

## ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English Through Discussion

### ALONE or LONELY?

**alone:** adj,adv. Without other people. *She lives alone. I like being alone.*

**lonely:** adj. Unhappy because you are not with other people.

#### Usage

##### alone or lonely?

Alone means without other people. If you feel **sad** because you are alone, you are **lonely**.

*Sometimes I like to be **alone** to think.*

*She has been very **lonely** since she came to Australia.*

#### HOT TOPICS

(Choose one topic to lead a discussion on).

1. What is the difference between being alone and being lonely?
2. Did you come to Australia alone? How did it feel? What did your family or friends think of you coming alone? When have you felt lonely in Australia?
3. If someone was feeling lonely in Australia what advice would you give them:  
You could.....  
Why don't you.....  
Have you thought of .....
5. Where do you like to go to be alone?
6. Have you ever been to the movies alone or eaten at a restaurant alone? Why or why not? How did it feel?
7. Why are we sometimes afraid of being alone?
8. Do you agree with the following statement:  
"No man is an island"

Everyone experiences loneliness. You might have felt it as a child when your classmates laughed at you because you were the last one chosen for a team. You might be feeling it now being away from your family and friends. Listening to native speakers talking and not being able to join in the conversation because you can't understand can leave you feeling lonely. Loneliness is a universal human experience. Everyone at some stage in his or her life has felt lonely. How we live with loneliness is important. Many bad habits, addictions, stress headaches, over eating or under eating, can be caused from loneliness.

Many people in history, who have faced great suffering, have experienced loneliness. How they managed their loneliness was the way they survived. One famous Christian in World War II was a prisoner in a German concentration camp. Her belief in God kept her from giving up all hope. She writes, "I could face each day because I knew I wasn't alone. God was with me in every difficult situation. To know I was not alone kept me alive. I can face anything because God is with me, comforting me, loving me, giving me strength."

#### What helps you when you are feeling lonely?

A person from the Bible wrote about God:  
*"Suppose I had wings like the dawning day  
and flew across the ocean.  
Even then your powerful arm  
would guide and protect me."*

Psalm 139:9-10.

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