

By myself, for myself, myself ★★☆☆

This is about the difference between alone, self-help and emphasis.

1 By himself (alone, no-one helped me)



He lives by himself in a cabin.

More examples:

I learned to play the piano by myself (I didn't have a teacher)

He's too young to go to school by himself (alone)

2 For herself (to her benefit, or advantage)



She cooked lunch for herself and a friend.

More examples:

"I'm buying a new coat for myself this afternoon."

Do the work for yourself, for your own satisfaction.

3 Myself (optional, for emphasis)



"Who did your homework?"

"I did it myself"

(Or: "I did it, no-one else did it.")

More examples (always optional):

She herself didn't like the music, though her partner did.

"He carried the suitcase upstairs himself, I didn't think he had the strength."

Next week: by myself, on my own.

Quick check

Complete these sentences with *by*, *for* or \emptyset (nothing)

- 1 You can see _____ yourself how much this project has progressed.
- 2 I don't think she should go there _____ herself, someone should go with her.
- 3 I _____ myself was tempted to abandon the project.
- 4 He got lonely when he was _____ himself on night duty.
- 5 "Stop feeling sorry _____ yourself and get on with your life!"

