

20 BEST THINGS ABOUT BEING SINGLE

Once winter's slumber breaks, Spring Fever hits, and single men and women everywhere look to pair up and fall in love with...well, love. But once the April showers and the May flowers have passed, Spring Fever can turn to Summer Fling. This is the time when singles have fun frolicking in the sun - enjoying the weather...and each other...without the commitment couplehood brings.

Sure, it's nice to be "with someone" and dating is always fun when you're single. But until you find your soulmate, someone whom you can visualize sharing space with forever, singlehood allows for a great opportunity to experience things and learn who you really are.

Below is a list of the 20 Best Things About Being Single:

1. **Independence** - Things are on your time, at your will and the way you like them. You are in control of your destiny, you call the shots and can say yes or no as you see fit.
2. **Accountability** - Running late at the bar with your friends? Indulge a little too much on the credit card this month? Don't worry about it! There's no one to report to but yourself!
3. **Meeting New People** - Variety is the spice of life and when you're single, you have the opportunity to meet tons of different people from all walks of life. Whether it's for dating or friendship, you can meet new people without worrying if your mate will like them, too. And you never know - those new people can introduce you to more new people who may have a great opportunity for you that will change your life!
4. **Spontaneity** - Fly to Paris. Go to dinner with friends after work. Drive to the beach and don't come home for 3 days. When you are solo, you can do crazy things at the drop of a hat with no consequences!
5. **Friends** - You have all the time in the world to see your friends now. They can be your support system, your emotional center and your fun factory. In fact, good friends can give you almost everything you might get from a significant other, so you won't feel as if you are missing out on anything!
6. **Self-Care** - Take that class you always wanted to. Give yourself a facial. Watch a foreign film you love, rather than the hockey game a mate might want. Get to the gym...everyday! Taking care of yourself will make you love yourself, and loving yourself is the best way to learn to love others.
7. **Blossom** - Go back to school or volunteer for a new project at work. Stretch yourself mentally, physically and spiritually. If you're shy, go out dancing with friends and walk up to a member of the opposite sex and start up a conversation. Let yourself become the person you can be and have always wanted to be!
8. **Travel** - Take advantage of "me" time, as well as great Internet fares, and do a little traveling - especially in the summer months. Whether it's for a weekend, a month or just a day, get in a car, jump on a train or fly to a destination other than where you are now. It will revive your soul and you never know who you might meet along the way!
9. **Quorum is 1** - Decision-making is easier when it's just you. Want to do something? Just do it. There is no one to ask permission, and there are no schedules to coordinate!
10. **Opportunity** - Job transfer? Special invitation? Accept it and make the most of a great opportunity. With no romantic ties, taking advantage of things that come your way is much easier - and can be so rewarding.
11. **Keeps you Young** - Living the exciting life can help keep you young. Single folks are more physically active than their coupled counterparts, so revel in your singlehood whether you are 18 or 80 - chances are you are actually look and feel younger than your married peers!
12. **Not getting hurt** - Romantic relationships can bring heartache. Who needs that? Stay single, keep your friends around you, date and live life - just keep the heartache to a minimum.
13. **Control** - You are in the drivers seat. You want to leave a party? Leave. You want to go to bed early? Go. You want to stop dating your new flame? Call it off. You are in control.
14. **Expenses** - Being single can cut your expenses drastically...literally in half, sometimes! You only have to buy what you need at the store, when you go out to dinner, your bill is for one, not two, and your household expenses may be cheaper because you can live in a smaller home. Don't forget that when you're single, there are a lot of people out there who may want to treat you to a meal and a movie, or some other fun social event - don't say no!
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Freedom to Try New Things - Whether it's skydiving or sushi, sometimes having someone else around can impede trying new things. They might try to talk you out of it or tease you for never doing it or you may be embarrassed to confess your desire to another person. When the only one you need to answer to is you, then trying new things becomes a breeze.

16. **Guilt** - Guilt is diminished when you are only accountable to yourself. Significant others can demand time, emotions and other resources that you may not be able to provide all the time, and that can leave you feeling badly about neglecting your partner. Being single affords you the opportunity to be free of that guilt!
17. **Peace & Quiet** - Shut the TV off, curl up on the couch with a cup of tea and read a book. Ah, serenity... This is not always possible when there is someone in your life. They might be watching a loud action film, blaring the latest No Doubt album, doing some home improvement, entertaining houseguests, telling you endless stories about things that happened during the day – there are just so many ways for people to get in your personal space. Luckily when you're single, you can turn it all off and revel in the quiet that is your life, if you so choose.
18. **Co-Dependency** - Relationships are partnerships, and sometimes, that partnership can become co-dependent, thereby causing you to lose a piece of yourself to the other person and leaving yourself vulnerable. Singletons learn how to take care of themselves and they (and their future mates) reap the benefits of self-reliance.
19. **Time** - There just seems to be more of it when you're single! Your personal time is spent on you, doing what you want, when you want - not worrying about what your partner needs or putting time aside to spend with your mate.
20. **Personal Development** - Come into your own. Decide what you really believe and live it. Figure out what you want and go get it. Take some classes, read some books, hire a life coach. Fulfill your dreams. This is your time.