

UNIT 80

'A friend of mine', 'my own house'

On my own / by myself

a A friend of mine / a friend of Tom's

We say 'a friend of mine/yours/his/hers/theirs'. (not 'a friend of me/you/him' etc.):

- A friend of mine is coming to stay with me next week. (not 'a friend of me')
- We went on holiday with some friends of ours. (not 'some friends of us')
- Tom had an argument with a neighbour of his.
- It was a good suggestion of yours to go swimming this afternoon.

We also say 'a friend of Tom's', 'a friend of my brother's' etc.:

- That man over there is a friend of my brother's.
- It was a good idea of Tom's to go swimming.

b My own ... / your ... etc.

You cannot say 'an own ...' ('an own house', 'an own car', etc.)

You must use my/your/his/its/our/their before own:

my own house your own car her own room

My own ... = something that is only mine, not shared or borrowed:

- Do many people in England have their own house? (not 'an own house')
- I don't want to share with anyone. I want my own room.
- Unfortunately the flat hasn't got its own entrance.
- It's my own fault that I've got no money. I spend it too quickly.
- Why do you want to borrow my car? Why can't you use your own (car)?

You can also use ... own ... to say that you do something yourself instead of somebody else doing it for you. For example:

- Ann always cuts her own hair. (= she cuts it herself; she doesn't go to the hairdresser)
- Do you grow your own vegetables? (= do you grow them yourself in your garden instead of buying them from shops?)

c 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/himself/herself/itself	(singular)
	ourselves/yourselves/themselves	(plural)

- I like living on my own / by myself.
- Did you go on holiday on your own / by yourself?
- 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.

For myself/yourself etc. see also Unit 81.

- Unfortunately the flat hasn't got its own entrance.
- It's my own fault that I've got no money. I spend it too quickly.

