GRAMMAR FOCUS: PRONOUNS

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

We use reflexive pronouns as an **indirect object** when the indirect object is **the same as the subject of the verb**:

*Would **you** like to pour **yourself** a drink?*
***We**'ve brought **ourselves** something to eat.*

We use reflexive pronouns as the **object of a preposition** when the object is **the same as the subject** of the verb:

***They** had to cook **for themselves**.*
***He** was feeling very sorry **for himself**.*

but we use **object pronouns**, not reflexives, after **prepositions of place**:

*He had a suitcase **beside him**.* (NOT ~~himself~~)

and after ***with*** when it means *accompanied by*:

*She had a few friends **with her**.* (NOT ~~herself~~)

We use reflexives **with the preposition *by*:**

- to show that someone did something without any help:

  *The children got dressed **by themselves**.*
  *I prepared the whole meal **by myself**.*

- to show that someone was alone:

  *He lived **by himself** in an enormous house.*
  *She walked home **by herself**.*

  We use reflexive pronouns to emphasise the person or thing we are referring to:

  ***Kendal itself** is quite a small town.*

- especially if we are talking about someone very famous:

  ***Sir Paul McCartney himself** sang the final song.*

  We often put the reflexive pronoun at the end of the clause when we are using it for emphasis:

  *I baked the bread **myself**.*
  *She mended the car **herself**.*

REMEMBER

- *Myself, yourself, himself, herself, oneself, itself, ourselves, yourselves* and *themselves* are reflexive pronouns.
- We often use reflexive pronouns when the subject and object are the same: ***We** had to draw **ourselves** in art class today.*
- We can also use them for emphasis: *Did you take that photograph **yourself**?*

REMEMBER

- We use *there + to be* to talk about something that exists: ***There's** a book about street art I really want for my birthday.*
- We use *it + to be* to refer to the weather and temperature (***it's** raining, **it was** cold*), distances (***it's** a long way*), situations (***it was** a great exhibition*) and in phrases such as ***It is** believed/thought/said that …, **It has been** found that …*
- We use *one* when we're not being specific (*These posters are great! I might buy **one**.*), and *it* when we're being specific (*This poster is great! I might buy **it**.*).
- We usually use *something, someone/somebody, somewhere* in positive statements and *anything, anyone/anybody* and *anywhere* in negative statements and questions.

1 Complete the dialogues with a reflexive pronoun in each gap.

1 'Do you need any help with that box?' 'Yes, please. I don't think I can lift it by _____.'

2 'How was the street art festival that you went to?' 'It was better than we expected. We really enjoyed _____.'

3 'I didn't tag that wall! Honestly, it wasn't me!' 'Well, I know it didn't tag _____!'

4 'Have you heard? Jessica's novel has won an award!' 'Wow! She must be very proud of _____.'

5 'The play that the students put on was amazing.' 'Yes, they're really pleased with _____.'

6 'These scissors are quite sharp. Ouch!' 'You should be more careful. Have you cut _____?'

7 'Did you buy any art supplies for Liam?' 'No, he'll have to get them _____.'

8 'We're upset that we couldn't go to the concert.' 'Consider _____ lucky. It was just awful!'

2 Choose the correct words.

1 **It's / There's** a French film on at the cinema that I really want to see.

2 **It / There** has been suggested that Shakespeare did not write his own plays.

3 We want to go to the festival, but **it / there** is too far away to drive.

4 I'm thirsty. Is **it / there** a café in the museum where I can get a drink?

5 You can have this CD if you like; I don't want **it / one**.

6 Street art festivals are great. It's definitely worth visiting **it / one**.

7 *The Other Guys* is a great comedy. Have you seen **it / one**?

8 These art brushes are on sale. Do you need **it / one**?

9 I can't find my acrylic paints. Has **anyone / someone** seen them?

10 Your screenplay needs **anything / something**, but I'm not sure what.

11 As an artist, I haven't been **anywhere / somewhere** as exciting as Paris.

12 **Anybody / Somebody** moved this painting and I wonder why.