

Reflexive Pronouns



Reflexive pronouns are the *-self* forms of pronouns:

<i>Myself</i>	<i>Yourself</i>	<i>Himself</i>	<i>Herself</i>
<i>Itself</i>	<i>Ourselves</i>	<i>Yourselves</i>	<i>Themselves</i>

Because English also has the personal pronouns *his* and *their*, some speakers extend the above system and use *hisself* and *theirselves*. Although it is easy to see why people do this, these forms are considered non-standard, and should not be used.

INCORRECT

He always bragged about *hisself*.
They gave the money to *theirselves*.

CORRECT

He always bragged about *himself*.
They gave the money to *themselves*.

*NOTE: When speakers are trying to sound formal or respectful, they will sometimes use one of the reflexive pronouns when a plain pronoun should be used instead.

INCORRECT

Jack will be traveling with Jenny and *myself*.
Dana loves being with Grandpa and *yourself*.

CORRECT

Jack will be traveling with Jenny and *me*.
Dana loves being with Grandpa and *you*.

Reflexive Pronouns as Intensifiers - Intensive Pronouns

A reflexive pronoun may be used immediately after another pronoun to emphasize or intensify the first pronoun, as long as they both refer to the same person(s). For example:

I *myself* cooked this gourmet dinner.
We *ourselves* must make these changes rather than depend on others.

Practice. Complete the following sentences with a correct reflexive pronoun. Be sure to match gender and number.

Example: I myself saw the madman's handiwork.

- The policeman shot _____ accidentally.
- I _____ should take responsibility.
- They don't trust _____ to do the job right.
- He gave _____ a haircut.
- They promised to take the quiz _____.
- I can see _____ in the mirror.
- She decided to treat _____ to an ice cream sundae.
- Jane is just a baby; she is too small to eat by _____.
- The children can decorate the Christmas tree by _____.
- Jim and I can paint the car all by _____.
- Hello, Martin and Rebecca! Please make _____ at home!
- If you can't do this exercise by _____, please ask the teacher for help.
- Peter always copies his best friend's homework and never does it by _____.
- You have to learn how to brush your teeth by _____ now, Danny.