

A Study this example:



Steve **introduced himself** to the other guests.

We use **myself/yourself/himself** etc. (*reflexive pronouns*) when the *subject* and *object* are the same:

Steve introduced himself
subject object

The reflexive pronouns are:

<i>singular (-self)</i>	myself	<i>yourself (one person)</i>	himself/herself/itself
<i>plural (-selves)</i>	ourselves	<i>yourselves (more than one)</i>	themselves

- I don't want you to pay for me. I'll pay for **myself**. (*not I'll pay for me*)
- Amy had a great holiday. **She** really enjoyed **herself**.
- Do **you** talk to **yourself** sometimes? (*said to one person*)
- If you want more to eat, help **yourselves**. (*said to more than one person*)

Compare:

- Lisa** introduced **me** to the other guests.
- I** introduced **myself** to the other guests.

B We do not use **myself** etc. after **feel/relax/concentrate/meet**:

- I **feel** nervous. I can't **relax**.
- You need to **concentrate**. (*not concentrate yourself*)
- What time shall we **meet** tomorrow?

Normally we do not use **myself** etc. after **wash/shave/dress**:

- He got up, **washed, shaved** and **dressed**. (*not washed himself etc.*)

You can also say **get dressed** (He **got dressed**).

C Compare **-selves** and **each other**:

- Kate and Joe stood in front of the mirror and looked at **themselves**.
(= *Kate and Joe together looked at Kate and Joe*)
- Kate looked at Joe, and Joe looked at Kate. They looked at **each other**.



themselves



each other

You can use **one another** instead of **each other**:

- How long have you and Ben known **each other**? or ... known **one another**?
- Sue and Alice don't like **each other**. or ... don't like **one another**.
- Do they live near **each other**? or ... near **one another**?

D We also use **myself/yourself** etc. in another way. For example:

- 'Who repaired your bike?' **I** repaired it **myself**.'

I repaired it myself = I repaired it, not another person. Here, **myself** is used to emphasise 'I' (= it makes it stronger). Some more examples:

- I'm not going to do your work for you. **You** can do it **yourself**. (= you, not me)
- Let's** paint the house **ourselves**. It will be much cheaper.
- The film itself** wasn't very good, but I loved the music.
- I don't think Lisa will get the job she applied for. **Lisa** doesn't think so **herself**. or **Lisa herself** doesn't think so.

Exercises

82.1 Complete the sentences using **myself/yourself** etc. + these verbs (in the correct form):

blame burn enjoy express hurt introduce put

- Steve introduced himself to the other guests at the party.
- Ben fell down some steps, but fortunately he didn't
- It isn't Sue's fault. She really shouldn't
- Please try and understand how I feel. You have to in my position.
- The children had a great time at the beach. They really
- Be careful! That pan is hot. Don't
- Sometimes I can't say exactly what I mean. I wish I could better.

82.2 Put in **myself/yourself/ourselves** etc. or **me/you/us** etc.

- Amy had a great holiday. She enjoyed herself.
- It's not my fault. You can't blame
- What I did was really bad. I'm ashamed of
- We have a problem. I hope you can help
- 'Can I take another biscuit?' 'Of course. Help
- I want you to meet Sarah. I'll introduce to her.
- Don't worry about us. We can take care of
- Don't worry about the children. I'll take care of
- I gave them a key to our house so that they could let in.

82.3 Complete these sentences. Use **myself/yourself** etc. where necessary. Choose from:

concentrate defend dry enjoy feel meet relax shave

- Neil grew a beard because he was fed up with shaving.
- Amy had a great holiday. She enjoyed herself.
- I wasn't very well yesterday, but I much better today.
- I climbed out of the swimming pool and with a towel.
- I tried to study, but I couldn't
- If somebody attacks you, you have the right to
- I'm going out with Chris this evening. We're at 7.30.
- You're always rushing. Why don't you sit down and

82.4 Complete the sentences with **ourselves/themselves** or **each other**.

- How long have you and Ben known each other?
- If people work too hard, they can make ill.
- I need you and you need me. We need
- In Britain friends often give presents at Christmas.
- Some people are selfish. They only think of
- Tracy and I don't see very often these days.
- We couldn't get back into the house. We had locked out.
- They've had an argument. Now they're not speaking to
- We'd never met before, so we introduced to

82.5 Complete the sentences using **myself/yourself** etc. Use the verb in brackets.

- 'Who repaired the bike for you?' 'Nobody. I repaired it myself.' (repair)
- I didn't buy this cake from a shop. I (make)
- 'Who told you Laura was going away?' 'Laura?' (tell)
- I don't know what they're going to do. I don't think they (know)
- 'Who cuts Paul's hair for him?' 'Nobody. He?' (cut)
- 'Can you phone Sam for me?' 'Why can't you?' (do)

a friend of mine my own house on my own / by myself

A a friend of mine / a friend of yours etc.

We say '(a friend) **of mine/yours/his/hers/ours/theirs**'.

A friend of mine = one of my friends:

- I'm going to a wedding on Saturday. **A friend of mine** is getting married. (*not* a friend of me)
- We went on holiday with **some friends of ours**. (*not* some friends of us)
- Harry had an argument with **a neighbour of his**.
- It was **a good idea of yours** to go to the cinema.

In the same way we say '(a friend) **of my sister's**' / (a friend) **of Tom's**' etc.:

- That woman over there is **a friend of my sister's**. (= one of my sister's friends)
- It was **a good idea of Tom's** to go to the cinema.

B my own ... / your own ... etc.

We say **my own / your own / her own** ... etc.:

my own house **your own** car **her own** room
(*not* an own house, an own car etc.)

my own ... / your own ... etc. = something that is only mine/yours, not shared or borrowed:

- I don't want to share a room with anybody. I want **my own room**.
- Vicky and Gary would like to have **their own house**.
- It's a shame that the apartment hasn't got **its own parking space**.
- It's **my own fault** that I have no money. I buy too many things I don't need.
- Why do you want to borrow my car? Why don't you use **your own**? (= your own car)

You can also say 'a room **of my own**', 'a house **of your own**', 'problems **of his own**' etc.:

- I'd like to have a room **of my own**.
- He won't be able to help you with your problems. He has too many problems **of his own**.

C He cuts his own hair

We also use **own** to say that we do something ourselves instead of somebody else doing it for us. For example:

- Paul usually cuts **his own hair**.
(= he cuts it himself)
- I'd like to have a garden so that
I could grow **my own vegetables**.
(= grow them myself instead of
buying them from shops)



D on my own / by myself

On my own and **by myself** both mean 'alone'. So you can say:

on { my / your his / her / its our / their } own	or	by { myself / yourself (<i>singular</i>) himself / herself / itself ourselves / yourselves (<i>plural</i>) / themselves
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- I like living **on my own**. or I like living **by myself**.
- Some people prefer to live **on their own**. or ... live **by themselves**.
- Jack was sitting **on his own** in a corner of the cafe. or Jack was sitting **by himself** ...
- Did you go on holiday **on your own**? or Did you go on holiday **by yourself**?

Exercises

83.1 Change the underlined words and use the structure ... of mine/yours etc.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 I'm meeting <u>one of my friends</u> tonight. | <u>I'm meeting a friend of mine</u> tonight. |
| 2 We met <u>one of your relatives</u> . | We met a |
| 3 Jason borrowed <u>one of my books</u> . | Jason borrowed |
| 4 I met Lisa and <u>some of her friends</u> . | I met Lisa and |
| 5 We had dinner with <u>one of our neighbours</u> . | We had dinner with |
| 6 I went on holiday with <u>two of my friends</u> . | I went on holiday with |
| 7 I met <u>one of Amy's friends</u> at the party. | I met at the party. |
| 8 It's always been <u>one of my ambitions</u> to travel round the world. | It's always been to travel round the world. |

83.2 Complete the sentences using **my own / our own** etc. + the following:

bathroom business opinions private beach words

- I share a kitchen, but I have my own bathroom
- Gary doesn't think like me. He has
- Julia doesn't want to work for other people. She wants to start
- In the test we had to read a story, and then write it in
- We stayed at a luxury hotel by the sea. The hotel had

83.3 Complete the sentences using **my own / your own** etc.

- Why do you need to borrow my car? Why don't you use your own car ..?
- How can you blame me? It's not my fault. It's
- She's always using my ideas. Why can't she use ..?
- Please don't worry about my problems. I'm sure you have
- I can't make his decisions for him. He has to make

83.4 Complete the sentences using **my own / your own** etc. Use the verbs in brackets.

- Paul never goes to a barber. He cuts his own hair . (cut)
- Helen doesn't often buy clothes. She likes to (make)
- I'm not going to clean your shoes. You can (clean)
- We don't often buy bread. We usually (bake)
- Jack and Joe are singers. They sing songs written by other people, but they also (write)

83.5 Complete the sentences using **my own / your own** etc. or **myself/yourself** etc.

- Did you go on holiday on your own ..?
- The box was too heavy for me to lift by
- We had no help decorating the apartment. We did it completely on
- Very young children should not go swimming by
- 'Who was Tom with when you saw him?' 'Nobody. He was by
- I don't like strawberries with cream. I like them on
- Do you like working with other people or do you prefer working by ..?
- I went out with Sally because she didn't want to go out on

83.6 Are these sentences OK? Correct them where necessary.

- Katherine would like to have the own house. ... to have her own house.
- Sam and Chris are colleagues of me.
- I was scared. I didn't want to go out by my own.
- In my last job I had own office.
- He must be lonely. He's always with himself.
- My parents have gone away with some friends of them.
- Are there any countries that produce all own food?