

**life****1. 1) жизнь; существование**

the origin of life - происхождение жизни

the struggle for life - борьба за существование

this life, natural life - **рел.** земное бытие /существование/

the other /eternal, future/ life - **рел.** загробная /вечная, будущая / жизнь

for one's life - для спасения (своей) жизни

to seek smb.'s life - покушаться на чью-л. жизнь

to take smb.'s life - убить кого-л.

to take one's own life - покончить с собой

to pawn one's life - ручаться жизнью /головой/

to run for dear /for very/ life, to flee /to run/ for one's life - бежать изо всех сил; спастись бегством

to fight for dear life - драться /сражаться/ не на живот, а на смерть

**2) жизнедеятельность**

the noise of life - шум жизни; звуки деятельности человека

stirrings of life - признаки жизни

to come to life - а) начать жизнь, появиться на свет; б) оживать, приходить в себя (*после обморока и т. п.*)

a writer whose characters come to life - писатель, создающий живые образы

to bring to life - а) вызывать к жизни; б) приводить в чувство (*после обморока и т. п.*)

**2. 1) живые существа, жизнь**

is there any life on Mars? - есть ли жизнь /есть ли живые существа/ на Марсе?

**2) живое существо, человек**

a life for a life - жизнь за жизнь

three lives were saved by his brave act - своим храбрым поступком он спас три жизни /спас троих/

how many lives were lost? - сколько людей погибло?

the battle was won at great sacrifice of life - битва была выиграна ценой больших потерь

**3) **собир.** мир живых организмов**

plant [animal, insect] life - мир растений [животных, насекомых]

wild life - живая природа

marine life - фауна и флора океана

**3. 1) срок жизни, вся жизнь**

at his time of life - в его возрасте

a lease for three lives - арендный договор сроком до смерти последнего из трёх названных лиц

for life - на всю жизнь, до конца жизни, до смерти; пожизненно

to be deported for life - быть высланным навечно, быть приговорённым к бессрочной ссылке

to be sentenced to life - быть осуждённым на пожизненное заключение

to be elected [appointed] for life - быть избранным [назначенным] пожизненно

to marry early [late] in life - жениться рано [поздно]

I have lived here all my life - я всю жизнь живу здесь

**2) срок службы или работы (*машины, учреждения*); долговечность**

the average life of steel rails - средний срок службы стальных рельсов

the useful life of a car [of a building] - срок эксплуатации автомобиля [здания]

life cycle - **преим. воен.** срок службы, срок действия (*чего-л.*)

life of an agreement - **дип.** срок действия соглашения

**4. образ или характер жизни**

regular life - регулярный /размеренный/ образ жизни

comfortable life - спокойная жизнь

country [city] life - деревенский [городской] образ жизни

a dog's life - собачья жизнь, жалкое существование

everyday life - повседневная жизнь, быт

political [sex] life - политическая [половая] жизнь

musical life of a city - музыкальная жизнь города

to lead a quiet life - вести спокойную жизнь

how's life? - **разг.** как жизнь?, как дела?

such is life - такова жизнь; ничего не поделаешь

**5. общественная жизнь; взаимоотношения (людей); общество**

high life - светское общество, высший свет; светская жизнь

low life - жизнь низших классов общества

social life - а) общественная жизнь; б) общение с друзьями и знакомыми; встречи, развлечения *и т. п.*

to see /to learn/ something of life, to see life - повидать свет, узнать жизнь

to enter upon life - вступить в жизнь

to be settled in life - найти своё место в жизни

we have practically no social life - мы почти ни с кем не встречаемся, мы живём очень замкнуто

**6. жизнеописание, биография**

the lives of great men [of poets] - жизнеописания /жизнь/ великих людей [поэтов]

Life of Johnson - биография Джонсона

few authors write their own lives - писатели редко пишут автобиографии

**7. 1) энергия, живость; воодушевление; оживление**

to infuse new life into smth. - вдохнуть новую жизнь во что-л.  
to put life into one's work - работать с душой  
to put life into a portrait - оживить портрет  
put more life into your movements - шевелитесь побыстрее  
the children are full of life - дети полны жизни /очень оживлённы, деятельны/

## 2) самое важное, необходимое; основа; душа

he was the life of the party - он был душой общества  
plenty of sleep is the life of young children - длительный сон - самое важное /основное/ для (здоровья) детей

## 8. **жив.** натура

a picture [a portrait] taken from (the) life - картина [портрет] с натуры  
small life - меньше натуральной величины  
as large as life **см.** large I ◊  
to portray smb. to the life - очень точно передать сходство, нарисовать чей-л. верный портрет

## 9. **страх.** застрахованное лицо

## 10. = lifetime 2)

◊ my (dear) life - мой дорогой, моя дорогая, моя жизнь (*обращение*)  
upon my life! - честное слово!  
for the life of me I can't understand it - хоть убей, не могу этого понять  
it is a matter of life and death - это вопрос жизни и смерти  
with all the pleasure in life - с величайшим удовольствием  
to have the time of one's life - а) повеселиться на славу; отлично провести время; б) переживать лучшую пору своей жизни  
change of life - **эф.** климакс  
life and limb **см.** limb1 I ◊  
to bother /to harass, to nag, to worry/ the life out of smb. - изводить кого-л., не давать ни минуты покоя кому-л., выматывать (всю) душу  
to gasp out one's life - испустить дух, скончаться  
to take one's life in both hands and eat it - прожигать жизнь  
there is life in the old dog yet - ≅ есть ещё порох в пороховницах  
a cat has nine lives - **посл.** у кошки девять жизней, кошки живучи  
while there is life there is hope - **посл.** пока человек жив, он надеется  
not on your life! - ни в коем случае!

## 2. [laɪf] a

### 1) жизненный

life force - жизненная сила

### 2) пожизненный

life sentence - пожизненное заключение

life member - пожизненный член (*клуба и т. п.*)

### 3) с натуры

## life

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**life** [laɪf] **lives** BrE [laɪf] <sup>m</sup> NAmE [laɪf] <sup>e</sup> noun (pl. **lives** BrE [laɪvz] <sup>m</sup> ; NAmE [laɪvz] <sup>e</sup> )

## STATE OF LIVING

**1. uncountable** the ability to breathe, grow, reproduce, etc. which people, animals and plants have before they die and which objects do not have

- life and death
- The body was cold and showed **no signs of life** .
- My father died last year— I wish I could bring him **back to life** .
- In spring the countryside bursts into life.

**2. uncountable, countable** the state of being alive as a human; an individual person's existence

- The floods caused a massive **loss of life** (= many people were killed) .
- He **risked his life** to save his daughter from the fire.
- Hundreds of lives were threatened when the building collapsed.
- The operation **saved her life** .
- My grandfather **lost his life** (= was killed) in the war.
- Several attempts have been made on the President's life (= several people have tried to kill him) .

## LIVING THINGS

**3. uncountable** living things

- **plant/animal life**
- **marine/pond life**
- Is there intelligent life on other planets?

## PERIOD OF TIME

**4. countable, uncountable** the period between sb's birth and their death; a part of this period

- He's lived here **all his life** .
- I've lived in England for most of my life.

- to have a **long/short life**
- He became very weak towards the end of his life.
- Brenda took up tennis **late in life** .
- He will spend **the rest of his life** (= until he dies) in a wheelchair.
- There's no such thing as a job **for life** any longer.
- She is a **life member** of the club.
- in **early/adult life**

**see also** ↑change of life

**5. countable** (used with an adjective) a period of sb's life when they are in a particular situation or job

- She has been an accountant all her **working life** .
- He met a lot of interesting people during his life as a student.
- They were very happy throughout their **married life** .

**6. countable** the period of time when sth exists or functions

- The International Stock Exchange **started life as** a London coffee shop.
- They could see that the company had a limited life (= it was going to close) .
- In Italy the average life of a government is eleven months.

**see also** ↑shelf life

## PUNISHMENT

**7. uncountable** the punishment of being sent to prison for life; life ↑imprisonment

- The judge **gave him life** .
- She is **doing life** for murder.

## EXPERIENCE/ACTIVITIES

**8. uncountable** the experience and activities that are typical of all people's existences

- the worries of everyday life
- He is young and has little **experience of life** .
- Commuting is a part of **daily life** for many people.
- Jill wants to travel and see life for herself.
- We bought a dishwasher **to make life easier** .
- In London life can be hard.
- In **real life** (= when she met him) he wasn't how she had imagined him at all.
- Life can be difficult when you move to a new town.
- Life isn't like in the movies, you know.

**9. uncountable, countable** the activities and experiences that are typical of a particular way of living

- **country/city life**
- She enjoyed political life.
- **family/married life**
- How do you find life in Japan?

**10. countable** a person's experiences during their life; the activities that form a particular part of a person's life

- He has had **a good life** .
- **a hard/an easy life**
- My **day-to-day life** is not very exciting.
- **a life of** luxury
- Her **daily life** involved meeting lots of people.
- She lived a quiet life in the countryside.
- Many of these children have led very **sheltered lives** (= they have not had many different experiences) .
- They emigrated to **start a new life** in Canada.
- He doesn't like to talk about his **private life** .
- She has a full **social life** .
- articles about the **love lives** of the stars

**see also** ↑sex life

## ENERGY/EXCITEMENT

**11. uncountable** the quality of being active and exciting

**Syn:** ↑vitality

- This is a great holiday resort that is **full of life** .

## IN ART

**12. uncountable** a living model or a real object or scene that people draw or paint

- She had lessons in drawing from life.
- a **life class** (= one in which art students draw a naked man or woman)

**see also** ↑still life

## STORY OF LIFE

**13. countable** a story of sb's life

**Syn:** ↑biography

- She wrote a life of Mozart.

## IN CHILDREN'S GAMES

### 14. countable one of a set number of chances before a player is out of a game

- He's lost two lives, so he's only got one left.

**more at** you can bet your life/your bottom dollar (on sth/(that)...) **at** ↑bet *v.*, the breath of life **at** ↑breath, breathe (new) life into sth **at** ↑breathe, the change of life **at** ↑change *n.*, depart this life **at** ↑depart, a dog's life **at** ↑dog *n.*, end your days/life **at** ↑end *v.*, a fact of lifethe facts of life **at** ↑fact, in fear of your life **at** ↑fear *n.*, fight for (your) life **at** ↑fight *v.*, within an inch of your life **at** ↑inch *n.*, kiss of life **at** ↑kiss *n.*, large as lifelarger than life **at** ↑large, a new lease of life **at** ↑lease, light of sb's life **at** ↑light *n.*, a matter of life and death **at** ↑matter *n.*, make sb's life a misery **at** ↑misery, have nine lives **at** ↑nine, risk life and limb **at** ↑risk *v.*, not be able to do sth to save your life **at** ↑save *v.*, a slice of life **at** ↑slice *n.*, spring into/to life **at** ↑spring *v.*, the staff of life **at** ↑staff *n.*, that's the story of my life **at** ↑story, at my, your, his, etc. time of lifehave the time of your life **at** ↑time *n.*, true to life **at** ↑true *adj.*, variety is the spice of life **at** ↑variety, a walk of life **at** ↑walk *n.*, a/the/sb's way of life **at** ↑way *n.*

**Idioms:** ↑bring somebody to life ▪ ↑come to life ▪ ↑for dear life ▪ ↑for the life of you ▪ ↑for your life ▪ ↑full of life ▪ ↑get a life ▪ ↑lay down your life ▪ ↑lead the life of Riley ▪ ↑life after death ▪ ↑life and soul of the party ▪ ↑life is cheap ▪ life of its own ▪ ↑life's too short ▪ ↑make life difficult ▪ ↑man in your life ▪ ↑not on your life ▪ ↑scare the life out of somebody ▪ ↑somebody's life ▪ ↑take somebody's life ▪ ↑take your life ▪ ↑take your life in your hands ▪ ↑that's life ▪ ↑where there's life

#### Word Origin:

Old English lif, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *lijf*, German *Leib* 'body', also to ↑live <sup>1</sup>.

#### Thesaurus:

##### life noun

##### 1. U, C

- The body was cold and showed no signs of life.

**existence** • • **survival** •

##### Opp: death

sb/sth's **very/continued/day-to-day** life/existence/survival

**threaten** sb/sth's life/existence/survival

**fight for** your life/survival

##### 2. C, U

- I've lived here all my life.

**lifetime** • • **career** • • **in sb's day** •

**in/of** sb's life/lifetime/career/day

**during** sb's life/lifetime/career

a life/lifetime/career **of doing sth**

##### 3. C

- How do you find life in America?

**lifestyle** • • **way of life** • • **living** • • **existence** •

(sb's) **day-to-day** life/living/existence

a **comfortable/busy** life/lifestyle/existence

**have/lead/enjoy** a... life/lifestyle/existence

##### 4. U

- We need to inject some new life into this project.

**energy** • • **vitality** • • **fire** • • **dynamism** • • **spark** • • **gusto** • • **zest** • |BrE **vigour** • |AmE **vigor** •

**new** life/energy/vitality/zest/vigour

**be full of** life/energy/vitality/fire/dynamism/zest/vigour

#### Collocations:

##### The living world

###### Animals

animals **mate/breed/reproduce/feed** (on sth)

fish/amphibians **swim/spawn** (= lay eggs)

birds **fly/migrate/nest/sing**

insects **crawl/fly/bite/sting**

insects/bees/locusts **swarm**

bees **collect/gather** nectar/pollen

spiders **spin/weave** a web

snakes/lizards **shed their skins**

bears/hedgehogs/frogs **hibernate**

insect larvae **grow/develop/pupate**

an egg/a chick/a larva **hatches**

**attract/find/choose** a mate

**produce/release** eggs/sperm

**lay/fertilize/incubate/hatch** eggs

**inhabit** a forest/a reef/the coast

**mark/enter/defend** (a) territory

**stalk/hunt/capture/catch/kill** prey

###### Plants and fungi

trees/plants **grow/bloom/blossom/flower**  
 a seed **germinates/sprouts**  
 leaves/buds/roots/shoots **appear /develop /form**  
 flower buds **swell/open**  
 a fungus **grows/spreads/colonizes sth**  
**pollinate /fertilize** a flower/plant  
**produce/release /spread/disperse** pollen/seeds/spores  
**produce/bear** fruit  
**develop /grow/form** roots/shoots/leaves  
**provide /supply/absorb/extract/release** nutrients  
**perform/increase/reduce** photosynthesis

*Bacteria and viruses*

bacteria/microbes/viruses **grow/spread/multiply**  
 bacteria/microbes **live/thrive** in/on sth  
 bacteria/microbes/viruses **evolve /colonize sth/cause disease**  
 bacteria **break sth down/convert sth (into sth)**  
 a virus **enters/invades** sth/the body  
 a virus **mutates/evolves/replicates (itself)**  
**be infected with/contaminated with/exposed to** a new strain of a virus/drug-resistant bacteria  
**contain/carry/harbour (especially US) harbor** bacteria/a virus  
**kill/destroy/eliminate** harmful/deadly bacteria

Example Bank:

- He always believed in living life to the full.
- He always had a great love of life.
- He built his whole life around his children.
- He devoted his life to the education of deaf children.
- He ended his life a happy man.
- He gave up his high-flying job and now enjoys a better quality of life.
- He had been leading a double life, married to two women.
- He hopes the development will breathe new life into the community.
- He lost his life in an air crash.
- He met the love of his life at college.
- He never discussed the unhappiness of his past life.
- He never let his work dominate his life.
- He ruined his life through drinking.
- He spent his whole life in Cornwall.
- He was a miner all his working life.
- He'll be haunted by the crash for the rest of his life.
- Her paintings became more obscure towards the end of her life.
- His fame was so sudden that he was unprepared for public life.
- His foolishness almost cost him his life.
- His time in London was his first glimpse of the seamier side of life.
- I had the fright of my life when I saw the snake in my bed.
- I owe my life to the the doctors at the hospital.
- I think I may have been an animal in a previous life.
- I wanted to see something of life before I settled down.
- I've always had a fairly optimistic outlook on life.
- I've known her all my life.
- In later life he took up writing.
- It's nice to see an old man still so full of life.
- Japanese people have a very high life expectancy.
- Learning meditation changed her life.
- No lives were lost in the accident.
- Only his wife had access to his inner life.
- She begged the soldiers to spare her son's life.
- She clung to life for several weeks.
- She did not tolerate press intrusion into her private life.
- She discovered jazz quite late in life.
- She is still rebuilding her life after the accident.
- She leads a busy social life.
- She loved the Spanish way of life and immediately felt at home there.
- She risked her life for the sake of the children.
- She sensed she was entering a new phase in her life.
- She thought marriage should be for life.
- She took her own life.
- She went through life always wanting what she couldn't get.
- She's critically ill, on life support.
- The city only comes to life at night.
- The crash claimed 43 lives.

- The driver showed no signs of life.
- The hotel started life as a prison.
- The pace of life is much gentler on the island.
- The plane crashed with heavy loss of life.
- There has only been one woman in her life.
- There have been three attempts on the president's life.
- These talks are a matter of life and death for the factory.
- They both seem to want the same things out of life.
- They need some new, younger staff to breathe some life into the company.
- They went to Australia to start a new life.
- They were enjoying the high life in the smartest hotels of New York.
- They're living a life of luxury in the Bahamas.
- Throughout her life she was dogged by loneliness.
- Witnesses are living in fear for their life after giving evidence against the gang.
- You're still in the prime of life.
- a child bursting with life
- a drug that will save lives
- a life-support machine
- a real-life drama
- anti-abortionists campaigning for the right to life
- for the first time in her life
- Bad posture is one of the causes of back pain in later life.
- He doesn't like to talk about his private life.
- He has had a hard life.
- He is young and has little experience of life.
- He met a lot of interesting people during his life as a student.
- He said the men had threatened his life.
- He spent his entire adult life in France.
- He will spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.
- He's lived here all his life.
- How do you find life in America?
- I've lived in England for most of my life.
- In Italy at that time the average life of a government was eleven months.
- In real life he wasn't how she had imagined him at all.
- Life isn't like in the movies, you know.
- Many of these children have led very sheltered lives.
- My father died last year— I wish I could bring him back to life.
- My grandfather lost his life in the Second World War.
- My mother took up tennis late in life.
- She has a full social life.
- She has been an accountant all her working life.
- She led a life of luxury.
- The International Stock Exchange started life as a London coffee shop.
- The body was cold and showed no signs of life.
- The floods caused a massive loss of life.
- The operation saved her life.
- The product has a guaranteed shelf life of 60 days.
- The worries of everyday life can become unbearable for people with this condition.
- There's no such thing as a job for life any longer.
- They emigrated to start a new life in America.
- They were very happy throughout their married life.
- We bought a dishwasher to make life easier.
- We need to inject some new life into this project.
- Yet more species of plant and animal life die out as their very specialized habitat is disturbed.
- You mustn't let anyone know— it's a matter of life and death.
- pond life

## life

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**life** **S1 W1** /laɪf/ **BrE** <sup>ˈ</sup> **AmE** <sup>ˈ</sup> **noun** (plural **lives** /laɪvz/)

[**Word Family**: **noun**: ↑life, ↑lifelessness, ↑lifer; **adjective**: ↑lifeless, ↑lifelike, ↑lifelong; **adverb**: ↑lifelessly]

[**Language**: Old English; **Origin**: lif]

**1. TIME SOMEBODY IS ALIVE** [uncountable and countable] the period of time when someone is alive:

- Learning goes on throughout life.
- You have your whole life ahead of you.

### in sb's life

- For the first time in my life I was happy.
- I've never been so embarrassed in my life!
- I've known John all my life (=since I was born).
- His main aim in life was to have fun.
- It was one of the best days of my life.

- " The accident scarred him for life (=for the rest of his life).
  - " She knew she'd feel guilty for the rest of her life.
  - " Raj spent his life caring for others.
  - " Bonington spent his entire adult life in France.
  - " We don't know much about the poet's early life (=when he was young).
  - " Poor diet can lead to a whole range of diseases in later life (=when you are older).
  - " She married late in life (=when she was fairly old).
  - " He's a life member (=continuing until he dies) of the club.
- 2. STATE OF BEING ALIVE [uncountable and countable]** the state of being alive:
- " The right to life is the most basic of human rights.
  - " Danny was a cheerful little boy who loved life.
  - " Two firefighters risked their lives to save the children.
- 3. WAY SOMEBODY LIVES [countable usually singular]** the way you live your life, and what you do and experience during it  
**lead/live/have a ... life**
- " The operation should enable Bobby to lead a normal life.
  - " She just wanted to live a quiet life.
  - " Having a baby changes your life completely.
  - " The family moved to Australia to start a new life.
  - " Ken's whole life revolved around surfing (=that was the main interest and purpose of his life).
  - " You shouldn't let your boyfriend rule your life (=control and affect everything you do).
  - " My grandmother had a hard life (=a life full of problems).
  - " She's led a very sheltered life (=a life in which you have been protected from unpleasant things).
- a life of crime/poverty/misery etc**
- " He had been drawn into a life of crime.
- 4. PARTICULAR SITUATION/JOB [uncountable and countable]**
- a) the experiences, activities, and ways of living that are typical of being in a particular job, situation, society etc:**
- " Why do so few women enter political life?
  - " the British way of life
- city/country/village etc life**
- " Noise has become one of the main pollutants of modern city life.
- army/student/college etc life**
- " He missed the routine of army life.
  - " Are you enjoying married life?
- b) the time in your life when you are doing a particular job, are in a particular situation etc**
- sb's life as something**
- " Now a celebrity chef, he rarely talks about his life as an army cook.
  - " Sara admits to having affairs throughout her married life.
  - " Most of his working life was spent in the shipyards.
- 5. social/personal/sex etc life** the activities in your life relating to your friends, your family, sex etc:
- " I don't need advice about my love life.
  - " traditional views of family life
  - " Children need a caring and happy home life.
- 6. HUMAN EXISTENCE [uncountable]** human existence, considered as a variety of experiences and activities:
- " My Aunt Julia had very little experience of life.
  - " Life has a way of changing the best of plans.
  - " For some people, religion gives life a meaning.
- daily/everyday life**
- " the frustrations and disappointments of everyday life
  - " I try to see the funny side of life.
- 7. TIME WHEN SOMETHING EXISTS/WORKS [countable usually singular]**
- a) the period of time during which something happens or exists**
- life of**
- " The issues will not be resolved during the life of the present parliament.
- start/begin/come to life as something**
- " The building began life as a monastery.
- b) the period of time during which something is still good enough to use**
- life of**
- " What's the average life of a passenger aircraft?
  - " Careful use can extend the life of your washing machine. ⇒ ↑**shelf life**
- 8. LIVING THINGS [uncountable]**
- a) the quality of being alive that people, animals, plants etc have and that objects and dead things do not have:**
- " Ben felt her neck for a pulse or any other sign of life.
  - " In the springtime, everything comes to life again.
- b) living things, such as people, animals, or plants:**
- " Is there life on other planets?
- human/animal/plant/bird etc life**
- " The island is rich in bird life. ⇒ ↑**wildlife**
- 9. be sb's (whole) life** to be the most important thing or person to someone:
- " Music is Laura's whole life.

**10. life and death** (also **life or death**) used for emphasizing that a situation, decision etc is extremely urgent and important, especially because someone is at risk of dying:

- Don't call me unless it's a matter of life and death.
- a life or death decision
- A doctor's job involves life and death situations.

**11. GAME** [countable] a chance in a game, especially a computer game, in which you can be defeated or do something wrong and can still continue playing:

- He's up to level five and still has three lives left.

**12. ACTIVITY** [uncountable] activity or movement:

- The house was quiet and there was no sign of life.
- She was always so cheerful and full of life.

**13. INTEREST/EXCITEMENT** [uncountable] a quality of being interesting or exciting:

- Try to put some life into your writing.
- The game really came to life after a magnificent goal from Rooney.
- A gifted teacher can really bring literature to life for his or her students.

**14. come to life/roar into life/splutter into life etc** to suddenly start working:

- Finally the car spluttered into life.

**15. make life difficult/easier etc** to make it difficult, easier etc to do something:

- Surely computers are supposed to make life easier, not more complicated!

**make life difficult/easier etc for**

- Why make life difficult for yourself?

**16. the life and soul of the party** *British English*, **the life of the party** *American English* someone who enjoys social occasions and is fun and exciting to be with

**17. life and limb** *formal* your life and physical health – used especially when this is threatened in some way:

- She risks life and limb every day in her job as an undercover investigator.

**18. get a life!** *spoken* used to tell someone that you think they are boring and should find more exciting things to do:

- You guys should just stop moaning and get a life!

**19. that's life** (also **such is life**) *spoken* used to say that something is disappointing but you have to accept it:

- Oh well, that's life!

**20. life's a bitch** *spoken not polite* used to say that bad things happen in life

**21. this is the life** *spoken* used when you are relaxing and doing something you enjoy:

- Ah, this is the life! Lying on the beach, sipping cool drinks.

**22. the shock/surprise/game etc of sb's life** the biggest shock or surprise, the best game etc that someone has ever had:

- I had the surprise of my life when I saw John standing there. ⇒ **have the time of your life** at ↑time<sup>1</sup>(41)

**23. how's life?** *spoken* used to ask someone if they are well, what they have been doing etc:

- Hi Bob! How's life?
- How's life been with you?

**24. life goes on** *spoken* used to say that you must continue to live a normal life even when something sad or disappointing has happened:

- We both miss him, but life goes on.

**25. a life of its own**

a) if something has a life of its own, it seems to move or work by itself:

- The ball seemed to have acquired a life of its own.

b) if something has a life of its own, it exists and develops without depending on other things:

- Slowly but surely, the project is taking on a life of its own.

**26. cannot for the life of me** *spoken* used to say that you cannot remember or understand something even when you try hard:

- I couldn't for the life of me remember his name.

**27. life's too short** *spoken* used to say that you should not waste time doing something or worrying about something:

- Forget about it. Life's too short.

**life's too short for**

- Life's too short for moping about.

**life's too short to do something**

- Life's too short to bear grudges.

**28. not on your life** *spoken* used as a reply to a question or suggestion to say that you definitely will not do something:

- 'Are you going to go and work for him then?' 'Not on your life!'

**29. the woman/man/girl etc in your life** the woman or man you are married to or are having a relationship with – used especially in advertisements:

- This is the ideal gift for the man in your life.

**30. PRISON** [uncountable] (also **life imprisonment**) the punishment of being put in prison for the rest of your life

**be sentenced to/get/be given life**

- He was sentenced to life for the murder.
- I think she should get life. ⇒ ↑life sentence, ↑lifer

**31. ART** [uncountable] when you paint, draw etc something you are looking at, especially a person or animal:

- She's taking classes in life drawing. ⇒ ↑still life

**32. frighten/scare the life out of somebody** *informal* to make someone feel very frightened:

- Don't do that! You scared the life out of me!

**33. there's life in the old dog yet** *spoken* used to say that although someone or something is old, they are still able to do something – used humorously

**34. live/lead/have the life of Riley** *informal* to have a very easy and comfortable life and not have to work hard:



He spends all day lounging by the pool and living the life of Riley.

35. **BOOK/FILM** [uncountable] the story of someone's life **SYN biography**:

" Boswell's 'Life of Johnson'

36. **the next life** (also **the life to come**), **life after death** the time after death, in which some people believe life continues in another form:

" She expects to meet her dead husband in the next life.

⇒ **as large as life** at ↑large<sup>1</sup>(7), ⇒ ↑change of life, ⇒ **for dear life** at ↑dear<sup>3</sup>(6), ⇒ ↑double life, ⇒ **high life** at ↑high<sup>1</sup>(22), ⇒ **a new lease of life** at ↑lease<sup>1</sup>(2), ⇒ **quality of life** at ↑quality<sup>1</sup>(5), ⇒ **real life** at ↑real<sup>1</sup>(3), ⇒ ↑real-life, ⇒ **true to life** at ↑true<sup>1</sup>(9), ⇒ ↑walk of life

...

### COLLOCATIONS (for Meaning 2)

#### ■ verbs

- **save sb's life** The money you give will save the life of a child.
- **risk your life** He risked his life to help Jews during the Second World War.
- **lose your life** (=die) Hundreds of people lost their lives on the first day of the fighting.
- **take a/sb's life** (=kill someone) All cultures consider it wrong to take a life for no reason.
- **take your own life** (=kill yourself) He was depressed and decided to take his own life.
- **claim the life of somebody** (=kill someone – used of a thing) The disease claimed the lives of up to a quarter of the population.
- **cost lives/cost somebody their life** (=result in deaths/in someone's death) That decision may have cost him his life.
- **give your life/lay down your life** (=die in order to save other people, or because of a strong belief) These men gave their lives during the war to keep us free.
- **endanger the life of somebody** They wanted to capture the gunman without endangering the lives of his hostages.
- **spare sb's life** (=not kill someone, when you could kill them) She begged him to spare the life of her son.
- **be fighting for your life** (=be so ill or injured that you might die) One badly burned man was fighting for his life in hospital.
- **cling to life** (=try to stay alive, even though you are very ill or injured) She clung to life, despite the pain.

#### ■ phrases

- **owe your life to somebody** (=be still alive because of someone's actions) The victim said he owed his life to the stranger who helped him.
- **take your life in your hands** (=put yourself in a dangerous situation) Just crossing this road is taking your life in your hands.

#### ■ COMMON ERRORS

- ▶ Do not say '*the cost of life*'. Say **the cost of living**.

## life

Freakuency Pack

12500 **130**<sup>MCW</sup>  
 15000 **123**<sup>COCA</sup>  
 RANGE: **1k LIFE** 311378  
 life 292890  
 lifetime 11052  
 lifetimes 769  
 lifelike 370  
 lifesize 49  
 lifelong 3577  
 lifeless 1129  
 lifelessly 45  
 midlife 832  
 lifes 665

### COCA 500k Unlemmatized

83942 **130**<sup>292045</sup> *nn1*  
 416 **30948**<sup>527</sup> *nnu*  
 138 **63309**<sup>142</sup> *jj*  
 30 **115160**<sup>45</sup> *np1*  
 15 **205585**<sup>15</sup> *cc*  
 13 **222273**<sup>13</sup> *at1*  
 13 **222286**<sup>13</sup> *ji*  
 13 **223521**<sup>13</sup> *ppts1*  
 12 **224917**<sup>13</sup> *vbz*  
 11 **245670**<sup>11</sup> *pph1*  
 9 **272213**<sup>9</sup> *appge*  
 9 **272232**<sup>9</sup> *ddq*  
 7 **298783**<sup>8</sup> *rg*  
 7 **312757**<sup>7</sup> *cs*  
 7 **312763**<sup>7</sup> *csa*

<sup>5</sup>391115<sup>5</sup> *ppy*

<sup>4</sup>451126<sup>4</sup> *vhd*

<sup>4</sup>451134<sup>4</sup> *vhz*

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