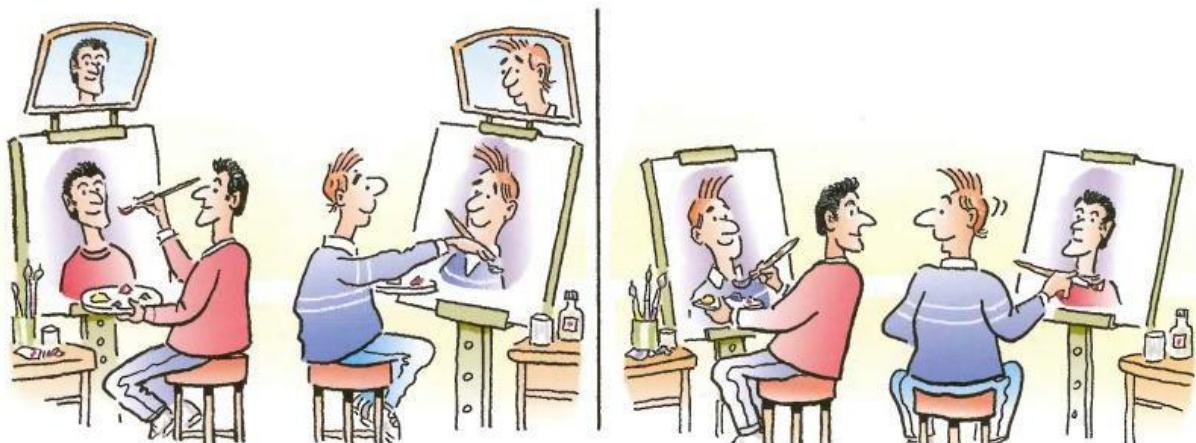


# 15 Reflexive pronouns; each other



The students are painting themselves.

They are painting each other.

## 1 Form

subject pronoun	<i>I</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>he</i>	<i>she</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>we</i>	<i>they</i>
object pronoun	<i>me</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>him</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>us</i>	<i>them</i>
reflexive pronoun	<i>myself</i>	<i>yourself (singular)</i> <i>yourselves (plural)</i>	<i>himself</i>	<i>herself</i>	<i>itself</i>	<i>ourselves</i>	<i>themselves</i>

## 2 Use

We use reflexive pronouns when the subject and object are the same person or thing:

*Daniel is painting Daniel.* (= He is painting himself.)

*Have you hurt yourself?*

*I hate watching myself in videos.*

*My computer turns itself off at night.*

We often use reflexive pronouns with these verbs:

*enjoy:* *We enjoyed ourselves at the party.* (we had fun)

*help:* *Help yourself to some pizza.* (take some)

*behave:* *The children behaved themselves at the restaurant.* (behaved well)

We often use *by myself*, *by himself*, etc. It means 'alone' or 'without help'.

*I live by myself.* (= I live alone.)

*Don't help him. He wants to do it by himself.* (without your help)

## 3 each other

We use *each other* (not *themselves* or *ourselves*) when the subject and object are different:

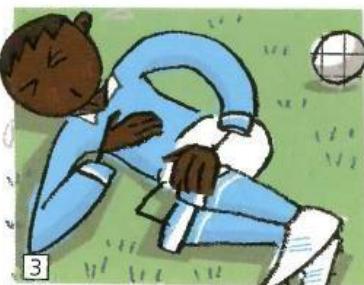
⚠ ✓ *Maria and Suzanna like each other.* (= Maria likes Suzanna and Suzanna likes Maria.)  
✗ ~~*Maria and Suzanna like themselves.*~~

✓ *We meet each other for lunch every Tuesday.*

✗ ~~*We meet ourselves for lunch every Tuesday.*~~

## Practice

1 Complete the sentences with reflexive pronouns or *each other*.



My phone turns .....  
on when I open it.'

Jan and Maritza are always  
arguing with .....

'I've hurt .....!'

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the information with the correct words from the box.

each other himself itself ourselves themselves yourself

### The Danger of Power Tools



#### WHAT CAN HAPPEN?

Did you know that each year power tools cause more than 100,000 accidents in the United States? The most dangerous tools are power saws. Last year 40,000 people cut (0) *themselves*, using them. Another dangerous tool is the nail gun. On average, an American man injures (1) ..... with a nail gun every twenty minutes – that's 28,600 accidents per year!

#### WHAT TO DO?

So, how can we protect (2) ..... from these dangerous machines?

- You should always wear suitable clothes – you can protect (3) ..... by wearing safety goggles and strong gloves.
- Make sure your power tool has a safety device. Then, if something goes wrong, the machine will turn (4) ..... off immediately.
- Never use power tools near water or when it is raining. And remember, if you are working with another person, make sure you don't stand too close to (5) .....

3 Write a sentence with the same meaning. Use reflexive pronouns or *each other*.

- 0 I wrote this song without any help. *I wrote this song by myself.*.....
- 1 Karen is looking in the mirror. .....
- 2 You must fill in this form without any help. .....
- 3 Derek is talking to Kim and Kim is talking to Derek. .....
- 4 My aunt lives alone in a small flat. .....
- 5 My brother hurt his leg when he was playing football.  
.....
- 6 Selma doesn't like Emma and Emma doesn't like Selma.  
.....