Alone, lonely, lonesome, on my own, solitary

The Italian word **SOLO** is a difficult one to translate into English for many Italian speakers. We have several options at hand.

**ALONE** (never used before a noun) = without other people around you. It refers to a physical state for humans.
Ex. "When I came into the class, the teacher was alone."

**LONELY** = sad because you are alone and feel that nobody loves you. It refers to an emotion.
We may choose to be alone but generally we do not choose to be lonely
Ex. "Ann hated her lonely weekends in that city."

We don’t use lonely as an adverb:
Ex. I prefer going to lunch alone.
Not: I prefer going to lunch lonely.

**ON MY OWN, ON YOUR OWN, etc.; BY MYSELF, BY YOURSELF etc.** = without anyone’s help or supervision, independently.
Ex."He built the house on his own / by himself."

**SOLITARY** (only used before a noun) = doing something without anyone else with you, often by choice.
Ex. "She enjoys her daily solitary walks."

**LONESOME** In American English, lonesome means the same as lonely:

Ex. If they’re away from home, they get lonesome. (If they’re away from home, they get lonely).
Self-study activity:
Complete the gaps in the sentences with the corresponding word.

1. I think if I lived in the country, I’d get ____________.
2. Fishing and walking are the two pleasures of the ___________ life that he enjoys.
3. If Mary wants to pass the test, she ought to do the exercises ___________.
4. I can manage __________ now, thanks for your help.
5. She doesn’t like travelling __________.
6. I drink coffee ___________. No sugar and no milk.
7. My dogs stop me from feeling ____________.
8. My laptop shuts down ____________.
9. Bob needs to be ____________ at least two hours a day in order to be happy.
10. Although Mrs Green lives ____________ she says she never gets ____________.
11. I was a ____________ and shy boy who preferred to be left _____ to read.’