

Reflexive pronouns (with 'by')

When I was three, I couldn't do up my buttons by **myself**.

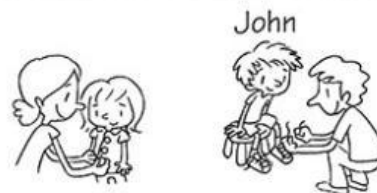
Mum helped me.

When John was five, he couldn't tie his shoelaces by **himself**.

Dad helped him.

When Lily was seven, she could pack her school bag by **herself**.

Now we are nine. We can do the housework by **ourselves**!



By + reflexive pronoun means alone or without help from anyone else.

**Let's Learn!**

The kitten climbs the stairs by **itself**.

reflexive pronouns

I		by myself .			
He		by himself .	We		by ourselves .
She	caught a big fish	by herself .	They	cooked the dinner	by themselves .
It		by itself .	You		by yourselves .
You		by yourself .	(plural)		
(singular)					

Practice

A Rewrite the sentences. Add 'by' and the correct reflexive pronouns. Follow the example.

- 1 I couldn't fly a kite last year.

I couldn't fly a kite **by myself** last year.



- 2 My cat can catch mice.

- 3 Mandy could climb the stairs when she was three.

- 4 Sam and Billy couldn't make model planes when they were six.

Date: _____

Practice

B Underline the reflexive pronouns. If they are wrong, write the correct answers on the lines. Follow the example.

- 1 I carried the heavy shopping bags by himself. _____ myself
- 2 My brother learnt to ride a bicycle by himself. _____
- 3 Steve and I can't cook by themselves. _____
- 4 Children! You should finish your homework by yourself. _____
- 5 Hi, Bobby. Did you enjoy flying on the plane by itself? _____
- 6 When she was seven, Kate could send e-mails by myself. _____

Grammar
in
Context

Cathy is writing a postcard to Eric. Complete the postcard using the correct pronouns. Add 'by' if necessary. Follow the example.

Dear Eric,

My family and I are in Australia. ① _____ We _____ are having a great time here. Yesterday Dad took ② _____ to Water World. He fed a shark ③ _____. It was very exciting. Jane and I wanted to feed the shark ④ _____ too, but Dad said we were too young. We also saw some dolphins. They were friendly. I threw a ball to ⑤ _____ and ⑥ _____ played with it. After that we went to a cafe. Mum ate a whole Jumbo Ice Cream ⑦ _____. I couldn't eat a whole one ⑧ _____ so ⑨ _____ shared one with Jane. ⑩ _____ both loved ⑪ _____ !

See you next week.

From
Cathy



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