

Time Management Tips Guide

Reduce Stress & Be More Productive w/ Free Time Management eBook. Download Now!

Efficiently Prioritize Your Time
Free Guide

Dale Carnegie

one [wuhn]

EXAMPLES | WORD ORIGIN | IDIOMS

SEE MORE SYNONYMS FOR one ON THESAURUS.COM

adjective

- 1 being or amounting to a single unit or individual or entire thing, item, or object rather than two or more; a single: *one woman; one nation; one piece of cake.*
- 2 being a person, thing, or individual instance or member of a number, kind, group, or category indicated: *one member of the party.*

SEE MORE

noun

- 10 the first and lowest whole number, being a cardinal number; unity.
- 11 a symbol of this number, as 1 or I.

SEE MORE

pronoun

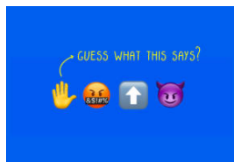
- 16 a person or thing of a number or kind indicated or understood: *one of the Elizabethan poets.*
- 17 (in certain pronominal combinations) a person unless definitely specified otherwise: *every one.*

SEE MORE

Explore Dictionary.com



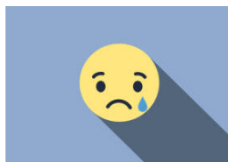
The Word Possible Changes Headlines



Can You Translate These Famous Phrases From Emoji?



These Are the Longest Words in English



These Are the Saddest Phrases in English

Others Are Reading



What Does Gender Really Mean?

The Year's Top Word Trends

NICE inContact

CXone has the industry's first analytics-based routing application.

Consider the game changed.

Read the Report

Idioms

- 24 **at one** ,
 - a in a state of agreement; of one opinion.
 - b united in thought or feeling; attuned: *He felt at one with his Creator.*
- 25 **one and all** , everyone: *They came, one and all, to welcome him home.*
- 26 **one by one** , singly and successively: *One by one the children married and moved away.*
- 27 **one for the road** . road(def 10).

Origin of one

before 900; Middle English *oon*, Old English *ān*; cognate with Dutch *een*, German *ein*, Gothic *ains*, Latin *ūnus* (OL *oinos*); akin to Greek *oīnē* ace on a die

Word of the Day

petrichor [wuh-n]



Words We Get Wrong: How Many of These Can You Say?



Can be confused

one [wan](#) [won](#) (see usage note at the current entry)

Usage note

ONE as an indefinite pronoun meaning “any person indefinitely, anyone” is more formal than **you**, which is also used as an indefinite pronoun with the same sense: *One (or you) should avoid misconceptions. One (or you) can correct this fault in three ways.* When the construction requires that the pronoun be repeated, either **ONE** or *he* or *he or she* is used; *he* or *he or she* is the more common in the United States: *Wherever one looks, he (or he or she) finds evidence of pollution.* In speech or informal writing, a form of *they* sometimes occurs: *Can one read this without having their emotions stirred?*

In constructions of the type *one of those who (or that or which)*, the antecedent of *who* is considered to be the plural noun or pronoun, correctly followed by a plural verb: *He is one of those people who work for the government.* Yet the feeling that **ONE** is the antecedent is so strong that a singular verb is commonly found in all types of writing: *one of those people who works for the government.* When **ONE** is preceded by *only* in such a construction, the singular verb is always used: *the only one of her sons who visits her in the hospital.*

The substitution of **ONE** for *I*, a typically British use, is usually regarded as an affectation in the United States. See also [he](#)¹, [they](#).

-one

- ¹ a suffix used in the names of ketones and analogous chemical compounds:
lactone; quinone.

Origin of -one

perhaps < Greek *-ōnē* feminine patronymic

Dictionary.com Unabridged

Based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2019

Related Words for one

[solitary](#), [sole](#), [separate](#), [singular](#), [specific](#), [single](#), [particular](#), [special](#), [alone](#), [definite](#), [different](#), [lone](#), [odd](#), [only](#), [peculiar](#), [precise](#), [uncommon](#), [unique](#)

Examples from the Web for one

Contemporary Examples of one

Added to drinking water at concentrations of around *one* part per million, fluoride ions stick to dental plaque.



[Anti-Fluoriders Are The OG Anti-Vaxxers](#)

Michael Schulson
July 27, 2016

In his view, a writer has only *one* duty: to be present in his books.



[Houellebecq's Incendiary Novel Imagines France With a Muslim President](#)

Pierre Assouline
January 9, 2015

Yet this, in the end, is a book from which *one* emerges sad, gloomy, disenchanted, at least if we agree to take it seriously.



[Houellebecq's Incendiary Novel Imagines France With a Muslim President](#)

Pierre Assouline
January 9, 2015

The fear of violence should not determine what *one* does or does not say.



[Trolls and Martyrdom: Je Ne Suis Pas Charlie](#)

Arthur Chu
January 9, 2015

The al Qaeda-linked gunmen shot back, but only managed to injure *one* officer before they were taken out.



[France Kills Charlie Hebdo Murderers](#)

Nico Hines
January 9, 2015

Historical Examples of one

One might have been a model for the seraphs of Christian faith, the other an Olympian deity.

[Philothea](#)



Did You Know Real People Write the Dictionary?

Nearby words for one

[ondes martenot](#)
[online](#)
[onding](#)
[ondo](#)
[ondograph](#)

one

[one and all](#)
[one and only](#)
[one and the same](#)
[one another](#)
[one by one](#)

Lydia Maria Child

She's *one* of the build that aren't so big as they look, nor yet so small as they look.

[The Spenders](#)

Harry Leon Wilson

One need not look so high as the old-fashi *one* d stuccoed ceiling.

[The Spenders](#)

Harry Leon Wilson

We met the son and the old man at *one* of their mines yesterday.

[The Spenders](#)

Harry Leon Wilson

Geta dared trust no *one* but me to carry a message to Clinias.

[Philothea](#)

Lydia Maria Child

British Dictionary definitions for one

one

determiner

- 1 a single; lone; not two or more : *one car*
 - b (*as pronoun*): *one is enough for now*; *one at a time*
 - c (*in combination*): *one-eyed*; *one-legged*
- 2 a distinct from all others; only; unique : *one girl in a million*
 - b (*as pronoun*): *one of a kind*
- 3 a a specified (person, item, etc) as distinct from another or others of its kind : *raise one hand and then the other*
 - b (*as pronoun*): *which one is correct?*
- 4 a certain, indefinite, or unspecified (time); some : *one day you'll be sorry*
- 5 *informal* an emphatic word for a ¹, an ¹ *it was one hell of a fight*
- 6 a certain (person) : *one Miss Jones was named*
- 7 **in one or all in one** combined; united
- 8 **all one**
 - a all the same
 - b of no consequence : *it's all one to me*
- 9 **at one** (*often foll by with*) in a state of agreement or harmony
- 10 **be made one** (of a man and a woman) to become married
- 11 **many a one** many people
- 12 **neither one thing nor the other** indefinite

Show More

pronoun

- 20 an indefinite person regarded as typical of every person : *one can't say any more than that*
- 21 any indefinite person: used as the subject of a sentence to form an alternative grammatical construction to that of the passive voice : *one can catch fine trout in this stream*
- 22 *archaic* an unspecified person : *one came to him*

noun

- 23 the smallest whole number and the first cardinal number; unity : See also [number \(def. 1\)](#)
- 24 a numeral (1, I, i, etc) representing this number
- 25 *informal* a joke or story (esp in **the one about**)
- 26 music the numeral 1 used as the lower figure in a time signature to indicate that the beat is measured in semibreves
- 27 something representing, represented by, or consisting of one unit
- 28 Also called: **one o'clock** one hour after noon or midnight
- 29 a blow or setback (esp in the phrase **one in the eye for**)
- 30 **the one** (in Neo-Platonic philosophy) the ultimate being
- 31 **the Holy One** or **the One above** God
- 32 **the Evil One** Satan; the devil

Related forms

Related prefixes: mono-, uni-

Related adjective: single

Word Origin for one

Old English *ān*, related to Old French *ān*, *ēn*, Old High German *ein*, Old Norse *einn*, Latin *unus*, Greek *oinē* ace

-one

suffix forming nouns

- 1 indicating that a chemical compound is a ketone : *acetone*

Word Origin for -one

arbitrarily from Greek *-ōnē*, feminine patronymic suffix, but perhaps influenced by *-one* in ozone

Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition
© William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins
Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012

Word Origin and History for one

n.

c.1200, from Old English *an* (adjective, pronoun, noun) "one," from Proto-Germanic **ainaz* (cf. Old Norse *einn*, Danish *een*, Old Frisian *an*, Dutch *een*, German *ein*, Gothic *ains*), from PIE **oi-no-* "one, unique" (cf. Greek *oinos* "ace (on dice);" Latin *unus* "one;" Old Persian *aivam*; Old Church Slavonic *-inu*, *ino-*; Lithuanian *vienas*; Old Irish *oin*; Breton *un* "one").

Originally pronounced as it still is in *only*, and in dialectal *good 'un*, *young 'un*, etc.; the now-standard pronunciation "wun" began c.14c. in southwest and west England (Tyndale, a Gloucester man, spells it *won* in his Bible translation), and it began to be general 18c. Use as indefinite pronoun influenced by unrelated French *on* and Latin *homo*.

One and only "sweetheart" is from 1906. *One of those things* "unpredictable occurrence" is from 1934. Slang *one-arm bandit* "a type of slot machine" is recorded by 1938. *One-night stand* is 1880 in performance sense; 1963 in sexual sense. *One of the boys* "ordinary amiable fellow" is from 1893. *One-track mind* is from 1927. Drinking expression *one for the road* is from 1950 (as a song title).

-one

chemical suffix, from Greek *-one*, female patronymic (cf. *anemone*, "daughter of the wind" *anemos*); in chemical use denoting a "weaker" derivative. Its use in forming *acetone* (1830s) gave rise to the specialized chemical sense.

Online Etymology Dictionary, © 2010 Douglas Harper

one in Medicine

-one

suff.

A ketone: *acetone*.

A compound that contains oxygen, especially in a carbonyl radical: *lactone*.

The American Heritage® Stedman's Medical Dictionary
Copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

one in Science

-one

A suffix used to form the names of chemical compounds containing an oxygen atom attached to a carbon atom, such as *acetone*.

The American Heritage® Science Dictionary
Copyright © 2011. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

Idioms and Phrases with one

one

In addition to the idioms beginning with one

one and all

one in a million

one and only
one and the same
one another
one by one
one eye on
one fell swoop, in
one foot in the grave, have
one for the books
one for the road
one good turn deserves another

one jump ahead
one man's meat is another man's poison
one of a kind
one of these days
one of those days
one on one
one on, that's
one picture is worth a thousand words
one up
one way or another

also see:


all in one piece
all the same (one)
A-1 (A-one)
as one
at one
at one stroke
at one time
at one time or another


irons in the fire, more than one
it takes one to know one
just one of those things
look out for (number one)
more than one way to skin a cat
not one iota
number one
the hand

Show More

The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary

Copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

Now, more than ever.
Don't miss the magic. 
Save up to \$70 Off Gate Prices

BUY NOW

Fun. With benefits.

Browse the Dictionary: # [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

Browse by Category: [Slang](#) [Emoji](#) [Acronyms](#) [Pop Culture](#) [More](#)

© 2019 Dictionary.com, LLC

[About](#)

[Careers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Cookies, Terms, & Privacy](#)