

## Survey Results on Solo & Self-Reliant Scuba Diving

Complete survey results are [available here](#).

### What is the value to you of a self-reliant mentality when scuba diving?

1. For me, the value of a self-reliant mentality lies in proactive safety. It is not about ignoring your buddy, but about ensuring that every diver is capable of managing their own equipment and issues independently. This drastically reduces underwater stress, prevents minor incidents from turning into major emergencies, and ultimately strengthens team safety, as a self-reliant diver does not become a burden to others.
2. A diver with a self-reliant mentality makes a better team diver. A diver with a solo mentality does not
3. A self-reliant diver makes a better team diver, as long as they do not have a solo mindset when diving with a team
4. Ability to extract oneself from any reasonable trouble, short of medical emergency.
5. Ability to overcome any issue underwater without having to rely on my buddy.
6. Ability to react safely to an incident, especially when diving with trainees
7. Actually reliable buddies are hard to find. Being able to handle almost every situation by yourself makes the dive safer for yourself as well as potential buddies.
8. Added safety, less stress in a critical situation
9. Additional Safety. In Cave or deep dives I only rely on me. Help of my Buddy is nice and appreciated but not necessary.
10. Adds a layer of comfort knowing that many issues I'm trained and familiar enough with to fix myself. For the sake of clarity, I don't dive with a 100% self-reliant mindset. I still value my buddy
11. All divers should, even when team diving, be able to rescue themselves. And lend a hand if necessary..
12. All regular divers, especially in low visibility waters like much of the UK should learn to be self-reliant.
13. Always be your own back-up
14. Always being prepared for contingencies without relying on a potentially incompetent/unavailable buddy.
15. Always rely that I can solve my problems by myself and if I get help it's a bonus.
16. As a technically trained diver, I solo dive on shallower dives knowing I can solve most problems on my own, the only thing I am a little scared of is entanglement and medical emergency, stroke, fainting. In these cases a Diving buddy would increase the safety
17. As an additional safety net
18. As an instructor, I need to be able to solve problems when my buddies/students are not perfectly able to do so
19. As an instructor, I teach the importance of team diving (and being a good partner), but stress with my students to always be self-aware divers ... and always capable to help themselves. Put your mask on first before helping others.
20. At the end of the day, you're ultimately responsible for your safety
21. aumento della risposta agli imprevisti
22. Awareness/responsibility
23. Be able to rescue yourself and manage all the situations on your own

24. Be conscious that I can take care of myself and -for sure- of other people.
25. be independent as a diver
26. Be safer than with a buddy
27. Because especially on holiday you can be paired with a buddy unknown to you who wanders off or does not maintain skills.
28. Being a better dive buddy.
29. Being able to get yourself to the surface by yourself if you lose your dive buddy
30. being able to help my self and not depend on buddy's help if something goes wrong
31. Being able to manage issues myself and being more capable to support my buddy.
32. Being able to self-rescue if alone, and being a stronger dive team member
33. Being able to solve my own issue. Be prepared. Be safe
34. Being capable of planning, executing, and safely managing a dive independently, even when diving with a buddy. It doesn't replace the buddy system—it strengthens it.
35. Being confident to deal with situations and with kit redundancy ; at the same time avoiding situations where self-reliance may fail...I do not do penetration (wreck or cave) solo
36. Being member of a team but able to generally solve your own issues
37. Being ready for the unexpected.
38. Being safe at all time regardless of my buddy capabilities
39. Better (proper) dive planning, navigation. Knowing that I can solve the situation/problem if that happens. Fits my overall personality better. Since I started solo dive, I think about my buddy (I do also dive with various buddies) as an 1. Asset or 2. Reliability. And value of that thinking to me is that I think about myself the same way when I am someone's buddy (so I try to be asset to the buddy/team, not a liability).
40. Better awareness and an additional layer of security when diving in buddy pair or team
41. Better awareness throughout the dive on possible failures/emergency situations and subsequent ways to mitigate or resolve when occurring
42. Better dive planning
43. Better me than a poor buddy
44. Better prepared to handle whatever situation might arise
45. Better preparedness, self awareness and redundancy planning.
46. Big
47. Big one
48. Bring able to solve problems by myself
49. By regularly practicing and maintaining your what if self reliant mentality you mitigate the risk of being reliant on your buddy
50. Can help myself when team is divided
51. Can take care of any contingencies yourself.
52. Capability & maintained competence
53. Confidence when diving either buddy or solo, using checklists to make sure I'm properly prepared for the dive, relaxed/calm attitude when diving with buddies so I'm not reliant especially if they don't have the same training/experience I have
54. Critical in all diving
55. Crucial
56. Did you receive formal training (diving course) on self-reliant diving? YES! As an INTEGRATED aspect of literally EVERY course! If you are referring specifically to any course titled "solo diver" or "self-reliant diver", then NO! Those are SCAMS designed to make money. It's like selling "SMB" use as a specialty! WRONG! What is the value of a self-reliant mentality? How about seeing diving for EXACTLY what it really is, and treating it appropriately?! Diving is NOT a "sport", it is "an inherently dangerous activity" that can, and WILL, kill you if you treat it or refuse

to respect it as such. Done RIGHT, and you get to go places and see things few or none have before. Divers are the last bastion of real explorers left on earth, and yes, diving can be fun and highly rewarding. However, done WRONG, and you don't come back. The only correct mentality, therefore, for a diver to have, is a conservative and cautious one, fully-willing to accept personal responsibility and accountability for themselves, and that maintains strong self-discipline. Yet this should never be repackaged and sold as some additional course. It should be a strong and firm integrated part of every, single course from the ground up.

57. Diving with a buddy generally bring extra risk, especially 8f a stranger. It's best to assume they won't help you.
58. Diving with several levels of divers, from experienced professionals to beginners, I can lead my own dive (within my limits), no matter who I am diving with, as long as we stay in comfortable limits for them. If they intend to push it, I only do it if I feel comfortable, and that range does not change a great deal depending on the different buddies, because I am diving a fully self-reliant equipment configuration and am able to handle a single failure at any point in the dive. Though some problems, like seizures, hypoxia, etc, are not recoverable alone, most problems can be solved alone and not requiring to involve a buddy in my problem (only if it makes it easier) solving simplifies the procedures.
59. Do not rely on anyone.
60. Don't trust others anyway.
61. Enables me to be self reliant if something was to go wrong on a dive i.e. missing buddy, buddy with poor dive skills who would not be able to assist me if something happened.
62. every diver should be able to dive solo even if is always diving with a buddy
63. every diver should have been trained that way instead of what we have most in the industry which is baby sitting and dependent "divers" if not underwater breathers instead of divers.
64. Everybody should have a self reliant mentality. It's ridiculous to be relying on others for your own safety.
65. Everyone should be self-reliant in on life support gear, but also a willing and eager rescuer or buddy support as needed. Both mentalities are expected by me and of other, same for most outdoor or water sport
66. Excellent learning and opens your eyes to more risks
67. Except for a medical problem, I should be able to get myself safely out of the water with proper training
68. Experience .
69. Extreme
70. Extremely important
71. Focus on myself not others
72. Focus on the ability to take care of yourself without expectations that someone else will manage your problems for you. This makes it safer for everyone even in a group.
73. Fundamental!
74. Getting home safely.
75. Gives you the ability to respond to issues yourself without relying on a buddy, using them should you be unable to solve it yourself
76. Greater awareness for other divers
77. handle Problems on your own, like taught in technical, CCR or Cave diving courses
78. Having the ability, skill, and equipment to address problems by yourself if necessary
79. Having the correct mindset of dealing with issues on my own first, before having to rely on someone else. Although I mostly dive in teams, I believe self sufficiency is the first foundation of safe diving.
80. Helps me be a better buddy because I'm confident in my own skills and abilities

81. Higher level of security in case of problems or buddy separation
82. Hopefully can save myself if needed
83. I always dive self reliant as a cave diver. Redundancy is essential.
84. I am always prepared in case my buddy is distracted or too far away to help
85. I am fine for my buddy to rely on me. But I don't want to rely on my buddy. The true value of a self-reliant mentality is that both my buddy & I can put our energy & time into the dive plan & goals, rather than making sure the buddy is prepared for this dive.
86. I am only depending on myself, I can train things where I don't have to bother other people and I learn a lot about myself
87. I am responsible for my own safety, always and every single dive, regardless of if I have a dive buddy or not.
88. I am responsible for myself, first, and my buddy second.
89. I am self-reliant in every dive, and wish every diver could be too.
90. I believe every diver has to be have a solo mindset. Because in case your dive body has an emergency you become in that moment a solo diver plus a rescue 🚑 diver. And you need to be prepared for that. It's ok if you don't like solo diving but. You need to be prepared in an emergency.
91. I believe every diver should strive to be self reliant. It increases safety for all.
92. I believe works better if each member of the team operates with a team mindset and the skill to self-help. And effectively it's not a belief, any high achieving diving team will have divers with finely tuned individual skills. I don't believe solo-diving is a teachable skill. It takes exactly the same skills that you need for team diving. Teaching solo-diving pass the message that it is a skill that one can learn and I disagree fundamentally with this concept. I also don't believe that diving with no redundancy (single tank backmount) is a good idea in any scenario solo or not. So there is no need to consider extra redundancy when approached properly, though extra conservatism is advisable
93. I can both look after myself as well as the buddy if required
94. I do trimix rebreather diving so always bring a self reliant mindset to every dive i do, even a shallow scenic dive. My goal is always to be prepared to handle any scenario underwater by myself (with prearranged surface support mechanisms), and then dive with a buddy who has a similar approach to me. If I am relying on a buddy for my survival then I'm effectively doing a 'trust me' dive. My buddy is there as redundancy, not the primary means of solving a problem. I carry this over to my recreational instructing too as realistically I can't rely on a baby diver to rescue me if it all goes wrong!
95. I don't need to rely on others.
96. I don't enjoy diving with a buddy that needs supervision.
97. I feel like a more complete and safer diver.
98. I got into too many dangerous situation underwater because of my dive buddy. For me, it should be a MUST for all divers to be self-reliant, just in case.
99. I have been an instructor since 1994. I've seen shit happen.
100. I know how I will respond and what I am capable of. Relying on a buddy introduces a human factor that I don't have control over.
101. I know I can manage myself should I find myself alone as a result of a less than thoughtful or more careless dive buddy. I've trained to dive alone and I've dived alone. But I don't do it as a practice. I've made the difficult decision to stop diving with a buddy group because their mentality towards the dive was "every man for himself" and because certain divers were at certain levels, they felt they didn't need to "worry" about them. In my mind that's unacceptable. At my level, that's also unacceptable. I had to have a come-to-Jesus meeting with members of the group explaining my responsibility to the dive and the group and if they decide to do something not

planned, it falls back on me. I also explained that I wasn't going to be the one explaining to loved ones and significant others why their dumb asses didn't come back from a dive. And good luck searching for "buddy x" when he separates from the group because he did ccr! No thanks.

102. I know my own capabilities and don't have to second guess someone else's
103. I'm self-reliant and have more capacity to help a buddy when I dive in a buddy team
104. I mostly dive with recreational divers, and, if one of them were to panic or become unreliable, I believe a self-reliant mentality would help me calmly navigate both of us home and perform any safety stops (if my buddy was unable to assist).
105. I only have me to worry about and nobody else to keep track of.
106. I take responsibility for my own safety
107. I teach beginners, a fellow instructor many years ago advised me, if you think you can depend on beginners for help, then you can get into real trouble.
108. I think everyone should be completely self-reliant. However, having a buddy is an invaluable insurance policy against Murphy.
109. I think having a self-reliant mentality, even in a group setting, can do a couple things. It forces the self-reliant diver to be very mindful of what's going on. Keeps them focused and present. Not "space brain - lost in the sauce". Then if a problem arises, they can try and first self-rescue. Now that doesn't potentially tie up another diver to help. Maybe that other diver is needed, but maybe not. I think it can also demonstrate to the rest of the team, what being accountable and mindfulness looks like. And maybe demonstrate ways they can improve their own diving. I don't believe it's for everyone. But when done properly it can definitely make the self-reliant diver more of an asset to the team and not a liability.
110. I think it's a good mentality to have
111. I trust myself more than my buddy
112. I usually have different focus while diving (macro v pelagic) I'm confident in my ability to self-recover safely
113. I will always be there for my and everybody's buddy but want to make sure I'm good by myself if help is unaware of situation
114. I will eliminate the initial shock when my dive "buddy" proves to be overwhelmed or useless.
115. If I can easily take care of myself and any problems I have, I am MORE capable of taking care of a buddy.
116. If I can rely on myself, then I am not only safer as a diver but also better equipped to help others in need.
117. If I can't dive alone I shouldn't dive at all.
118. If need be, dive team can split up and dive solo. If needed my redundancies add safety to team. Other diver(s) redundancies obviously also add safety to team.
119. If something happens I don't have to hope my buddy can/will help.
120. If you can take care of yourself, you can take care of others
121. I'm always prepared.
122. Improves my odds of survival if I am not reliant on someone else to help. Help from a buddy/team is good, but a diver should be able to look after themselves.
123. In an emergency ensure that you are able to assist your dive buddy by ensuring that you are capable and competent to handle that situation
124. In any case, as a more advanced diver, you'll be buddied up regularly with a very junior diver. You can't really rely on them to aid you when something would be wrong.
125. In case something happens with my buddy, I should be ready.
126. In Trimix dives, when one member of the team is not following deco stops, you need to ignore them and do your stops by computer, this can be discussed during pre-dive briefing, the dives are too complex, sometimes the current can separate you and you end up doing deco in the blue alone

127. Independence and the ability to solve issues on your own. Emphasis on the planning stage to be preventative rather than reactionary
128. Independence of buddy for solving problems. Therefore hands free to help buddy.
129. It adds another layer of awareness, safety and knowledge to my dive skills.
130. It applies to any dive, buddy or not.
131. It enables to resolve my own problems while I am aware that there are situations where the support of a teammate is critical.
132. It gives comfort and peace of mind knowing that I can deal with issues independently even though my buddy is nearby, without being a burden to my buddy.
133. It helps me dive with people who are not proficient and enables me to help them. As an instructor, you must be self-reliant with students all the time anyway.
134. It improves your outlook on safety during normal buddy diving
135. It is a critical element of solo diving! Solo diving starts with the right mindset, training and redundant equipment comes next. The self-reliant mindset is the foundation on which skills and preparedness is built on!
136. It is critical. I take full responsibility for my own safety.
137. It is self-explanatory. One does not rely on anyone other than the self for being safe.
138. It keeps me aware of my limits. I don't expect anyone to fix my emergencies or notice them.
139. It lessens the likelihood of a problem that I might have to be involved with.
140. It makes me more aware of my surroundings
141. It makes me more confident
142. It makes you a better more focused diver. Perhaps it's how people should think about living their lives with a self-reliant mentality?
143. It means I know I can get myself out of a situation even if I can't get hold of my buddy
144. It means that I am confident that I can take care of myself and my buddy.
145. It might be necessary to know how to do it
146. It reduces stress for me because in my mind I feel I can deal with most situations effectively if I am equipped to be self-reliant, should my buddy or team members not be able to assist or I end up separated from them
147. It's Bullshit, aimed at duping people into thinking they are taking a "Solo" course without having the liability of a Solo qualification. EVERY diver should be self-reliant. If they aren't, they had an incompetent instructor.
148. It's everything
149. I'm a photographer...that said it all.
150. I had over the years many events where I was paired either buddies who put me in danger. I cannot change my mindset that one should (also) self-reliant.
151. Key to safety
152. Knowing I can deal with potential situations
153. Knowing you have everything you need to solve problems under water greatly reduces stress and makes me a better buddy and safer diver
154. Like most things, plan for the worst. It does not take long for a buddy to wander off behind a reef interested in something they saw. I see great value in anticipating that I am alone. Now, doing it is another matter.
155. Lower risk to self and dive buddy when done right. This is NOT about ignoring buddy, but relying on self first for safety - buddy second.
156. Many times you end up diving with weaker or less experienced divers, that you can't always rely on them in some situations.
157. Mastering elementary diving skills. Independence.

158. More confident diving with buddies who are new to diving or new to me whose team mindset is either not developed yet or not known to me. For instance, if I am diving with a brand new diver who is still learning bouancy control, I don't think it is reasonable or appropriate to expect them to be controlled enough to help me in case of a problem - I am prepared to help myself.
159. More mental capability to handle events and a backup with a buddy whom I can count on to help but not dependent on them helping.
160. more reliable diver in case of emergencies
161. more secure
162. Much more open to issues that might come up with me and also buddies. Trying to deal with things earlier.
163. Need to take care of me first so I can take care of my buddy
164. No one else to take care of
165. No one is responsible for my safety but myself. I should be able to take care of myself first and foremost.
166. No one will save me, but me. I need to be prepared
167. No solo dive and no trust dive. Team is the thing and so much more fun!
168. Not getting into "trust-me" situations.
169. Not having to depend on or assist a diver that do not know.
170. Not so much about caring for yourself, but having the capacity to react and prevent your own emergencies whilst being able to solve team problems. In the event of multiple emergencies, self reliance means being able to task load your own failures and helping others (once fixed or handicapped). You have to be able to save yourself before you can help others.
171. Not sure what is meant here by "mentality". What I mean by it is that I am able to execute the dive without a buddy in a safe enough (and yes risk tolerance is for everybody to define for themselves) manner. In Estonia diving conditions are a bit different than most of the world - temperatures are cold, visibility is poor. Hence navigation is difficult, stress is high etc. Being self-reliant allows me to effectively help/mentor less experienced divers as needed on the surface but also to be attentive underwater. Also helps me to be an effective dive-lead - which I am on a lot of dives. Additionally diving in a self-reliant manner (having the right equipment and knowing how to use it) lowers the risk-profile in general. Because in our conditions there is a realistic possibility on quite a lot of dives of actually losing your dive-buddy and in that case everybody has to be able to finish the dive on their own in a safe manner. So this is what me as a diver from Estonia mean by "self-reliant mentality".
172. Not sure, most of my >3400 dives have been solo
173. Not to be a liability during wreck diving
174. Not to have to rely on random people
175. Not trusting an unknown person to assist me if things go wrong.
176. Not worrying about others safety.
177. On vacation dives, I don't know who I dive with. And have seen really bad decisions being made by my appointed buddy
178. Only you can prevent forest fires. 🔥
179. Particularly when diving with random buddies from a dive boat, the complacency and lack of teamwork unfortunately necessitates a self-reliant mentality. If they won't do a proper buddy check before entering the water, I know from the start that I can't rely on them.
180. Peace of mind. Responsible for myself.
181. People who cannot complete the dive alone (after getting relevant post training experience ) should consider less chalenging dives even in a team
182. Personal accountability, additional layer of redundancy with backups available from buddies, not going to bring another diver into harms way at my own incident or poor decision/ planning

183. Preparation for analyzing and solving difficulties as they arise
184. Prepared and have the mental mindset that you can/will solve problem(s) with the aid of others
185. Preparedness
186. Prepares you in case something happens
187. Preparing for unexpected
188. Ready for worst
189. Reducing risk independent ability if both buddies have it risks are reduced
190. Redundancy, more confident I can be an asset to a team/buddy
191. Relaxed dives
192. Rely on yourself to fix problems! Be comfortable with it. Buddy is the back up
193. Risk management
194. Safer
195. Safer approach, redundancy, deeper dive planning.
196. safer than babysitting someone i dont know
197. Safer, better trained for more situations, less dependency on others
198. Safety
199. Safety
200. safety
201. Safety
202. Safety and have ability to look after yourself.
203. safety, ability to help other
204. Salvation in case of need
205. Self reliant at all times . Solo or with a buddy . And a buddy with a serious attitude.. by solo diving I have a attitude when I have a buddy we both end the dive safe. Never loose track of you buddy .....
206. Self reliant diving is an insurance in case of bad buddies.
207. Self reliant mean more focus on your own situation and if needed how to solve eventualities, rather than to expect aid from buddy
208. Self reliant mentality means that you can solve problems by yourself you are not dependent on the team to solve them for you. I believe it increases safety for both the diver and the team!!
209. Self reliant redundancy even when diving with a buddy can help reduce stress in some scenarios. Catastrophic failure of primary air source due to cylinder o-ring or other gear failure for example. Simply swap to alternate air source, signal buddy, and end dive in a controlled fashion. Backup mask can be handed off to buddy if need be. Same with handing off backup computer to buddy, allowing buddy to undertake a safe and controlled ascent with safety stop as needed. Other thoughts as well.
210. Self reliant value means there is a greater chance of only one person having a problem, vs creating stress or errors in another.
211. Self rescue even if a buddy is present
212. Sorry I'm not recently trained - Becoming an instructor back in 1977 we were self-reliant since our students were students without awareness as to the scale of risks that were being undertaken. Besides that back in 1970 during my initial training we were trained to call our own shots. Like not to dive if we thought the dive was too risky. You had to make your own decisions as we did not have octo regs and the like.
213. Sorting yourself out if needed although that shouldn't happen if you plan the dive and dive the plan
214. taking a risk approach to the dive. staying well within limits. shallow dives, no overheads, calm water

215. That I'm not a burden to my buddy, instead we both are able to contribute to the planned task.
216. That in case your buddy is not close or has lack of training you can safely solve an issue.
217. That mentality is important at all times whether diving or not
218. That you can work through your own problems underwater and sort them out. Avoid entrapment and tangle hazards.
219. The ability to resolve problems without depending on a buddy is useful, especially when you may not be very familiar with your buddy's skills or equipment (eg on a dive boat with someone you've never met before)
220. the ability to solve problems if dive buddy cannot
221. The ability to solve problems individually is empowering and it forces you to consider solutions to problems in advanced rather than being reactionary
222. The ability to think for myself and act accordingly. I will always attempt to communicate with my assigned buddy, but I am often placed as a third diver to a non technically trained team
223. The confidence to handle not just any problems I may have, but also those a buddy might have.
224. The fact that you know that you can manage yourself and have confidence in yourself in every situation.
225. The knowledge that you can handle any problems on your own creates a sense of safety when diving, even within a team.
226. The only way to be safe, I can only rely on myself 100%, a buddy may or may not be of any help.
227. This is absolutely mandatory for any form of technical diving - one the survival rules of tech diving is that each diver is able to finish the dive alone safely from any point of the dive. This also brings safety to rec divers: avoid panic and allow them to end the dive safely in the case of buddy separation. This also prevents rec divers from being overly dependent upon their buddies - as sometimes you get to choose your buddy, sometimes not - for example when diving with a buddy that does not operate in team.
228. To be able to handle an issue without having to rely on another.
229. To be not dependant on others on surface and underwater
230. to re-surface healthy under any circumstances
231. To stay humble
232. Trust no one
233. Trust nobody else
234. united we stand, divided we fall. we have to be ready.
235. Useful skills. Makes you a better, safer diver overall.
236. Very important,
237. Very important, I think it has made me a better diver. But it has also made me uncomfortable in basic recreational situations without redundant gear even though I may be diving with buddies.
238. Very valuable
239. We are all alone anyway. If you have a buddy nearby there are benefits, but those are not guaranteed.
240. We are always solo divers. I see so many buddy teams that are not close enough to be of assistance to each other, so essentially they are both solo diving anyway (same ocean buddies). So by always having this mentality, I protect myself from the false security of relying on a buddy who may not be there when you need them.
241. We dive as a team but everyone is self-reliant
242. We have to understand that Buddy can't help us all the time, in some situations where it is a matter of life or death. The buddy will not help me.

243. We use the bomb shell or scatter patton dive system. Hit the water and go your own way ,see you back at the boat,
244. When diving with newer divers, or students, they will most likely have zero idea how to help, or could potentially cause more harm than good. Learning to handle issues in my own, and learning to employ gear and planning learned through solo diving helps guarantee that if there are any issues I can handle it. The help is always appreciated when there is an issue, but depending completely on a less experienced diver or student in an emergency is potentially just as dangerous, or more dangerous than solo diving.
245. when more than about 10 ft from your partner you need to have a self reliant mentality and be well trained enough to act as an individual when necessary.
246. You are better equipped to address unexpected challenges.
247. You are better equipped to handle problems. You are more aware of your circumstances. You dive more prepared and thoughtful.
248. You are confident in your own abilities
249. You are more aware of and capable of acting in a team-environment, where the team actually doesn't function as a team (but you only will not when actually something happens)
250. You are not immediately asking a buddy to fix problems for you. In its nature, you must be comfortable solving/fixing issues yourself and more aware of what type of dive you are undertaking and you risk awareness. You have to constantly assess and reassess the risks of the dive you are doing.
251. You are not relying on a "buddy" who may view you as their redundancy.
252. You are responsible for yourself. It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to another air source, lights, and tools.
253. You are set up to deal with problems directly.
254. You can look after yourself in most situations that might occur when diving.
255. You can solve your own problems
256. You have to be able to save yourself and rely on yourself. We dive redundancy in the overhead environment!
257. You have to be self-reliant the diving. Good diving team helps, but it is a bonus. BTW, yes/no is not a good response to "do you bring additional redundancy" question earlier - that one deserves an explanation.
258. You have to take care of yourself & your equipment, if something is wrong and your Buddy/Gers in trouble it is a risk tot zou both, so yes self reliant, but no solo.
259. You know how to act if a problem comes up
260. You know that you are not dependent on the other diver, in case he's not able to help you, for whatever reason there is.
261. You need to be more aware of yourself and your own limits and the surrounding environment - such as weather, currents, waves, etc. You need to be able to anticipate and deal with any equipment failures and, within reason, be able to deal with environmental changes that could put you at risk.
262. You should and are always self responsible for your own safety
263. You should be able to take care of yourself in case you happen to be in a not ideal situation
264. You think more about redundancy of your equipment, are more appreciative of doing pre-dive checks. You don't shift responsibility for your safety to another person, who may not be capable of helping you.
265. you are an independent diver
266. Your buddy is a backup to your skill and gear. In some situations a dive buddy is a last resort example is wreck penetration single file, you still have to be able to usually deal with the issue yourself. Sometimes take the idea of same lake same dive. Others are in the water with you but

will be a last resort and may not be a for,all dive buddy. I dive a lot as crew on a boat, paying customers don't always have skill or ambition to put a mooring line up. I just,p in head to the bottom, put line up and have paying customers meet me on the bottom. Ironically I usually follow the paying clients up the line at the end of thier dive or am a few minutes ahead.

267. Your buddy is there a a secondary solution, not your primary solution

268. ALL divers, regardless of certification level, MUST be taught to be self-reliant, and should not be dependent on specific technology, equipment, or another diver, in order to dive, and dive safely. Self-reliance SHOULD taught from the very beginning, from Open Water and up, PERIOD. Ask yourself... Have you ever been further from your buddy than the surface? Dove with a photographer who focuses on taking photos? Are a professional diving with students? Then guess what, despite being "with" other divers, YOU WERE SOLO! We do NOT need redundant and extra equipment, or extra training just to dive solo. What is needed, is developing and maintaining the CORRECT mentality, and this is what SHOULD be taught and strongly reinforced from day one. Solo Diver courses are nothing more than a liability bandaid designed to cover up for a complete lack of quality education and training given by instructors and agencies with standards that cater to the lowest common denominator. All the training necessary SHOULD be taught from the beginning, and reinforced through time in the water with professional mentorship and guidance. Divers SHOULD be taught from OW and up to PROPERLY inspect, test, and maintain their equipment, how to formulate a proper dive plan, all applicable emergency procedures, how to rescue themselves and another diver (YES! AT THE OPEN WATER LEVEL!), extreme reinforcement of conservative decision-making, and more. Let's not forget neutral buoyancy from their very first time in the water, proper and correct ideal breathing, proper trim and finning, and all other associated skills considered CORE competencies ALL divers must know. The correct "mentality" for diving is not one that seeks "thrills" or pushes limits or lacks self-discipline. This is exactly why so many people should NEVER have been allowed into a course and certified in the first place. There is ZERO excuse for a diver to run out of air, for them to NOT inspect and maintain their equipment, to dive despite known issues, to push established limits, etc. Divers that do these things shouldn't be diving, not even with a buddy, as they put themselves and those around them at risk. Weeding out these types of individuals is an inherent responsibility of every instructor, yet the vast majority of the dive industry only cares about making money, and decades of horrible marketing perpetrating diving as "fun" and a "sport" and "anyone can do it" and lowering the age lower and lower, cutting standards, reselling skills just for profit, and more, has resulted in the highest population of divers that NEVER should have been taught in the first place. Divers with bottom-of-the-barrel bare minimum training, knowledge, and skills. Solo-Diver, Self-Reliant Diver, and Self-Sufficient Diver courses are an industry scam, designed to cover up for the lack of real training divers SHOULD have received from their very first course, and reinforced on every subsequent course thereafter. ALSO! This question: Do you "agree" that dive team integrity is fragile when one member carries a solo mindset into a group dive... IS A LOADED AND INTENTIONALLY "LEADING" QUESTION. It is biased, and ignores the fact that a person who maintains a self-reliant mentality and strong self-discipline can still be a good team member. It falsely asserts that self-reliant divers somehow can't work as a team, or makes an assumption of abandonment. It fallaciously presents the question as a zero-sum game. A diver can maintain a solo mindset AND indeed still be a highly effective member of a dive team.