

**only****1. [ˈəʊnli] a****1. единственный**

only child - единственный ребёнок  
 the only book on the subject - единственная книга по данному вопросу  
 the only instances known - единственные известные случаи  
 the only things that matter - единственное, что имеет значение  
 water is his only drink - он ничего кроме воды не пьёт

**2. исключительный, выдающийся; наиболее подходящий**

he's the only man for the position - он наиболее подходящая кандидатура на этот пост  
 he's the only writer for me - он мой самый любимый писатель

◇ one (and) only - а) **см.** one II 2; б) неповторимый, несравненный, бесподобный (*об исключениях*); and now, the one and only Johnson! - а сейчас выступает непревзойдённый Джонсон!; в) **разг.** любимый; любимая; г) единственный one and only friend - единственный друг

**2. [ˈəʊnli] adv****только, исключительно; единственно**

I did it only for him - я сделал это только ради /для/ него  
 he not only heard it, he saw it - он не только слышал, он видел это

**••Ladies only•• - «только для женщин» (*надпись*)**

I'm only a secretary - я всего лишь секретарь  
 ◇ only just - а) только что; they've only just (now) arrived - они только что прибыли; б) едва, с трудом I've only just enough money - у меня денег в обрез  
 to be only just in time - едва поспеть  
 only not - почти, едва не, чуть не  
 only too - чрезвычайно; очень  
 only too glad /pleased/ ... - очень рад, счастлив ...  
 it's only too true - к сожалению, это верно /действительно так/  
 if only - если бы только  
 only think! - подумать только!

**3. [ˈəʊnli] cj****но, только; только вот**

he makes good resolutions, only he never keeps them - он принимает хорошие решения, но никогда не выполняет их  
 ◇ only that - если бы не то, что; только вот  
 he'd succeed only that he's rather lazy - он бы добился успеха, только он уж очень ленив  
 only that I am busy I'd ask you in - если бы я не был занят, я пригласил бы вас зайти  
 only for - если бы не  
 only for him you would not be here - если бы не он, вам здесь не бывать

**only**

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

**only** adjective, adverb, conjunction *BrE* [ˈəʊnli] <sup>m</sup> *NAmE* [ˈoʊnli] <sup>m</sup>**adjective only before noun****1. used to say that no other or others of the same group exist or are there**

- She's their only daughter.
- We were the only people there.
- His only answer was a grunt.

**2. used to say that sb/sth is the best and you would not choose any other**

- She's the only person for the job.

**more at** in name only **at** ↑name <sub>n.1</sub> one and only **at** ↑one <sub>det.</sub>

**Word Origin:**

Old English ānlic (adjective) (see ↑one, ↑-ly).

**Idioms:** ↑not only ... but ... ▪ ↑only just ▪ ↑only thing is ... ▪ ↑only too ... ▪ ↑you're only young once

**adverb****1. nobody or nothing except**

- There are only a limited number of tickets available
- The bar is for **members only**.
- **You only have to** look at her to see she doesn't eat enough.
- Only five people turned up.

**2. in no other situation, place, etc**

- I agreed, but only because I was frightened.
- Children are admitted only if accompanied by an adult. In formal written English **only**, or **only if** and its clause, can be placed first in the sentence. In the second part of the sentence, **be**, **do**, **have**, etc. come before the subject and the main part of the verb
- **Only** in Paris **do** you find bars like this.
- **Only if** these conditions are fulfilled **can** the application proceed to the next stage.

**3. no more important, interesting, serious, etc. than**

- It was only a suggestion.
- Don't blame me, I'm only the messenger!

• He was only teasing you.

**4. no more than; no longer than**

- She's only 21 and she runs her own business.
- It only took a few seconds.
- It took only a few seconds.

**5. not until**

- We only got here yesterday.
- (formal) **Only then did** she realize the stress he was under. When **only** begins a sentence **be, do, have**, etc. come before the subject and the main part of the verb.

**6. used to say that sb can do no more than what is mentioned, although this is probably not enough**

- We can only guess what happened.
- He could only watch helplessly as the car plunged into the ravine.
- I **only hope** that she never finds out.

**7. used to say that sth will have a bad effect**

- If you do that, it will only make matters worse.
- Trying to reason with him only enrages him even more.

**8. ~ to do sth used to mention sth that happens immediately afterwards, especially sth that causes surprise, disappointment, etc.**

- She turned up the driveway, only to find her way blocked.

**more at** only have eyes for/have eyes only for sb **at** ↑eye n., if only **at** ↑if conj.

Word Origin:

Old English ānlic (adjective) (see ↑one, ↑-ly).

Language Bank:

**addition**

*Adding another item*

- Bilingual children do better in IQ tests than children who speak only one language. **In addition** ▪ / **What is more** ▪, they seem to find it easier to learn third or even fourth languages.
- Learning another language **not only** ▪ improves children's job prospects in later life, **but also** ▪ boosts their self-esteem.
- Teaching children a second language improves their job prospects in later life. **Other** ▪ benefits **include** ▪ increased self-esteem and greater tolerance of other cultures.
- **Another** ▪ / **One further** ▪ / **One additional** ▪ reason for encouraging bilingual education is that it boosts children's self-esteem.
- Studies suggest that bilingual children find it easier to learn additional languages. There is, **moreover** ▪, increasing evidence that bilingual children perform better across a range of school subjects, not just foreign languages.
- His claim that children find bilingual education confusing is based on very little evidence. **Moreover** ▪, the evidence he does provide is seriously flawed.
- Research has shown that first-language development is not impeded by exposure to a second language. **Furthermore** ▪, there is no evidence to support the claim that children find bilingual education confusing.

**conjunction** (informal)

except that; but

- I'd love to come, only I have to work.
- It tastes like chicken, only stronger.

Word Origin:

[**only**] Old English ānlic (adjective) (see ↑one, ↑-ly).

**only**

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **only** <sup>1</sup> **S1 W1** /'əʊnli \$ 'oʊn-/ *BrE* <sup>2</sup> *AmE* <sup>3</sup> *adverb*

**1. not more than a particular number, age etc:**

- Naomi was only 17 when she got married.
- There are only a few cars on the island.
- It's only eight o'clock.

**2. used to say that something or someone is not very important, serious etc:**

- It was only a joke.
- It's an interesting job, but it's only temporary.
- They're only small cuts, nothing life-threatening.

**3. nothing or no one except a particular person or thing:**

- Only the president can authorize a nuclear attack.
- We use only the best ingredients.

**women/men/residents etc only**

- The car park is for staff only.

**4. used to say that something happens or is possible in one particular situation or place and no others, or for one particular reason:**

- I'll tell you, but only if you don't tell anyone else.
- I ate the food, but only because I was starving.
- The transfer takes place only when the data is complete.

**GRAMMAR**

You can put a phrase or clause beginning with **only** first, to emphasize it. You put the subject after an auxiliary in the main clause:

- Only in London did I find a purpose in life.
- Only by changing themselves can organizations continue to succeed.

5. no earlier than a particular time

only yesterday/last week/recently

“ ‘When did you email her?’ ‘Only yesterday.’

only then did/would/could etc somebody do something (=at that moment and not before)

“ Only then did she tell him about the attack.

6. **only just** *British English*

a) a very short time ago:

“ She’s only just got up.

b) almost not **SYN** barely:

“ I only just finished my essay in time.

7. **can only hope/wait etc** used to say that it is not possible to do more than hope etc:

“ We can only hope it won’t rain on the day.

8. **I can only think/suppose/assume (that)** *spoken* used when you are giving a reason for something, to say that you do not know something for certain but think that this is the only possible reason:

“ I can only assume that it was a mistake.

9. **I only wish/hope** *spoken* used to express a strong wish or hope:

“ ‘What’s happening?’ ‘I only wish I knew.’

10. **if only** *spoken* used to express a strong wish:

“ If only he’d call!

11. **you’ll only** *spoken* used to tell someone that what they want to do will have a bad effect:

“ Don’t interfere – you’ll only make things worse.

12. **you only have to read/look at/listen to etc something** *spoken* used to say that it is easy to know that something is true because you can see or hear things that prove it:

“ You only have to look at the statistics to see that things are getting worse.

13. **only to** used to say that someone did something, with a disappointing or surprising result:

“ I arrived only to find that the others had already left.

14. **only too** very:

“ Prices have risen sharply, as we know only too well.

“ Mark was only too happy to agree with her.

⇒ **not only ... but (also)** at ↑not(4), ⇒ **only have eyes for somebody** at ↑eye<sup>1</sup>(32), ⇒ **for sb’s eyes only** at ↑eye<sup>1</sup>(25)

II. **only**<sup>2</sup> *S1 W1 BrE* “ *AmE* “ *adjective* [only before noun]

[Language: Old English; Origin: anlic, from an; ⇒ ↑one<sup>3</sup>]

1. used to say that there is one person, thing, or group in a particular situation and no others:

“ I was the only woman there.

“ He is our only child.

“ I was the only one who disagreed.

“ Cutting costs is the only solution.

“ She’s the only person for this job.

2. **the only thing/problem is ...** *spoken* used when you are going to mention a problem or disadvantage:

“ I could take you. The only thing is Dan might need the car.

3. **an only child** a child who has no brothers or sisters ⇒ **the one and only** at ↑one<sup>4</sup>(2), ⇒ **(only) time will tell** at ↑time<sup>1</sup>(36)

III. **only**<sup>3</sup> *BrE* “ *AmE* “ *conjunction* *spoken*

used like ‘but’ to give the reason why something is not possible **SYN** **except (that)**:

“ I’d offer to help, only I’m really busy just now.

**only**

12500 **83**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **77**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **1k ONLY** <sup>518252</sup>

only <sup>518252</sup>

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

117272 **102**<sup>395323</sup> *rr*

66672 **318**<sup>122844</sup> *jj*

55 **99003**<sup>60</sup> *nn1*

18 **177036**<sup>20</sup> *nnu*

5 **376482**<sup>5</sup> *cs*