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MODULE 3: Desarrollo de procesos de comunicación en inglés a nivel intermedio.



Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are used when the object is the same as the subject. For example, in the sentence "he hurt himself", he and himself refer to the same person.

Subject Pronoun	Reflexive Pronoun
I	myself
you	yourself
he	himself
she	herself
it	itself
we	ourselves
you	yourselves
they	themselves

Common Expressions with Reflexive Pronouns

- Believe in yourself
- Blame yourself
- Cut yourself
- Enjoy yourself
- Feel sorry for yourself
- Help yourself
- Hurt yourself
- Give yourself (something)
- Introduce yourself
- Kill yourself
- Pinch yourself
- Be proud of yourself
- Talk to yourself
- Teach yourself
- Tell yourself
- Work for yourfelf
- Wish yourself (luck)







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1. *Reflexive pronouns*

Reflexive pronouns are used when the action of the verb affects the subject of the sentence. In addition, they are also used when we want to emphasize that the subject has performed the action and not someone else.



I cut **myself** while I was cutting some bread.



(you) Enjoy **yourself**!

When to use reflexive pronouns

1. When the subject and the object refer to the same person or thing.

- He accidentally cut **himself** while he was chopping the vegetables.
- We helped **ourselves** to the free drinks at the launch party.
- They blamed **themselves** during the rugby match.
- I enjoyed **myself** at the concert.
- The dog is scratching **itself** – it must have fleas!

2. We use them for emphasis.

The reflexive pronoun is used to ***emphasize that the subject is the one who has performed the action*** ***and not someone else***.

The reflexive pronoun usually goes *either after the personal pronoun* or at the end of the sentence.

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The writer **himself** gave the presentation of his new book.



I built this kennel **myself**.

- John ***himself*** bought a bar of chocolate. ("***Himself***' here is intensive, emphasizing that it's John who bought a bar of chocolate.)
- "**He** never does his homework **himself**. The teacher always helps him."
- The president himself announced the news. (Emphasis on the president)
- The president himself addressed the crowd. (Emphasis on the president)
- The team itself celebrated the victory. (Emphasis on the team)
- Sir Paul McCartney himself sang the final song.
- ***Kendal itself*** *is quite a small town.*
- I baked the bread myself.
- She mended the car herself.

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When NOT to use reflexive pronouns



1. There are a number of verbs in English with which we rarely or never use reflexive pronouns (as they are in other languages).

They include: adapt, complain, concentrate, get up, hide, lie down, meet, move, relax, remember, shave, shower, sit down.



Warning:

We don't use reflexive pronouns with verbs of everyday actions unless we want to emphasise something:

*She **washed** and **dressed** and had breakfast in the tiny kitchen.*

Not: ~~*She washed herself and dressed herself*~~ …

Reflexive pronouns in English are not used when the verb expresses everyday actions that we usually do by ourselves (***shave***, ***wash***, ***dress***, etc.). However, we can use them for emphasis.

She dressed **herself**, even though she had a broken arm.
In this example we emphasize that she dressed with no help.

My son washed **himself** for the first time.
In this example, the boy is old enough to wash without any help.

https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/reflexive+pronouns

https://www.gramatica-inglesa.com/en/units/pronouns/reflexive-pronouns

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Reflexive pronouns are used:

- To express that the action of the verb is performed and received by the subject. In this case the reflexive pronoun goes after the main verb.



They are preparing **themselves** for the opera.

They are preparing **themselves** for the opera.

Who is preparing for the opera? They are. Who are they preparing for the opera? They are.



Dry **yourself** quickly, you are completely wet!

Dry **yourself** quickly, you are completely wet!

Who needs drying? Him. Who does he need to dry? Himself.

How are reflexive pronouns used in sentences?

A reflexive pronoun is used in the same places where an object pronoun would normally appear. The reflexive pronoun is used to avoid confusion when the object of the sentence is the same person or thing as the subject.

Example: Object pronoun vs. reflexive pronoun

Jane congratulated **her** on a job well done. [She congratulated someone else.]

Jane congratulated **herself** on a job well done.

- *The cat groomed **itself** meticulously.*
- *He bought **himself** a gift to celebrate his achievement.*
- You should buy **yourself** a bigger storage area

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Reflexive Pronouns As Objects of Prepositions

Reflexive pronouns may be used as the object of a preposition:

- **He** made a cup of coffee for ***himself***.
- **He** was talking to ***himself***.
- **She** did the job by ***herself***.
- Look at ***yourself***!

Reflexive pronouns + *by* meaning *alone*

We often use reflexive pronouns with *by* to mean 'alone' or 'without any help':



She wrote this poem **by herself**.



Now I live **by myself**.

- ✓ ***He*** *usually goes on holiday* ***by himself****.*
- ✓ *Do* ***you*** *enjoy being* ***by yourself****?*
- ✓ *Why don't you go* ***by yourself****?*
- ✓ *The children made the entire meal* ***by themselves****.*
- ✓ I did the entire project by myself.
- ✓ James completed the challenging puzzle by himself.

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ENGLISH	MEANING
Help yourself	Used when you give someone permission to do or use something.
Make yourself at home	Used when someone visits you and you want them to feel relaxed.
Behave yourself!	Used when you want somebody not to do things that could annoy or offend other people.
Enjoy yourself!	Used when you want somebody to have fun.



Do not use reflexive pronouns as the subject:

They cannot be the subject of a sentence. For example, you cannot say, "Myself went to the store." The correct sentence would be "I went to the store." It's important to note that while reflexive pronouns are used for the object, the subject must be a regular pronoun like "I," "he," "she," etc.

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