

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.