself / herself / itself
ourselves / yourselves (*plural*) / themselves

- ☐ I like living **on my own / by myself**.
- ☐ 'Did you go on holiday **on your own / by yourself**?' 'No, with a friend.'
- ☐ Jack was sitting **on his own / by himself** in a corner of the cafe.
- ☐ Learner drivers are not allowed to drive **on their own / by themselves**.