

Reflexive Pronouns

Definition:

The reflexive pronoun indicates that the sentence subject also receives the action of the verb.

Explanation/Examples:

When pronouns are combined, the reflexive will take either the first person

- Jane, Bob, and I have deceived *ourselves* into running the marathon.

or, when there is no first person, the second person:

- You and Bob have deceived *yourselves*.

The indefinite pronoun *one* has its own reflexive form (*oneself*), but the other indefinite pronouns use either *herself*, *himself*, or *themselves* as reflexives.

List of Reflexive Pronouns: myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, oneself, ourselves, themselves, yourselves.

Be aware: Do not use untriggered reflexive pronouns. *Myself* is the main culprit.

Incorrect: Jane and *myself* are responsible for this decision.

Correct: Jane and *I* are responsible for this decision.

It is correct to use *myself* when you are both the subject and the object of a sentence.

Incorrect: I see *me* playing marimbas.

Correct: I see *myself* playing marimbas.

Practice (fill in the blanks):

1. I'll have to help Bob fill in her form, but Jane can do it _____, because her English is excellent.
2. Their new business can't possibly pay for _____.
3. One must have faith in _____.
4. He is not _____ today.
5. I made coffee for Helen and _____ after dinner.
6. I'm going to treat _____ to a mud bath.

Key: 1. herself 2. itself 3. oneself 4. himself 5. myself 6. myself