

English Grammar: Reflexive Pronouns (2)

Reflexive pronouns are used when the **subject** and the **object** are the **same**, or to **emphasize** an action, or to show that an action was done **alone**.

Subject Pronouns	Reflexive Pronouns
Single	
I	myself
you	yourself
he	himself
she	herself
it	itself
one*	oneself*
Plural	
you	yourselves
we	ourselves
they	themselves

* These words are extremely formal and mean “any person”. For example:

One shouldn't walk alone at night, **one** might get **oneself** lost.

It's more common to use “you”:

You shouldn't walk alone at night, **you** might get **yourself** lost.

1) The subject and the object are the same:

- He cut **himself** on the broken glass.
- I am teaching **myself** to play the piano.
- She always makes **herself** a cup of tea in the morning.
- They have to cook **for themselves**.
- He looked at **himself** in the mirror.
- Parents often blame **themselves** for their children's problems.
- The body repairs **itself** after an injury.

2) For emphasis:

- Do you usually cut your grass **yourself**?
- The director of the company wrote to us **himself** to apologize for the bad service.
- Does she do her homework **herself**, or do you help her?
- We painted our house **ourselves**.
- I always make the bed **myself**.

3) Do something alone:

- Why don't you go **by yourself**?
- The boy prepared his breakfast **by himself**.

4) Expressions:

- Please help **yourself**. (*Fique a vontade*) (*comida, bebidas, etc.*)
- Make **yourself** at home. (*Fique a vontade*) (*na minha casa*)
- Enjoy **yourself**. (*Divirta-se*)
- Behave **yourself**. (*Comporte-se*)

Exercise.

- Simon always washes his car _____ .
- They decided to sell their house _____ .
- My wife is a great cook, so I never cook for _____ .
- Did you teach _____ French?
- My cat is so clean. It always cleans _____ .
- We always plan our vacations _____ .
- She always drives _____ to school.